

5582a

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

Ministers:

Rev. J. Cashore
Rev. M. J. V. Shaver
Ms. Linda Ervin

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 1982

10:30 A.M.

Morning Worship

The Approach

ORGAN PRELUDE

PRAYER OF APPROACH

HYMN NO. 228 "Behold Thy People, Lord" (tune: Song 20)

GENERAL CONFESSION (in unison) - Our God, we confess to
you our sins of thought, word, and deed. We confess
those things which we have left undone. Forgive us
for not being your people, for casting out those who
have been forgiven, but yet who we have judged by our
own standards. Help us to recognize your forgiveness
in ourselves, lift our blindness to the forgiveness
in others. All this we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.
(silence)

PRIVATE CONFESSION

LITANY (in unison) - Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Word

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY Acts 4: 32 - 37

THE LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY I John 5: 1 - 6

(standing) THE GOSPEL John 20: 19 - 31

HYMN NO. 234 "God of Mercy" (tune: Heathlands)

SERMON "THE CHURCH'S FORGIVENESS - HOW WILL WE DO IT?"

Mr. Stuart Lyster

HYMN NO. 237 "We Turn to You" (tune: Zu Meinem Herrn)

The Response

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERING

DOXOLOGY (Hymn No. 55)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN NO. 274 "Let There Be Light" (tune: Concord)

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

ORGAN POSTLUDE

(Heard

ORGAN PRELUDE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

HYMN NO. 72 "Cor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ABSOLUTION

CHORAL INTRODUCTION

EPISTLE LESSON

CHORAL RESPONSE

GOSPEL LESSON

ANTHEM "O Lord

SERMON "TH

ANTHEM "Amazing

PRAYER OF THANKS

HYMN NO. 466 "Ch

-- of:

OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN NO. 132

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

2nd Sunday in Easter.

If you were preaching ~~appeared to get as~~
 and you came upon what ~~was~~ a slow-stopper
 in the Bible readings for the Sunday - would
 you start with ~~that~~ or ~~start~~ it until the
 end of the sermon. ^{The slow stopper}

I decided the thing to do was to start with the
~~line from the text~~ ^{SHOW STOPPED}. Then it would have time to sink in
 + do its own work. ~~→~~

Whatever is born of God - overcomes the world
 And this is the victory that overcomes the world
 → OUR FAITH

That comes to me as a slow stopper.

The NOTION - The victory that overcomes the world
 is OUR FAITH.

Strange that the writer of this letter should say it.

I JOHN - It's not really a letter.

MORE LIKE - treatise - essay.

When you read the whole document ^{to clear} → He had a reason
 for writing it -

People were believing wrong stuff -

The whole point of his writing was the prevalence of
 what he took to be bad faith.

People were claiming they were in the light when they
 weren't.

" " " they were sinners - weren't.

" " united with God - and they loved God - weren't.

" " → loved God - didn't love ~~their~~ neighbors

→ Try the spirits whether they be of God.

Walt
Spent Commencement

+ Death by expectation

2 hopes, fears, misunderstandings, pains
& friends -

Opacities - increased

operation - no effect
+ abandonment of support factors

→ + Rejected like a useless stone in a quarry

This writer - is into a worrisonous tressle
with ~~the~~ bad faith all around him.

The Underdog ~~is~~ $\Rightarrow$ This is the Victory that overcomes the world — our faith.

Gospel lesson - consists of the Resurrection episodes
as reported in four Gospels.

This one - like many of the other reported of episodes recorded in the gospels - includes almost as much doubt as faith. Story of Doubting Thomas was Christ's
 witness
 for ~~recognition~~ ^{conviction} - many more to come and not going to be offloaded. Thomas's knowledge.

Control - Turnabout Component - X_1 fails

HISTORIC
References To the
Tomb of an

What ~~there~~ more basic yearning is there beneath
all our woes — but the yearning for greater
faith?

^{always}
it may ~~not~~ be all that obvious to us.

But our woes are
and an ~~everlasting~~ ^{of our} burden came for the world & its people
is with us a lot of the time.

Who of us is not depressed with every glimpse
we take of the world. Who can believe that justice is
not on the increase. Or that by the time
the hurting and oppressed of the earth have
their injustice redressed we will all be destroyed.

Who of us is not depressed by his and her own
failure to measure up to what is called for,
who of us does not feel overcome by the world.

As I look at the world, I've got trouble
believing that what is Born of God overcomes the
world. ~~~~

When I look at my life in the world —
it's astonishing to me this notion. That the
~~this is the~~ Victor that overcomes the world
is — our Faith.

It seems

The People who wrote that — were quite
aware of the confessions of doubts that of
experience — I John — John Gospel —
other Gospels.

That rising and falling things }
that broken things } overcomes the world
that work or weariness things }

that Faith - keep looking - letting go of
 - won't quite go away - won't quite let go of
 us ~~for~~ - This is the Victor that overcomes the world.

There is another slow stopper line in
 the Epistle text. The essay or treatise called
I John is famous for its variations on the theme
God is love : - "If you say - love God
 & hate other people - all mixed up - & concluded
 yourself! ^{God is love} ~~God is love~~ in love & dwell in God &
 God in ~~you~~ ^{us}. In this is love - that we
 have God but that God have us - we have
 become to first have ~~us~~.

It seems to me

all this talk can leave us in a depressed state.

~~It is~~ Our loving ~~is~~ as much trouble
 as our believing. →

indeed it would be easy to think of them
 as two names for the same thing, ^{LOVE} FAITH

what a thing ^{to have or} ~~to have~~ God's command →
 requirement. →

what a thing to be the mark of our being in God's
 God in us →

- it's our **L**oving that's giving us trouble.

~~the second slow stopper~~

For this is the Love of God - That we keep his
 commandments - and his commandments are
not burdensome. →

Have you ever had a glimpse of how
That might be so?

Have you ever found Love's doing ^{even} ~~even~~ ^{though} ~~though~~.

No Burden at all: ^{or} Like hail + wots-ways
right in the middle of our logs to load on back.

~~When it got to go~~ ^{when} some ^{profound} distinction between
~~there~~ ^{we} have ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~disine~~ ^{disine} got to go

Disine gets to be a burden

→ Love's doing → painful.

NOT A BURDEN — WINGS.

Not because we're that good at it.

— It recreates us →

For this is the Love of God, that we keep
his commandments, and his commandments
are not burdensome, for whatever is born
of God overcomes the world: and this is
the victory that overcomes the world. OUR
FAITH.

So Be it.