

5462a
Welcome to Worship
at West Point Grey United Church

November 14, 1999

The Worship Committee invites the congregation to choose a seat closer to the front of the Church

We are a congregation of great diversity. Some stand when indicated (), others remain seated for a variety of reasons. Please feel free to stand or sit as you are comfortable.*

PRAISE GOD

Leader's Bulletin: Organist finishes prelude; Worship leaders enter

The Church Bells Call Us to Worship

Jack announces hymn

* **Hymn:** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #149

* **Words of Gathering** (leader's bulletin) Jannette

"Good morning. This past week has been one of remembering, especially of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in war. As Christians, we are ever mindful of the great sacrifice made for our salvation - Christ's death on the cross. But our hope and joy lies in the future when He will return a second time; and while we wait, we also recognize that, just as Christ has not yet arrived, we as Christians have only made a beginning, have yet to arrive at our destination, and, meanwhile, have many tasks to do before we get there. And as we do them..."

* **The Peace:**

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you (Leader: *We invite everyone to move around to share the peace with one another through the shaking of hands*)
(Extend a word and sign of peace to another)

Anna chooses children to light candles (proceeds with lighting)

* Indicates those who are able may stand.

Enlarged copies of the hymns are available from an usher.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 400

CHILDREN PRAYING 9899

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

959

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.

THE TRUENE CANT

God, Whose Almighty Word 313

MUSICAL 6646664

- 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.
- 2 Jesus, who came to bring
on your redeeming wing, healing and sight,
health to the troubled mind, sight to the Spirit-blind,
O now to humankind let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
lifegiving, holy dove, speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place let there be light.
- 4 Blessed and holy three,
glorious trinity, wisdom, love, might,
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide, let there be light.

(5462c)

West point Grey United Church Sunday Nov. 14-79

I Thes
Matt

5:1-11
25:14-30

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The Epistle lesson is from I Thes. This letter is the earliest document in the N.T. that has come down to us in its present form.

It seems to be talking about the second coming of Christ.

Strangely, as it may seem to us the subject was central in the thought of the early Church. One gathers from reading the whole letter that it was also a problem for the early Church.

However, it cannot be derived that references to the coming again of Jesus Christ are pervasive in the N.T. books - especially the Gospels, and in the earliest Church Literature (so far as it can be reconstructed).

- Hence we find the earliest characteristic prayer

COME LORD JESUS

for all that Jesus was seen as Victorious over sin & death - Lord of all

Present where 2003 are gathered also absent - is present to

summon him

It's too bad - coming again of X

early received the popular name

The Second Coming

~~and it is at that time~~ with

confirms the meaning of all that coming again language is a spectacular happening to take place at a particular date

as special date in the future when all that special event is supposed to happen

we keep going to church

Too bad because it has ~~been~~ denied
us the significant word that can address
us, in ~~that~~ that language.

It would be great if ~~that~~ ^{coming again} language
could be given back to us. ~~to~~ that it
with meaning could address us.

1. It would ^{help} ~~allow~~ us to feel real kinship with
those early witnesses to life in Christ -
instead of getting the feeling that those
Biblical promises about what it's like to
live in Christ - — about someone who
— not recognizable as any
experience we have,
not having anything to do with our reality.

What all that "coming again" language ~~tells~~ us
is that those early Christians saw their full
life as a fragmentary thing. Much as their
vision meant to them, there was a NOT YET
quality to their life in him. What was theirs
was an earnest of things to come. First Fruits,
"We who have the first fruits of the Spirit
given within ourselves as we wait for adoption."

If you get a little bit tired of being called
the "People's God" - can't quite see us as that.

- How exemplary land we - WAITING for
the adoption as full fruited members
- don't not myself to have apprehended
- but am —

Now we see through a glass darkly —
But there seems to be

now we cannot
understand even ourselves

come to mean - pre-eminence or special aptitude - Due to influence of Matt's Parable.

Familiar as it is I don't think we have caught Matthew's understanding of the meaning of the Parable.

Talents - Middle one of 3 - Matt lumps ^{together} in ^{cher}
 1. 10 Virgin with lamps - waits for 25
 Bodogor - 5 pounds & 5 farthings
 3. lost judgment - ^{Nations} sheep from Books

Chapter 24 :- Chap 13 Mark Chap 21 Lk
 looks like it has a separate life as a learned
 little apocalypse ->
 Collection of Comments remembered
 as Jesus says about the last
 things, -> Comes - coming again
 of the Son of Man.

Is placing them here was

Intentional with Matthew -> saw
 3 parables as addressing the
 Matthew of the absent Lord.
 Absent King.

Our current sensitivity to the damage done
 by Patriarchy down the centuries,
 present theology with an enormous
 problem

54629

7

How can one do God & left at all
without using words like

LORD - Lordship

King - Kingship

Sovereign ~~the~~ Sovereignty

If God has anything to do with the order
of the Universe, let alone Volcanos, Earthquakes
& Thunderstorms -

then God cannot be the NICE Trivial
Being we're left with when we
are denied the use of all such words
^{somehow}

We struggle to find SOVEREIGNTY words
in order to hear what, those early

ones meant by their Prayer.

"COME LORD JESUS"

was meant by their understanding
of the Absent King.

Delmei

Bonhoeffer - Writing from Prison.

Formed words

The only way Jesus can be LORD
is by being absent,

Very right - ABSENT
TIME

GOD IS LOVE:

God can't be love if Love has to
use some other kind of means
to establish lordship.

It's a bit to have the mind of ~~it~~ because
of a resurrection in some other kind

Then I ^{didn't} ~~didn't~~ get to have the meal
of Christ.

If Love alone doesn't win us then
we are not being won to the Kingdom
of Love

The way Jesus kind of Kingdoms can
Rule is by his being absent.

Provable say about absent King:-

1. About to come - around the corner.
Love's Kingdoms manifest.

∴ watchful →
state in Christ, watchfulness

3. Present - heart. stranger,
Hungry, oppressed - naked sick
Dr Bill Taylor → chapel in Union College

2. Present Tasks

Love's Tasks

Wherever the Call is in the real world;
Wherever Love's Tasks interrupt us
+ Frustrate us.

How much closer can we get to God
than by doing Love's Tasks.