

5259a

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

Ministers:
Rev. A. J. Griffin
Rev. M. J. V. Shaver

Organists:
A.M. Mr. David Gibson
P.M. Mrs. Eleanor Bush

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 1980

10:30 A.M.

Morning Worship
Camping Sunday

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 22 "Praise to the Living God" Tune - Leoni #23
Invocation

Choir: "Twenty-Third Psalm" (an interpretation)

Hebrew Scripture Psalm 15: 1 - 5

Epistle Lesson I Corinthians 13: 1 - 13 Dianne Baker

Gospel Lesson John 17: 1 - 6

Hymn "There'll be Sunshine in the Morning"

Prayer

Choir: "Carol of the Fishermen" Natalie Sleeth

Sermon "THIS IS THE LIFE ETERNAL"

Rev. Jack Shaver

Hymn "Friends are for Sharing"

Dialogue: Re Camping Linda Green and Fiona Haysom

Announcements

Offering: Prayer, Offertory, Doxology

Hymn No. 192 (311) "O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go"

Tune - St. Margaret #311

Benediction

Choir: "Blessing"

Natalie Sleeth

Organ Postlude

There'll Be Sunshine in the Mornin'

1. There'll be sunshine in the mornin' (Repeat 3x)
Sunshine in the mornin',
One of these days.
2. Freedom will come to everybody ...
3. Justice will flow like a mighty river ...
4. Love will live in every heart ...
5. Peace will come to every nation ...
6. There'll be sunshine in the mornin'...

Friends are for Sharing

Friends are for sharing when the whole world's down,
Friends are for laughing when the whole world frowns,
Friends are for caring when the whole world's down.
Friends are for love. *
Give them your caring, give them your love.

Friends are for good times when the road is long,
Friends are for bad times when things go wrong,
Friends are for sad times, show them they belong,
Friends are for love.

Tell them they're needed, tell them they're wanted,
Show them they're needed, show them your love.

Life is worth living when you've got friends,
Life's worth the loving when the trouble ends.
Life is worth living when you've got friends.
Life's worth your love. (Repeat first verse to *)

This morning's music is provided by the East Burnaby United Church Intermediate Girls' Choir under the direction of Bette Prentice, assisted at the piano by Terry Bulych.

We welcome all who are worshipping with us today and invite you to an informal coffee hour following both services.

Chapel Service

7:00 P.M.

Garth Fraser will be taking the Chapel Service this evening. He will show some of his slides of Northern Nigeria where he was working with CUSO for several years. While there he was also involved in the Scouting Program.

Next Sunday

10:30 a.m. Rev. Art Griffin

7:00 p.m. Ms. Linda Green

First United Church

Sunday April 27 1980

10:30 am.

This is life ETERNAL

Eternal Life is a proper theme
for the season of Easter.

It might also be interesting

It might surprise us with a word to
the meaninglessness of our lives
or to what is destroying them.

Like Belief in the Resurrection the other proper
Easter theme.

Belief in ETERNAL LIFE is to be distinguished
from Belief in the immortality of the soul

Eternal Life is a Quality
given by God.

not another way. a quality added to life as it is lived.
nature of the gift - changes the quality of the
life that is lived.

The Gospel lesson gives us some notion
as to the nature of that quality change.

AND THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE that they know

THAT, the ONLY TRUE GOD and Jesus Christ
whom thou hast sent.

What exciting change might it make in life
to know the true God.

who as Paul Put it gave us the knowledge
of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ?

I am sure I have shared with you
many times the breakthrough that a certain
giant Theologian, Paul Tillich afforded me
He added to my understanding a whole
new dimension to the meaning of the quality
of eternal life when he turned it in
the direction of the past.

I keep repeating it because I find it
sounding like a new thing every time I
am reminded of it.

One component of the quality of eternal life
is that it opens the past.

This brings a remarkable liberation to that
whole area of our lives which is
enslaved by the past.

Our past leaves its marks upon us. There is no
escaping it. Right from the beginning, things
that happened to us, formative events,
Primary people, things we did, choices we
made, procedures for coping we adopted,
things that frightened us and wounded us.
All have left their mark. They have
shaped us. Where ~~this~~ this has damaged us
we are damaged.

even, or especially, matters we have forgotten, are still with us having their effect and taking their toll.

All our longing to be freed from all that by cutting it from us is self defeating. We are nobody cut off from our past. If it were possible for a person to have no past he or she would have no personhood. he or she could know nothing, recognize nothing, have no consciousness of experience.

The past can't be got rid of and it would be a disaster if it could.

But in the state of eternal life the past is open. There is forgiveness in the knowledge of God whose glory we see in the Christ Jesus Christ. The past can't be got rid of but its curse can be broken. The past can't be altered but its damaging impact can be dealt with. That is the good news of eternal life. It gives you back your past freed of its curse so that you can embrace it. You can accept yourself.

The other direction to which the quality of the Eternal points - is of course the future. It lets you have the future freed of its curse so that you can embrace it.

And this is ETERNAL LIFE That they
know Thee, the ONLY TRUE GOD, and
JESUS CHRIST whom thou hast sent -

Another John wrote

GOD IS LOVE and he who abides
in LOVE abides in God and God
abides in him

All kinds of things shall pass away, says
Paul but these three abide Faith hope
and LOVE But the greatest of these
is LOVE.

I am convinced that the dread of aging
the dread of life's passing Time
is the dread of meaninglessness

I am also convinced that LOVING is what
gives life meaning.

So that the chief dread of aging is that love
will run down. That with hardening
of the arteries will go hardening of the heart.
That the wounds of loving will accumulate
such a mass of scar tissue that loving will
stop.

What can better open the future to us
than the knowledge that
Love abides -

What can better throw open the future to our
embrace than the knowledge that God is Love

s259g

And this is Life ETERNAL
to him in the Knowledge of the only
True God
With a past free of curse
and a future free of threat.

Let us pray

Thanks be to God
who gives us the gift
of eternal life.