

5268a

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1980

Ministers:

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

10:30 A.M.

Morning Worship

Organ Prelude
Call to Worship
Hymn No. 263 (446) "God of Bethel" (Tune Salzburg)
Invocation Prayer
Choral Reading
Ministry of Music
Scripture:

Isaiah 42: 1 - 9
Acts 10: 34 - 38
Luke 3: 15, 16, 21, 22

Ministry of Music
Pastoral Prayer
Hymn No. 137 (643) "Through All the Changing"
Sermon:

"THE PEOPLE WERE IN EXPECTATION"

Rev. Art Griffin

Prayer, Offering
Doxology
Announcements
Hymn No. 142 (445) "All the Way"
Benediction
Organ Postlude

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

Organists
a.m. Mr. David Gibson
p.m. Mrs. Eleanor Bush

Evening Broadcast
(Heard over CKWX at 8:00 P.M.)

Organ Prelude
Call to Worship
Hymn No. 144 (166) "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"
(Tune Austria, No. 155)
Invocation

Ministry of Music *Rejoice - Theron Kirk*
Scripture Lessons: Zephaniah 2: 3, 3: 11 - 13
I Corinthians 1: 26 - 31

Ministry of Music *A Faithful Shepherd is my Lord - Nayquhlee*

Prayer and Lord's Prayer (Sung) *Deedee Pritchard*

Ministry of Music *The Dove of Peace - Leiland Forsblad*
Sermon: "GOD LOOKS WEAK AND FOOLISH"

Prayer
Hymn No. 139 (403) "How Firm a Foundation"
Benediction

Offering: Prayer - Offertory - Doxology
Announcements
--- off the air ---

Hymn No. 191 (501) "Will Your Anchor Hold"
Blessing
Postlude

Next Sunday
10:30 a.m. Ms. Linda Green
7:00 p.m. Rev. Ray Tingley

First United Church

Broadcast. Feb 3 1980

God Looks ~~Weak~~ and Foolish:-

Sometimes I am sure that the people who create Lectionaries for the church don't know what they are doing. That they aren't entirely aware of what moved them to put together ~~any~~ particular sets of scripture readings. That they themselves are surprised by what comes of their ~~choice~~ ~~their selection~~ for selecting certain combinations of lessons.

However it seems to be much more apparent what they had in mind when they selected Today's Readings.

Zephaniah - speaks of God's interest in the humble & those of low estate
Paul in the opening chapter of his letter to the Corinthians points out how God chose the foolish & the weak to shame the wise & the strong.

The Beatitudes of our Lord set forth the strangest set of states to be called Blessed.

It is kind of clear what the notion is in all these readings.

The Activity of God is not going to look like the activity of God.

It is going to be very easy to miss the activity of God

even while it is right in front of us
 God is going to look to us like he's weak & foolish.

What kind of reflection does that NOTION
 invite from you?

1. For me ~~the~~ first thing that came is a word to that
 necessary state - I think we all have of
 feeling out of touch with God.

Where is God -

What's God Doing.

Finding what I trust, what moves me, what
 puts me back to back with useless stuff.

Indeed - I think some variation of that state -

→ out of touch with God -

is at the root of all ~~the~~ trouble

of our violent & unsatisfactory lives

word This notion addresses →

Possibility - God is around

+ quite active

aren't recognizing God's presence

God's activity.

Looks to us like weakness & foolishness

2. At same time

Everything weak is not God & God's Activity

I am sure everyone of you can recall

experiences in which the weak confounded the strong.

We have all seen dependent people manipulate
 and deceive others. We have been victims of

That sort of thing and we have done it to others.

There is a distinction called for between
evil weakness and God's weakness.

3. Everyday Foolish is not God or God's activity
again we have all experienced occasions
when someone put forward perverse and
costly foolishness as high minded piety.

There is a distinction called for between
destructive foolishness & God's Foolishness

I am sure ^{unmaking} - There called for destruction
we can never rest in the certainty that we
have made them.

The highest quality selection

will be most open to ~~the~~ predefining
in which we make God into our image

4. However in the Beatitude of our Lord -
we surely have some hints as to the
kind of opposite which indicate God's Power &
Blessing

POOR IN SPIRIT

MOURN - GRIEF → Feels sorry for himself

MEK - whiner - self down-petter.

HUNGER & THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

MERCIFUL - not NO RIGHT & WRONG -

PURE IN HEART - SINGLE Minded → NOT TRUE BELIEVER

PEACE MAKER - NOT PEACE WISHER

PERSECUTED - MARTYR -

THESE ARE BLESSED STATES

THERE'S A WAY - THESE CAN BE

STATES IN THE POWER OF GOD

Finally - Reflection -

The ULTIMATE opposite:

Indicates the Foolishness & Weakness
of God.

Where we finally confront God's
supreme power & victory:

→ The CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

That's the Ultimate Paradox

Bearing of Sin

God's MOST SOVEREIGN
MAJESTY

MANIFESTS ITSELF.