

CALL TO WORSHIP :-

IF you have to be called to worship
 you may not want it very much -
 - That may not be entirely true
 you could be enormously hungry
 and still resist being called to a meal
 just because you don't jump at the chance
 you may be ~~don't assume~~ there is nothing in worship for you
 your need may be ~~in fact~~ ^{in fact} hungrier than you think.

My dear -

away in a mayer

Invocation:

Our Father -

This is a strange season for us to ask
 you to come to us.

The season is when ~~you~~ celebrate that
 you did com.

The season is when you keep coming in
 the strongest place & form

you coming ^{too} ~~deserves~~

so that we need

to have you come again.

PrayerOur Father :-

You penetrate all our hearts & lives at this
time of year. — Don't quench the smoking flax
but fan it to a flame.

We are starting to come for one another —
open our hearts doors wide.

We are starting to be aware of the oppressed
let justice roll down like waters &
righteousness like a powerful stream
We catch a glimpse of life as condescension —
hide them not from us but illumine them
further with the light that enlightens every man.

We mourn the broken trust & betrayal that surrounds
a person as —
about or for freedom of boys that
we regret weep & regret.

We rise up in brave little starts
— pour your spirit upon us so that in his
power we cannot be dismayed.

Enlarge your occupation of our time.

Enlarge your occupation of our corporate life in
this congregation —

each one of us allow the other one has a ministry
get fit here

Fight the battle of justice

Perform the works of mercy

Join the army of love in which only
the wounded can be soldiers

Give us God a word for us

Give us God a name for us.

You can constellate us your own.

Hasten the completion of the work you have begun

First United Church

Sunday Dec 18 1976 10:30 AM

The King nobody wanted

The king nobody wanted is the Title of a Book
 Story of Jesus Told for Juniors - 9-11 years
 Text book for SS.

Right on title → way the Bible tells the story of Jesus

Theme:- whole nation was wanting a King
 to deliver them

ONE WHO COULD

Put them off

not what was expected

popular following for a while

fell off

None most close to him -

resisted what he had taken to be
 central to what he was all about

Finally ALONE

everyone put off

including those closest to him

How can he be the savior?

Deserted - left him

Mothers & brothers are with us

Banquet given - shelter & wine & butter

Fused were all the wrong people - tax collectors - sinners

Saved others - couldn't save himself

Fortune - not a success

Full of surprises

Stone everyone rejected - that made head stone

Corner stone - stone of stumbling for many

When I was considering what this sermon would be about
another theme suggested itself:

Sentence what came to me several years ago
 Advent & Christmas always a troublesome time

hard spirits - darkest period -

— cool silence - joyous happy song - magnificence
 SNAYER you are rejecting a gift some who

I was quite aware of the theory
~~NO ONE~~ promised for a rose garden

up to it — every & never would be given
 Find it home
 Embrace it
 Find within it — Power & Love Rightness of God
 gift.

Shower: you are receiving a gift at some point or other

THEME

The King Nobody Would
sub title How to Reject The Gift.

How to sermons

How to miss Christmas
 How to mess it up TIME

1 Get caught on a different meaning for the word
 GIFT This meant by N.T.

(a) some special version — "I have this gift
 you know

Everyone is Gifted — not me.

Light that brightens everyone —
 who-so ever will —

(b) hook — strings } (hook)
 obligation }

2. Take a position where you have to be in charge —
 + you have the control
 + ensure the safety
 + ultimate guarantee is in your own hands.

3. Decide beforehand what the gift of salvation
has to be like

a) goodness to be rewarded
its own reward

b) Tendency to be painful

anesthesia - Block

{ not aware conflicts - grounds - with

{ not aware judging - culpable
instead Gift as teaching us some

c) Trusting that if you love
her - you will be safe
as though the Gift could mean
anything that you love more

d) Count on love to succeed
+ instead of that be dauntless

4. Counting on Because of
instead of In spite of

not in the mood

not expecting

not even aware - rejecting a gift

Even if Expecting - Shows up as something different
God → surprises us

his coming - can be connected to expecting

Coming can come without it.

does not rest on our initiatives.

Reject gift -

one way is to be counting on
what can be caused.

not on what is new creation.

Let's look at our very own Christmas

Depth of feeling & vulnerability

Business - Fantasy - Flight is cut off -

open to so much more - to such greater depth

deep sense would I need strengthening out

Here nobody wanted - is getting to us anyway
in spite of everything