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ck Shaver

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
320 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, B. C. V6A 1P4

Organist
Harry Stothers

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1977

7:00 P. M.

"COME IN TO WORSHIP"

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EVENING BROADCAST ON CKWX
(Heard at 8:00 P. M.)

Prelude
Worship
#397 "The Advent of Our Lord" (tune St. Thomas)
of Invocation
Reading: p. 18 Pew Booklet (2 Corinthians 4: 1-6)
The Gloria
: Marjorie Wight
Lighting: Second Sunday in Advent Theme: HOPE!
Hanging of Second Banner
"I Am the Light of the World" (p. 10, Pew Booklet
(New Wine
re Readings: Zephaniah 1: 14-18
Isaiah 11: 1-6
te: "O Praise to Him Who Came to Save" Nicolai
and the Lord's Prayer
"What Child Is This?" (p. 10, Pew Booklet 'Greensleeves')
"THE COMING"
Rev. Art Griffin

ering: Prayer, Organ Voluntary, Doxology
ements: The Life and Work of the Church
#390 (137) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Veni Emmanuel)
ediction and Choral Amen
ostlude

"GO OUT TO SERVE"

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- We extend a sincere welcome to all who are
g with us today. An informal Coffee Hour will
immediately after both Services, and all are

Organ Prelude
The Call to Worship
Hymn: #397 "The Advent of Our Lord"
Prayer of Invocation
Soloist: Marjorie Wight — WOMEN FROM THE FIELDS HUGHES
Reading from Scripture: Isaiah 45: 20-21
Romans 15: 1-13
Luke 1: 26-38
Quartet: "Whence is that Goodly Fragrance" Old French
Carol
Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (sung)
Quartet: "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" Mason
Sermon: "LET THE PAST BREATHE"
Rev. Jack Shaver
Prayer
Hymn: #100 "O Love, How Deep! How Broad! How High!"
The Benediction and Choral Amen — from Latin 15th Cent
Organ Chimes and Voluntary

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The Offering: Prayer, Organ Voluntary, Doxology
Announcements: The Life and Work of The Church
Hymn: #255 (373) "Jesus, united by Thy grace"
Blessing and Organ Postlude

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NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1977 on the Third Sunday of Advent,
will have Rev. Jack Shaver preaching in the morning and at
the 7:00 p.m. Broadcast Service we will have Rev. Art Griffin
conducting. The Guest Choir is going to be from South Hill
United Church.

200
1707

(S182c)

Call to Worship

'Tis a gift to be simply, 'Tis a gift to be free,
'Tis a gift to come down where you ought to be.

Join this gathering group, attaching to the
worship of God, where these gifts are received.

It's the second Sunday in Advent: That season we
~~prepare for~~ celebrate the coming again of Jesus & prepare
to celebrate his birth. We say now an advent hymn →
- 17th hymn, the 12th century, 397.

INVOCATION: - The advent for God - with us or props we greet.

GIVER OF LIFE

LORD OF THE UNIVERSE

ADVERSARY, WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO DO!

We open now our arms to your overwhelming embrace
for there alone does we embrace life

only there can we allow it to be precious,

only there does a wondrous gratitude fill our dry souls

This is the Bread and of worship from First (Hebrew) (last)
- ~~Handy~~ & come in the Down Town East side of Vancouver

Jack Shaw - Let the Paul Brethren

~~challenge~~ Topic for II ADVENT

Ad. Scriptures

Harry Stollers

Shirley Tafford
Marjorie WIGHT
Gerald Brillant
Tom Maunon -

Not Sunday
Close from
South Hall U.C.

Dec 18 Breakfast - 5 ANTHEMS

Advent Hymns

Dec. 4 1977

S182d

LET THE PAST BREATHE

"Whatever was written in former days was written
for our instruction that by steadfastness and by the
encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."

That's the line in the Epistle reading which is
picked up in the Collect for the second Sunday in Advent which
influenced the tradition that The Holy Scriptures is the theme
for this Sunday.

Whenever I see that line, there comes to mind the
pattern ^{of speech} in Matthew's version of Christ's sermon on the
mount.

"you have heard it ^{said} of old times ~~men~~ But I
say unto you" ~~men~~

Tonight I want to search a little for the light
that contradictions throw on our lives
as we deal with the questions of Good & evil
and as we approach scripture.

OUR PAST HAS DEEPLY AFFECTED US

FOR GOOD + ILL.

whatever blessings we know

came through our history

also our history has excluded experiences

and dangers that wounded us

all of us are more or less victimized by our past

Some of us MORE

distorted, impressional, lines

NOT IF we try to wrench our lives out of that Past- think we can ~~to~~ cut off ~~the~~ our past

- we are unwell

IF we try to start completely fresh,

unhinged from our past

we have no reference points by which to direct life
no ground by which to receive good from evil

The good of the future
can only grow from the shared past

Whatever is good in the new future is
made out of the same principles as the
good of the past.

We need ~~the~~ NEW Good - ~~our~~ our private lives
& our corporate life as ~~always~~
distorted enough that we need

The NEW GOOD
addresses the remembered Good
already there -
it's the only thing it can address
AND is recognized by the good already there

The trick is not to get unhinged from the Past.

LET THE PAST BREATHE

THE PAST IS ALSO ~~THE~~ A TYRANT

By the time we are able to do anything about
being our own person.

we have already been formed by what has
happened to us & what we have decided

By the time we are able to do anything wise about
being our own person.

we have already been distorted & flawed by
what happened to us & what we decided

The trick is not to be imprisoned
By one's Past.

Let the Past Breathe

Seems to me:

What That Metaphor LET THE PAST BREATHE
is getting at →
throws light on the approach to the Scriptures

Let the Past Breathe: - key to liberate
The Scriptures.
Living Word
- not Prison.

Group doing Bible Study Sunday AM.

Struck: how often Bible describes an encounter
with God.

I am the God of Abraham Isaac & Jacob

Given the way in which human beings are formed
it is inescapable that the God with whom we have to do
is the God of our FATHERS.

Given the way in which human beings are formed
it is inescapable that our Fathers will always be
getting in the way of our Father's GOD.

The way that what has been written in Scriptures
can instruct us safely is for ~~us~~ to
become the vehicle for the God who addressed
our fathers to address us.

If we hear only our fathers addressing us
we will be enslaved and distorted by what
has been written in former days

✱ Illuminating to Note: - location of that line

Whatever was written in former days was written
for our instruction.

The remark was prompted by recollection of a verse from Psalm
which Paul quotes in previous section in his letter.

Line from Psalm 69 - 9

"The reproaches of Those who reproach thee
fall upon me."

Says something different to him - Said
to his Father.

→ who is legal to you o God - even
who is against you is against me

→ Compelling glimpse at Person + work of Christ.

→ Chastisement that was coming to Jesus
fall upon him.

The trick is to not be unhinged from our past.
to ~~not~~ be imprisoned by our past.

LET THE PAST BREATHE.