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

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

September 30, 1979

10.30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn No. 170 (Hymnary) "We come unto our father's God"

Invocation

Solo: Pat Preston

Unison Reading No. 718 (Hymnary) Psalm 85

Scripture Passages:

Old Testament: Job 19: 6-27

Epistle: Romans 9: 14-26

Duet: Pat Preston and Lorraine Taljanich

Gospel Reading Matt. 9: 9-13

Prayer

Hymn No. 429 (Hymnary) "Lord, it belongs not to my care"

Sermon

GOD AND HIS ENEMIES

Rev. Jack Shaver

Prayer

Offering: Prayer, Offertory, Doxology

Announcements

Hymn No. 40 (Hymnary) "God moves in a mysterious way"

Benediction

Organ Postlude

Next Sunday morning, Oct. 7, we combine World Wide Communion Sunday with Thanksgiving Sunday. We will celebrate Communion at 10.30. Members of the congregation are invited to bring something to decorate the Church with, that helps us remember the harvest theme. We are also asked to bring canned food - especially meat or fish that can be used in our sandwich-making programmes.

AUDREY HLADY proposed at the Official Board that she recruit Special Music on a volunteer basis from United Church choirs in Greater Vancouver. Pat and Lorraine are the first of these and come from Canadian Memorial. Thanks for coming to us.

RADIO BROADCAST

(Heard over CKWX at 8 p.m.)

(Fourth Sunday in Creation, Seventeenth Sunday in Pentecost)

Our Approach to God

Silent Preparation. "If we do not believe, the waves engulf us, the winds blow, nourishment fails, sickness lays us low or kills us, the divine power is impotent or remote. If, on the other hand, we believe, the waters are welcoming and sweet, the bread is multiplied, our eyes are open, the dead rise again, the power of God is, as it were, drawn from him by force and spreads throughout all nature." Teilhard de Chardin.

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn of Praise No. 22 "Praise to the Living God"

Prayer of Approach

Words of Welcome

Ministry of Music

The Word of God

Scripture Lessons: Old Testament: Is. 50: 4-10

Epistle: James 2: 14-18

Gospel: Mark 8: 27-35

Ministry of Music

Evening Prayer

Ministry of Music

Message

"AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION"

Ms. Linda Ervin

Hymn No. 302 (383) "Lord, speak to me"

- off the air -

Response to God

Offertory Prayer

Our Offering

Offertory Hymn "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow"

Life and Work of the Congregation

Closing Hymn No. 308 (215) "Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing"

Commissioning

Blessing

7.00 P.M.

54286

October 1979

Congregation and friends,
Of First United Church

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE 1979

Any comments on THANKSGIVING remain an attempt to comment on a mystery. Who doesn't welcome the state of a grateful heart? I don't need to be instructed that it is a good thing when my heart is full and overflowing. Life is totally transformed when we find ourselves embracing it with grateful joy. When we mean it, the state of being grateful is an occasion for thanksgiving.

Not many of us enjoy being ungrateful. But, when we don't mean it, the demand to be thankful comes on as an unworthy obligation. Gratitude seems to be a base thing if we don't mean it.

What it is, that turns out a grateful heart, is an abiding mystery.

We at First Church continue to undergo swift and sharp changes between gratitude and complaining, like everyone else. Now and again we know the deep mystery of experiencing gratitude when we find ourselves under the right burden.

We also know that one clue to what it is that turns out a grateful heart is the fact that a great group of you out there care about us and the ministry to which we are called.

Thank you,

Art Luffman

by John & Shaver

+ *Mondak*

Call to Worship:

As with Jacob - so with us

Most of our meetings with God can be described
afterwards in something like this word
"Surely the Lord was in this place and
I knew it not."

Before-hand, we are not going to know that
He is in this place.

Draw near unto him or he will draw near
unto you.

170 —

Invocation: —

Our Father —

Among the reasons we come back is that
we ^{have} met you here before.

Among the reasons we cry unto you is that
your spirit already dwells within us.

You have brought us together - you have
given us to each other. because we ~~seem~~
you from each other we meet you
in each other.

Father & we are ~~more~~

→ sighs

→ our turning to each other

to come before us this hour

Through J.C. or Lord

GOD and His Enemies

I often find the Bible to be a puzzling book: -

I am sure that if anyone lets what is there BE there -
without trying to explain away all the contradictions
he or she will find the Bible puzzling

I find LIFE to be puzzling: -

I am sure that if anyone lets what is there BE there
he or she will find life puzzling

I find a wondrous thing happening when you let
life's puzzles and the Bible's puzzles come together.

I find that, when I am confronted by what's puzzling
in the Bible I often hear a penetrating and helpful
word to life's puzzles

The Book of Job is one of the Bible's puzzles.

Different characters keep arguing with each other
without leaving each other and without necessarily
anything. Each sounds reasonable and high-minded
in his turn.

The mystery of the discussion has troubled Israel
and the church from earliest times.

In all the Biblical books the text is in the word creation
- An unbiased student of the document surely
must conclude that some of the confusion is due
to the fact that different authors & editors have
had a hand in its production

But even after you allow for all that there remains
a basic confusion that is due to the enormity of the matter
it is wrestling with.

The matter is one of life's serious problems

Is suffering always the result of sin?

Why do the unrighteous prosper - or does it only appear so?

Why do the righteous suffer - or is it only for a while?

Is God unjust?

Who is man to question God? to have a quarrel with God?

It seems clear enough that for man to do so is improper

- even relations. At the same time Biblical writers

and the characters they describe often do just that.

- They keep it up.

Here's the wonderful thing: →

I find those passages in the Bible where people object

its improper to question God but do it anyway become

faithful and for me ~~depression~~ for the breaking

in of a loving and saving WORD.

Two flashes occur in the Book of Job.

Today's O.T. lesson →

Overwhelming description state of deprivation

I know that my redeemer liveth.

Take a fragment of Paul's Throgl in Romans 9

verses for 3 chapters - Jews haven't all believed - {some are saved & some are not}

Quotes with approval "Who are you a man to answer back to God?"

will what is modeled say to its modeler

"Why have you made me thus?"

At the same time Paul's writing throughout chapters 9-11

are precisely a quarrel with the notion

"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy

I will have compassion on whom I will

have compassion."

Read: Romans 9: 22-26

What if God — desires to show his wrath
and to make known his power has endured with
much patience the vessels of wrath made for
destruction, in order to make known the riches of
his glory for the vessels of mercy. ---

Those who were not my People —

— I will call my People

In the very place where it was said to them

"you are not my people"

they will be called — "sons of the living God".

WHAT'S THIS?

The work of God

→ The calling of people "NOT my People"
is in order that they can come to
be called my People?

Summary Text Text Ro. 5

While we were enemies we were reconciled
to God by the death of His Son?

God has enemies — IF God is LOVE

Mystery — they are reconciled to Him

God's wonderful work.

Theology

Bible

Experiences

Life

} come together

Life is crossways with itself.

all fouled up. - Basic way

accurately described

→ At enmity with GOD - less than that wouldn't describe it

We've got a quarrel with him.

He's got a quarrel with us.

Can Be as Bad + as deep as all that.

He has reconciled us to Himself.

When we come into the kind of life -

CALED → NOT HIS PEOPLE →

There's Patience to that Wrath

in order that he might show MERCY

in order that in ~~the~~ very place

we are called NOT HIS PEOPLE

we can be called his People.

PUZZLING. ?

Jesus - Puzzling to contemporaries

How come your Master eats with Publicans & sinners?

"It came not to call Righteous but Sinners to Repentance"

This Complaint came about - attended a Dinner

at Home of MATTHEW or (LEVI AS LUKE

calls him) The Tax Collector

Gospel writer or Editor who Bore the Same Name

only one who adds Jesus convert to them

who found ~~it~~ ^{belonged} as Puzzling -

Learn what this means - I desire Mercy & Not Sacrifice

Forgetter I forget Forgiveness - Forfeited - Cult

God who Requires Mercy →

would he not also also Be Mercy?