

KNOX UNITED CHURCH

March 16, 1980.
564-7822

1448 - 5th Ave.
V2L 3L7.

Minister: Rev. Allan I.V. Dawe, B.A., B.D.
Music Director: Dr. Diane Kjørven
Organist: Mr. Rhys Thomas, L.R.S.M., A.T.C.M.
Assistant Organist: Mr. Victor Steblin

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9:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

We Celebrate His Presence

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell (red) pg. 12.
Prayer of Approach and the Lord's Prayer.

We Hear and Meditate on the Word

Psalms Selection: Psalm 126 - Blue Hymnary pg. 739.
Ministry in Music - Choir Old Irish Blessing.
Scripture Lesson Joshua 24: 14 - 24.
Hymn: Praise to the Lord, The Almighty (red) pg. 29.
Morning Message: "God Alone is Good" -Rev. John Shaver.

We Respond and Share His Love

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Announcements Please refer to the bulletin.
Hymn: Approach, My Soul, The Mercy Seat (red) pg. 70.
Benediction and Threefold Choral Amen.

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YOUNG PEOPLE - will meet on Monday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m.
The Covenant Players will put on a program for the group.
They were here last November from California with their special ministry of skits and plays.

WELCOME to all the delegates of the Cariboo Presbytery Conference and especially Rev. John Shaver, President of Conference from Vancouver and 1st United Church, where he serves as Minister. We thank him so much for taking both services in the absence of Rev. Allan Dawe, who has been very ill for the past three weeks.

Life and Work of the Church

BETHAL BIBLE SERIES Most of you are aware of the fact that eight of your fellow members have been involved in a rigid teacher training program for the last twenty months to prepare themselves for the task of teaching the Bethel Series in our parish. When they complete their training in the fall of this year, they will be anxious to share with you the thrill which they have known in pursuing a systematic study of the Scriptures. The names of these teacher trainees are listed today in the Narthex so that those of you who are interested in enrolling in the first unit of study which begins on Wednesday evening, October 29, may contact them for information on enrollment procedures.

Gong Show & Dance - March 22nd at 8:00 p.m. Come and dance to the music of Dave Dowman and the Canadian Capers. There will be a Gong Show as entertainment during intermission. Admission \$1.00 per person, children under 12 and senior citizens exempt. This fee is to cover the cost of the lunch.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN - will meet on Tuesday evening at 8:00 p.m. March 18th, in the Lounge. All ladies are welcome!!

USED STAMPS - please save all your used stamps as the U.C.W. sends these to Save the Children Fund in Vancouver. Please leave them in the box provided in the Narthex.

TEN DAYS FOR WORLD DEVELOPMENT is focusing this year on employment. The following events take place at the College of New Caledonia (CNC).

March 17 - noon: Lecture by Marta Torres, a Labor Lawyer from Guatemala - now living in Costa Rica as a result of police persecution and death threats. She has worked with Christian Communities and Labor Organizations.

8:00 p.m. Panel discussion with representatives from Welfare, Labor, the Church and Third World.
Watch Channel 10 for highlights on March 16, and 18.
Sunday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Service at St. Andrews United at Fifth and Union. Marta Torres will be guest speaker. Listen for interview with Marta on CJCI Pulse on Monday the 17th at 10:00 a.m.

4266b

Call to Worship:

all kinds of people give no thought to God
or think they don't

Other kinds of people talk a lot about God. -
or they sound like it.

People all over the place may be doing their God
business without knowing it

Their God business may not be going on where
they think it is, at all.

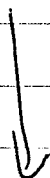
Among the things you are invited to do when
you are called to worship - is to think
you are invited to have the kind of engagement
that leaves you thinking.

YOUR knowledge, + your understanding, and your
God business ~~will~~ get together.

We'll start out with a Hymn

here's the Robert Shaw Chorus singing
"All creatures of our God & King"

join in this expression of the connection
between delight & the gift of life
between joy + gratitude,



INVOCATION :

Our Father,

Have we acknowledge something we are
beginning to be conscious of again
---- that we let possess us

powers that cannot keep us safely
that let us down
that victimize us
that drive us in ways we don't
want to go

That establish us through
violating others.

Put our destructive powers to flight

Overwhelm us yourself

Possess us yourself we ask again.
like it was the first time we asked it.

OUR FATHER

you'r such a surprise!

your coming is always for the first time.

even though Jesus Christ our Lord
amen.



Good Evening.

Good Evening, I'm Jack Shaver.
This is The FIRST UNITED CHURCH BROADCAST OF
WORSHIP. During the Summer Months they are
produced by our staff at CROW Studios.

The Hymns for this Broadcast are Sung by the Robert Shaw Chorus. Next Sunday the worship service will originate in Saint Andrews Wesley United Church.

Earlier in the week I received a note from one of our staff at First Church, "Would you mention to those listening - 'we are in great need of Men's Shoes,' - There is just no way our clothing Programme can run smoothly we have special needs - but by the time ~~the~~ word ~~was~~ getting around ~~and~~ prompt a response, - our needs have changed. It is clear to us that we need to learn patience - What isn't so nice is that we sometimes behave in such a way that our friends have patience required of them also

~~There~~ The Clothing programme is out one
of ~~many~~ that have their way of NOT RUNNING
SMOOTHLY. - I think it was the fresh rediscovery
of this fact that prompted ~~us to select the~~ ^{us to select the} the sermon text
~~fact~~. "NO ONE IS GOOD BUT GOD ALONE" ~~fact~~

→ ~~personality~~ Later in the service. It will be

- only god is Good :-

Beverly SloanWe listen now to the ~~slow & stately~~ of

NIES

o line that
will not tell
we go

~~FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH in VAN NIES California~~
~~sing the spiritual AMEN~~

The Old Testament Reading is found in the Book
of Joshua, Chapter 24 at the 14th verse.

Josh 24

14-24

- part of the description of one of the great
transitional celebrations of the people of Israel.

THE WHOLE HOST OF ISRAEL is gathered to meet
people from the fairs in the wilderness to the fairs
of occupation -
Joshua is addressing them.

The Epistle lesson: is from **I** Corinthians
~~third~~ **Chapter** beginning at Verse 18.

I COR

3:18

-4:7

All the corinthian correspondence seems to be taking
place in the rhythms of fight & make up.

LUKE

~~Gospel Reading~~: The Holy Gospel is read from Luke.

17:1-10

verses from the 17th chapter begin at verse one.

:20-25

→ which parable - servants - only Luke comes -
→ material only Luke organizes in this fashion.

HYMNFaithful Lord Jesus

PRAYER.OUR FATHER -

We need a fresh start.

This corporate worship is all right, when we do things together, when we let someone else's words speak ~~for~~ us. When we listen together and utter together. It helps us know we are not alone. It allows us to be helpful to one another. It surrounds us with a cloud of witnesses.

But we are separate persons.

We don't feel totally at home in any togetherness. Each one of us craves to be known, that's what this praying time is for. A time for each one of us to be heard from and addressed. We can get lost in the crowd. The singing, the recognition, the acceptance, ~~gets~~ looking like they are always for someone else.

OUR FATHER - Hear each individual cry ^{this morning} ~~thoughts~~, and have a word for each one.

We don't know what we should bring all our wants & desires and complaints. Many of them don't sound very much like your wants & complaints - but they sound like us. and that's who's coming before you when we come

We don't know whether we should merely "Thy will be done" if we don't mean it, and sometimes when we think we mean ~~something~~ ^{it} we deceive ourselves.

Like this we don't know whether to resolve some great commitment lest it turns out that we didn't mean that either.

And if we keep asking you to do everything when ~~do~~ we assume any responsibility?

OUR FATHER we ~~trust~~ ^{trust} it the midst of these contradictions and pray.

For we have come to learn that is what prayer is. A time when something passes in us - your gift in us wrestles with that which is opposed in us.

O Holy Advisors
+ Advocate } Depart not from us until you have blessed us.

And now as our savior has taught us - we say

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven
~~Give~~ us this day our daily bread and forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil for thine is the Kingdom and the power
and the glory - for ever & ever Amen.

Scripture LessonsJoshua

24:14-24

part of the description of one of the
great transition celebrations of the people of Israel
— written down years after it happened.

The whole host of Israel is gathered
to mark the passing
from the years in the wilderness
to the years of occupation.

Joshua is addressing them.

The Easter Lesson: -

I Corinthians 3:18-4:7

All the Corinthian correspondence seems
to be taking place, in the in the rhythm of
fighting and making up

Hear the Holy GospelLuke 17:5-10 - 20-25

ANTHEM

Barry Sloan

WE hear from ~~that California group again~~
 this time the ~~Sing~~ AMAZING GRACE

SERMONNO ONE IS GOOD BUT GOD ALONE

→ One of the elements in the Ministry of First OC. — Weekly Bread & Word
 Every once in a while, maybe two or three times a year, it becomes very clear to me, as I do my part in preparing these worship services from (First United Church), that The Downtown Eastside of Vancouver will have an impact on the preaching

Once in a while, the word that addresses us as we seek to respond to our call down here, seems to have a peculiar flavour — characteristic of us. On those occasions listeners would be able to identify where that word got heard.

— That's a Downtown Eastside Message: —

This is one of those ^{sermons} occasions, I feel OK about them. If there is a word to us in our particular experience its expression can be the vehicle of a word to the rest of you. To other

I was 10 years Chaplain on a University Campus. That is certainly a world of its own, or a world unto itself in many ways. In another way it ^{was} concentrated as well as an advanced look into the real nature of the whole world.

So it is with the downtown east-side. I feel because it is its own little world it provides a glimpse into everyone's real world.

Just because it's raw & desolate & victimized it offers a glimpse of truth that's true for the whole world but more hidden in some places.

It's a great place to learn that our systems don't work smoothly.

There are few better places to learn that there is NO DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN INTENTION AND BLESSING than in ~~an~~ attempting ministry of helpfulness in the Downtown East Side of Vancouver.

The only reason I can make that statement is that I don't know any better. No doubt there are countless places in the world where that foil of life comes clearer even faster.

But what a thing to have to learn again & again
NO DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN INTENTION & BLESSING

There are many servants & workers that have been down here longer than I have - but I can remember when I first met them **10 years ago**. Our meetings now sound just like those meetings then. There is still no basic ~~program~~ comprehensive programme for the skid row alcoholic. Lots of facilities

were undertaken, aimed at this problem which ended up meeting different problems. ^{but missed the point at} We have many more facilities and services down here now, but many more which started out & became casualties. The ones we have ^{now} are often more appropriate & more humane than the earlier ones - or so at least we hope, but THEY also leave out & do harm. All of us run into a constant stream of people & needs who fit no programme. The more programmes you are into the more aware you become of needs ~~that fit no particular~~ for which there are no appropriate programmes. There is hardly enough energy to maintain the standards of the ongoing programmes. You exhaust yourself adapting only to find out that all your adaptations need adapting.
 ← and so the established programme goes obsolete

It is not just that like the classic Fable of little Black Sambo, you keep applying yesterday's solution to today's problems.

It is that NO MATTER HOW YOU ANTICIPATE the need, set up the machinery, motivate the workers - it very quite fits - doesn't have the impact intended - Does end as well as good. The real world out there floods us with situations and conditions which engulf the programme in a sense of futility.

It's in the face of such experiences on a daily basis, over many years, that some of the Theological language we are familiar with starts to address us.

"NO ONE IS GOOD BUT GOD ALONE"

It's not that there is no blessing going on down here, no savings, no rescues, no liberations,

It is that there appears to be NO DIRECT connection between INTENTION, even when it is of the highest mind, and powered by the finest commitment, and BLESSING.

There's NO DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN INTENTION + BLESSING.

There's a jump, a skip, a discontinuity,

There's something in between HUMAN INTENTION and GENUINE BLESSING.

That word is one we can all hear to our benefit (and of even more significance) to the benefit of those around us.

The better we hear that word - the less harm we ^{will} do in our helping efforts.

Under that word some of the strange notions of the Bible come together & make sense.

What we find out about Blessings around here is that Genuine Blessing is a surprise.
In the midst of everything else - There it is.
It's a Gift. (so as Paul says - why so about it like it wasn't a gift)

There is a Grace quality to all genuine Blessing. For all our trying There is an element of discontinuity between our efforts & the blessings that abound.

So it follows, that we really don't know for certain what is good - as we read in the Spirit's lesson today and as the Parable of the Wheat & the weedy tares - Don't pass absolute judgments before the end.

As Luke quotes Jesus - If you're looking for where the Kingdom is breaking in, Don't identify it with this or that - when someone says of the Kingdom - Lo here - lo there don't go running.

The Manifest coming of The Son of Man - as bolt of lightning, ^{when} flashes anywhere & suddenly, surprising, illuminates all around.

GOD ALONE IS GOOD

Genuine Blessing is a gift - not an accomplishment.

WHAT THEN IS THE PLACE OF OUR EFFORTS. ?

our intentions - Analysis, ~~planning~~, Goal Setting.
Dedication - commitment. ? ?

NO DIRECT ~~connections~~ - intentions & ~~planning~~

Some connection : -

Joshua Reading - Paul It Matters about Stewards

that they be found Trustworthy. } (not successful
that they be faithful. } clever,
Wise } accurate.

Not over righteous:

Stray Parable: Servant. hood - simply ^{understand} ~~understand~~ nothing to boast about

WHILE: we are plugging away at our systems
+ programmes

in the realization that they are not all that good
shamefully trying to shake the most destructive
elements out of them.

WHILE: PLOGGING away at our successes & failures
- without knowing for sure which are which
GOD'S BLESSING BREAKS THROUGH

SOME STRANGE WAY: GOODNESS OF GOD

USES VEHICLE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

Let this place upon us the most fearful
Burden of all.

Let us return to the O.T. Binding and its
setting on the eve of the Crossing over into the
Promised Land of the people of Israel.

Here is expressed the great & frightening intent
of the People of Israel to BE FAITHFUL
What we all knew! —

What was known by the person who wrote this
description of the gathering of the host.

ISRAEL DID NOT REMAIN FAITHFUL

The story of Israel from Exodus through Kings
for more than one thousand years of history is
a dizzying series of turn-arounds — INTENDING
to be faithful — and not sticking to it. — and
restored by God's Faithfulness.

Even when it comes to the matter of Faithfulness
Especially " " " " " " " "

No one is good but God!

Our Broken Faithfulness seems to be a necessary
part of it all —

But what can be trusted in all this is
God's Faithfulness.

Not our hood of HIM

BUT HIS NOAD OF US.

Let us Pray:

What word gave love for our heart
O God - give us ears to hear. -

Closing Hymns:

Praise to the Lord.

Benediction