

5218a

Ministers
Rev. Art Griffin
Rev. M.J.V. Shaver

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

Organist
Harry Stothers

10.30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP

Organ Prelude
Call to Worship
Hymn No. 435 (50) "As with gladness..." (Dix)
Invocation
Unison Reading No. 525 (Magnificat)
Solo: Marjorie Wight
Scripture - selected
Hymn No. 112 (70) "Once in Royal David's City"
Pastoral Prayer
Quartette: "Go tell it on the mountain" Krasser
Hymn No. 432 (49) "Brightest and Best"
(Tune, Epiphany - Hymnary #49)
Meditation
Prayer
Duet: "At the Golden Dawn of Christmas" Scandinavian
Carol: - Shirley Telford, Marjorie Wight
Offertory, Offering Prayer, Doxology
Announcements
Hymn No. 423 "Unto us a Boy" (Puer Nobis)
Benediction
Organ Postlude

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We welcome all who are worshipping with
us today, and invite everyone to an informal Coffee
Hour following both services.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1978

7.00 P.M.

EVENING BROADCAST
(Heard on CKWX at 8.00 p.m.)

Organ Prelude
Call to worship
Hymn No. 391 "On Jordan's Bank"
Prayer of Invocation
Solo: Marjorie Wight - A STAR WAS HIS COMPANION
Scripture Lessons: Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16
Luke 1: 39-56
Quartette: "Song of the Shepherds" Marshall
Prayer
The Lord's Prayer (sung)
Duet: "At the Golden dawn of Christmas"
Sermon
ARE YOU HOPELESS?
Rev. Jack Shaver
Prayer
~~Quartette: "Song of the Shepherds" Marshall~~
Hymn No. 395 (54) "Hark the glad sound" (Richmond
No. 147)
Benediction and Choral Amen
Organ Chimes and Voluntary
--- off the air ---
The Offering: Prayer, Organ Voluntary, Doxology
Announcements
Hymn No. 407 (59) "Hark the herald angels"
Commissioning and Blessing
Organ Postlude

Next Sunday - Christmas Eve -
Rev. Jack Shaver will preach at the morning
service and Linda Ervin in the evening.

2756 W 30

Are you hopeless?

I don't mean to suggest that you are - in the meaning of the remark when it is intended yours hopeless meaning - you are beyond hope.

I mean are you without hope. - short of it?

A lot of people are right now.

Just at the time they are not supposed to be. We're surrounded by words and sentiments and expectations - all having to do with good cheer and good tidings :-

Announcements about deliverance.
To be without hope is to be outside the time - it's a time of joy & merriment.

Whether it is because it is contrary to the appropriate subtext - or

whether it has some deep connection to the climax of the darkening of the year,

Whether it is because our feelings are more responsive and our defenses are down so that we feel all there is to feel about our troubled world.

Most of us are especially blue through the season of Christmas.

A time of hope is just when we run out of it -

I'm sure this state had something to do with my being caught on the British Radio for 3rd Sunday in advent in one of the lectures.

Hebrews Reading

Part of Extensive Discussion by the author on what Faith is.

As these verses talk about some of the early figures in the history of Israel,

and reflect a whole lot of levels in the thought of the people of Israel about their history present a few fascinating metaphors for the state of Hope.

Take a few of these -

See what they do by way of

painting a more accurate picture of that state.

It might shift our positions a bit -

- hopeless or not

OBEYED -

when God summoned him to leave his home for a region which he was to leave for his own - left home - not knowing where he was going.

Temporary home as a stranger in a land he had been promised.

Died without seeing what he was promised

- saw it far ahead

- welcomed it from afar

Those who recognize this - show they are in search of a country of their own - if they had been thinking of the land from which they had come - they would have had opportunity to return

(S2151)

- 1. Sojourner in a promised land

- not just foreigner -
alienated -

alienated land, country, time, age,
meant to be different.

Out of sorts - with the Times: -

2. Didn't receive promise - Grabbed it from afar
- Future that hasn't come yet.

→ not cut off from it -

- welcome the approval of it

3 - They had lots of opportunity to go back

- State alienation - world

- not home -

↑ - part

Disappointed about no future -
without hope? - would have found an opportunity
to return -

- Slaves: in search of a country of your own

- in search of a city where foundation is in
God.

Of such - God is not ashamed to be called
their God.

I was looking for 2 things in the text

1. True picture of what the state of hope was like

- Discover in fragments way we are a people of hope

2. Hear Paul word - God is not ashamed to
our God.

Discover - Paul that hope is - comes from God
- He who will sustain it