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

ELIZABETH HART
MEMORIAL SERVICE

MAY 22, 1993

ORGAN PRELUDE

GREETING

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

PRAYER OF APPROACH

HYMN: "Till Praise My Maker While I've Breath"

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath;
and when my voice is lost in death,
praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,
while life and thought and being last,
or immortality endures.

Happy are those whose hopes rely
on Israel's God, who made the sky,
the earth and seas, with all their train.
This truth forever stands secure:
God saves the oppressed, God feeds the poor,
and none shall find this promise vain.

The Lord gives eye-sight to the blind;
the Lord supports the fainting mind,
and sends the troubled conscience peace.
God helps the stranger in distress,
the widow and the fatherless,
and grants the prisoner sweet release.

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The family wishes to thank all those who have been involved in today's service and invite people to gather in the Gym for a time of fellowship. During this time you can, if you wish, jot down, for the family, some thoughts and memories about Elizabeth. Pens and paper are available in the Gym.

S472c

ELIZABETH HART
MEMORIAL SERVICE

MAY 22 1993

How a fit memorial make unless suffering saints have a mercy seat?
How even attempt a memorial when you are in a state of shock? The
state of shock is so self-consuming that there is no part of you
left to do anything else.

And this untimely death of Elizabeth unleashes in us a flood of
helpless, useless anger. And her sudden death, without warning lets
loose a flood of regrets... "If only I had done this, or said that"
"If only I hadn't said this or done that."

We need a liberating word to address our many and varied extreme
states, so that we can grieve, and remember, and give thanks, and
to continue to care and keep communion. No cheap word will do. This
pointless cutting off of a life at its prime, upon reaching a posi-
tion so right and so well filled, fitting crown to a lifetime of
preparation, leaving an ambitious significant work unfinished.

We need a living word to address all that. We need to be addressed by
a word we haven't got in our mouths, We need a word from God's
mouth.

I wish I could remember the exact words of an exchange between
Elizabeth and Bob Burrows during one Advent season at First United.
But I can remember the sense of it. It went like this. The living
word is such that you don't have it before you hear it. That's the
wondrous think about God's grace, it comes as a gift to those who
don't have it. The only way you can receive such a gift as God's
grace is by not knowing you have it beforehand.

The WORDS for a time like this are ready enough, the trouble is
they come on as the cheap word we dread. - - GOD IS LOVE AND THEY
THAT DWELL IN LOVE DWELL IN GOD AND GOD IN THEM.
But should they come on as a living word, creating conviction, they
come bearing eternat life.

As far as we can tell that word "God Is Love" broke into human con-
sciousness when people wrestled with the problem of untimely death
and unjust suffering. (As in the author of the Book of Job, as in
the author of the servant passahes in the Isaiah, as in the New Test-
ament writers as they wrestled with the meaning of the execution of
Jesus.) It would seem that in the army of love only the wounded can
serve

Even so, we aren't very good believers.

Such is the wondrous nature of grace.. ~~Is~~ that exactly what it is
capeable of working with, is a broken spirit; exactly what is is cape-
able of working through is an earthen vessel.

How a fit memorial make
unless suffering saints have a mercy seat?

How even attempt a memorial
when you are in a state of shock?

The state of shock is so self consuming that
that there is no part of you left to do anything else

And this untimely death of Elizabeth unleashes in us
a flood of helpless - useless anger.

and her sudden death, without warning
lets loose a flood of regrets

"If only I had done this or ~~that~~ that
or "If only I had not done this or ~~that~~ that."

We need a liberating word to address our many
and varied extreme states.

so that we can grieve and remember and give
thanks and continue to care and keep committed
— No cheap word will do

No cheap word will do to address

- this pointless cutting off of a life at its prime
- upon reaching a position - so right - so well filled
- fitting crown to a
lifetime of preparation
- + leaving an ambitious significant work unfinished

We need a living word to address
all that.

We need to be addressed by a word that we
haven't got in our mouths

we need a word from God's mouth

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I wish I could recall the exact words
of an exchange between Elizabeth & Bob Burrows
during one Advent season at First United.

But I can remember the sense of it.
It went like this → Elizabeth was saying:

The living word is such - you don't have it
before you have it,
you have to hear it from God.

That's the wondrous nature of God's grace
it comes as a gift to those who don't have it.
The only way you can receive ~~it~~ ^{such a gift as this} is by not knowing
you have it beforehand.

THE WORDS for a time like this are ready enough.
The trouble is they come on as the cheap word we drop
GOD IS LOVE - & THEY THAT DWELL IN LOVE DWELL IN GOD

should they come ^{on} as a LIVING WORD -
creating conviction
they come bearing eternal life.

as far as we can tell: -

That WORD GOD IS LOVE

Booke into human consciousness when people
wrestled with the problem of untimely death

It would seem - in the ^{midst of suffering,} company of love
only the wounded can see.

→ even so - we aren't very good believers

Such is the wondrous nature of ~~them~~
- exactly what it is capable of working with
a broken spirit -
- exactly what it is capable of working through is an earthly vessel

as in
author of
exp. 8
as in Author
of Advent season
in 21st
book of
and only
creation
from

In lines from my grandfather's journal,
Isaac Cohen is working through the story of
the suffering of his people ~~and~~ the Holocaust.
These words I want to close with.

"Let judges secretly despair of justice
their judgments will be more accurate

"Let Generals secretly despair of triumph
killing will be defunct

"Let priests secretly despair of faith
their compassion will be true.

(S472d)

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