

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

Ministers:
Rev. J. Cashore
Rev. M. J. V. Shaver

Organists:
A.M. Mr. Peter Janson
P.M. Mrs. Eleanor Bush

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1980

10:30 A.M.

Morning Worship
Second Sunday in Advent

Organ Preludes: "Trio"
"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 395 (54) "Hark the Glad Sound"

Invocation

ADVENT: SECOND CANDLE - Bill Shreeve and Bonny Smith

Opening

Scripture Sentences: Psalm 46: 10

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 - 9

God's Presence With Us: Lighting of the Candle

Unison Prayer:

O God,

two candles burn

reminding us

that He who came still comes,

in word and song,

in gift-wrapped smiles

and in tears freely flowing!

He approaches us as the person we are,

walking among us still.

He comes, He comes.

(Sung) Nowell, Nowell, Nowell

Born is the King of Israel.

Hymn No. 416 (53) "Silent Night"

Prayer of Confession

Pardon

Hebrew Lesson

Epistle

Ministry of Music

Sermon

A PATH IN THE WILDERNESS

Rev. John Cashore

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Evening Broadcast

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

Second Sunday in Advent

7:00 P.M.

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 397 "The Advent of Our God"

Invocation

Identification of Broadcast

Ministry of Music

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 11: 1 - 10

Matthew 3: 1 - 12

Ministry of Music

Prayer and Lord's Prayer (sung)

Ministry of Music

Sermon

THE BABY HARVESTER

Rev. Jack Shaver

Hymn No. 155 (255) "Zion's King Shall Reign Victorious"

Benediction (End of Broadcast)

Offering: Prayer, Offertory, Doxology

Announcements

Hymn No. 156 "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

Benediction

Organ Postlude

We welcome all of you to our worship today and invite you

to stay and share in an informal Coffee Hour following

both services.

Next Sunday

10:30 A.M. Ms. Bonnie Smith

7:00 P.M. Rev. John Cashore

SN3106

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY DEC 7 1980 ADVENT II

The Child Harvester

I think maybe it was two advent seasons ago.
~~the~~ During a staff chat that a group of us
were surprised by what a relief it was to find
that ~~all~~ ^{the} others faced the approach of Christmas
with as much dread as joyful anticipation.

Hey you too?

We told each other horror stories:

What was all that about? For all of us the
Big joyous day of promise had never been that
perfect. — Family trouble, economic stress,
whatever — Bad feeling —

The more pressure to make it a Big joyous occasion
the more expectations that got Real on it.

The more the advertising worked — Both commercial
and religious hyped up the good cheer —
the worse it got.

In a strange way — after that ~~exchange~~ of
horror stories we were able to go back to the
stepped up grind of this time of year, and
let the true gift of the season bless us in
the midst of it all,

The church calls this season ADVENT
which is not exactly the same thing — as

preparation for Christmas
 although it includes it
 During the Season of Advent the Church calls her
 People to think about God's Coming.

And if God's Coming is what is to be
 thought of.

The state of dread is possibly an appropriate
 accompaniment.

At least for many Biblical writers

Dread is Fitting to the time of God's Advent

AMOS said it the First time:

Woe to you who desire the Day of the Lord.

Why would you have the Day of the Lord?

It is darkness & not light.

And G.F. Handel has lifted another prophet's
 words into English speaking memories for ever,

The Lord whom you seek will suddenly
 come to his temple, the messenger of the
 covenant in whom you delight -- behold
 he is coming -- says the Lord of HOSTS.

But who can endure the day of his coming
 and who can stand when he appears.

SO all of you who get miserably through the
 pre Christmas weeks -- Dread is appropriate
 to the ADVENT season.

Even some of the dread we experience must
 be appropriate.

While it would be a vicious distortion of
the Biblical message to hear it say that
all misery is sent to us for our benefit.

It is possible for there to be a good
kind of misery,
If the coming of God is to be dreaded.
There is a good kind of dread

→ He is like a refiner's fire.

The coming of the True God means

THAT Life is foundations are shaken.

False foundations fall away.

Life rests on some foundation

Life is Rightness - refined by fire.

True righteousness prevails

The cures we bring to life is ill

→ so that they be true cures.

th
IN Isaiah reading for the Sunday

it is said of This Root out of Jesse
who is to come —

That his DELIGHT shall be in the FEAR of the LORD

and with Rightnesses he shall judge the poor

and decide with equity for the needs of the earth.

That is the setting for the beauly vision

of animals no longer hunting & destroying
on the Mountains of the Lord.

Justice to the poor ↔ pacification of nature.

But it is in the Gospel Lesson that we see food
with the strangest mixture of Dread & the promise
of blessing.

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Typical Advent Reading: come soon enough
to the nativity stories.

Matthews version of the opening of Jesus ministry,
Same for all the Gospel writers.
Began with the Preaching of John the Baptist

John's rough ministry in the wilderness
calling for a general repentance
mocking anything that might be a superficial
repentance.

Pointing to one Greater than he
one promised of old →

Winnowing Fork is in his hand.

Telling metaphor of the Harvester. Threshing floor.
Fork was tossing trampled sheaves
in the air for the wind to separate
grain from chaff.
added to refiners fire
shaking of foundations.

Advent of God — is a
sifting out until we
get to good fruit of life.

Dreadful enough II Sunday in Advent.

What we all have in mind — Nativity Stories
Child in Manger
Child in working class family

SN310 f

TWIST

Kind of Sifting
Kind of Dread

Before us — judging and sowing work.

work of one who intrusted it to Human
Flesh.

Frail Vulnerable human process
Birth

Family nurtured: Palestinian home
2000 years ago.

During a Foreign occupation.
and a Tyrant King.

Human is a SIFTER OF LIFE

THRESHOLD OF LIFE'S GRAIN

who trusts it all to that process.

It just might be very good to dread
this coming.

THIS HARVESTER

who TRUSTS ME.