The Hands of Jesus Christ

The Amazing Quality Among Hands

1. A gift from God. - Chaplain Willie

2. From here we speak of our hands.
   - First a helping hand
   - to be a poor hand
   - to rule with a heavy hand

3. Symbolical Meaning
   - Sheltering hands
   - Hood hands in marriage

4. Blessed Hands
   - Musician
   - Masons
   - When we take Communion.
The Hands of Jesus Christ

- They were tire-worn hands
  - Carpenter
  - Soldier who nailed him to Cross
  - Attitude over Manual Labor in Roman Empire
  - Lord as Christ in Carpenter's Shop
  - The Dignity of Human Work — Christ

They were tender hands

- Women whose hands were tender
  - Florence Nightingale
  - Susanna Wesley
  - Betty Wilkinson

  Children — 45 orphaned children

- Christ's hands
  - Little children
  - Little daughter of spires
  - Peter's mother-in-law

- They are tender for you.
(3) They were pierced

- W. E. Sangster - He's Right

Hidden from Day's View the Hands
- Their was Stamford Jesus hands.
- Not on Cross

Look at these Hands
- Are these the Hands of Jesus?
"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

**AT THE DOOR OF THE CHURCH**

Organ Prelude—"Prelude and Fugue in F. Major" .................................................. Bach

Choral Call to Worship

Processional Hymn—"When Morning Gilds The Skies" ........................................... 135

Invocation

Lord's Prayer and Gloria

* * *

**INVISIBLE RESOURCES**

Reading of the Holy Scriptures—Matthew 24: 36-51

Choral Call to Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response

Anthem—‘Lord For Thy Tender Mercies’ Sake’ .................................................. Farrant

Lord, for Thy tender mercies’ sake
Lay not our sins to our charge,
But forgive that is past,
And give us grace to amend our sinful lives
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
That we may walk with perfect heart
Before Thee now and ever more.

* * *

**THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS**

Christian Greetings

Offertory Hymn—"I Am Thine, O Lord" ................................................................. 312

Receiving Our Tithes and Offerings

Organ Offertory—"My Heart Is Longing" .................................................. Brahms

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Solo—"The Twenty-Third Psalm" ................................................................. Malotte

Mrs. James Smart, contralto

Sermon by Pastor Fredrikson—"Is This The End Of The Age?"

**HUMBLE ENOUGH TO BEGIN**

Hymn of Dedication and Decision—"Thine Is the Glory" ..................................... 244

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

* * * Ushers may seat latecomers

This morning Pastor Fredrikson will greet folks at the main door, Rev. Babcock at the balcony door and Rev. Rowe at the side door.

The broadcast of the service this morning over Radio Station KELO is sponsored by Lynn's Studio.
EVENING SERVICE
7:30 P.M.

Prelude
Call to Worship and Invocation
Period of Hymn Singing
Scripture and Prayer—John 20: 24-31
Greetings and Announcements
Christian Witness
Hymn
Offering
Special Music
Evening Message by Pastor Fredrikson—"The Hands of Jesus Christ"
Closing Hymn—"Saviour, Thy Dying Love"
Benediction—Closing Moments—"Beneath The Cross"

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

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6:00 p.m.—Membership Class—Session Four
8:45 p.m.—Hi Fi

WEDNESDAY, 7:45 p.m.—Midweek Prayer Service
9:00 p.m.—Church Council meet in the Church Parlor

THURSDAY, 7:00 p.m.—Greenbar of the Boy Scouts in Youth Room

FRIDAY, Mr. and Mrs. Class

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers:
Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson..............Pastor
Rev. Albert H. Babcock..............Christian Education
Rev. James E. Rowe...............New Life

Secretaries:
Miss Winifred Jones.............Financial
Miss Margaret Clark.............Pastor's Assistant
Mrs. Clarence Anderson.........Church

Musicians:
Dr. Lee Bright....................Director
Dr. Maynard Berk................Organist
Mr. Harold Wortman..............Youth
Miss Lois Harchanko...........Children

Sextons:
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ysbrand
Mr. Lamont Reichelt
Hostess..................Mrs. Hilda Bockelman
"IS THIS THE END OF THE AGE?"

A Sermon Preached by

DR. ROGER L. FREDRIKSON

At the Morning Worship Services

July 30, 1961

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
"Is This The End of The Age?"

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, King of kings and Lord of lords. (Revelation 19:16)

This is a sermon on the end of the age. It does not grow out of a particular crisis or last week's headlines. After all, we have lived in the midst of crisis for at least twenty-five years and we will probably be in the midst of troubles for a long time to come. So this message is brought to you to kindle Christian hope and to underline that courage which has always characterized the Christian Gospel. This message, the major themes of which are: the prophets of doom and the writers of our age have spelt forth a state of pessimistic misgivings. Philip Wylie's "Tomorrow," George Orwell's "1984;" Huxley's "Brave New World"; or Neville Shute's "On The Beach" give a note of gloom entitled, it may be said, for a man who believes in the idea of life for millions in the age of mechanical multitudes there is simply no meaning. Life is only an unsolved riddle. In many ways the life and death of Ernest Hemingway is a parable of this searching. With all of his brave writing and his living with danger—bullfight and hunting and fishing and hunting—his writing was no meaning to life. This is the bankruptcy of the world comes to "at the end of the tether."

In the face of all this the heart of the Christian message has been one of hope. "Now abideth faith, hope, and love. Let us not forget that hope is the great word that stands between faith and love. The Christian message has insisted that all history and time has a beginning. It has insisted that this world and man cannot be.exclusive. It has clung to the conviction that God has brought the world's and all created existence into being. However long we may believe it has taken the world to come into being, the fundamental Fact that sustains all life is God. It is His creative word that has brought order out of chaos and life to being. He is the ground of all existence. This has come about because of God's great love he purposes which this creation expresses are God's purposes.

However, this is not the last of the matter. The Christian believes that there is an end to creation, that the purposes for which God has brought the world into being will be fulfilled. In Biblical language the Lord has gone into a far country but he will return or the guests are still being invited to the wedding feast but the day will come when it is closed and the feast will be ended. So the end of the age is in God's hands and is not man's prerogative to determine.

It is crucial for us to understand that the key or clue to both the beginning and the end is Jesus Christ. The great Apostle Paul insists in a number of places, particularly Ephesians and Colossians, that the purposes of God have been made known in and through Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the forgiven sinner in Christ who under- stands that through His triumphant death and resurrection, God has made His purposes known. Light is shed on both the Beginning and the End. He is the unifying factor in all creation and history. We do not understand "God's end" through the amassing of human knowledge. The ability to crack the atom does not mean we are aware of God's ultimate purposes. It is only in Christ that all things are made new. We only see a "new heaven and a new earth" because we have tasted of His resurrection life which is the foretaste of that which is to come.

One cannot speak of these matters without remembering that the Revelation to Apostle Paul is the book which deals with the end. Many of us have been inclined to dismiss this book in a rather sophisticated way because we have not understood it in a true meaning. Yet in a time of upheaval God's people have turned to this writing to search out its meaning. This letter was written during the persecution of the Emperor Domitian. This cruel emperor claimed himself to be a deity demanding that all men worship and obey him. This is a passage in the Christian community scattered throughout the Roman Empire. This community could only confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

So the brunt of the emperor's vicious program of extermination struck the Christians for they were the only ones of this world who were able to see a vision of a triumphant, victorious Lord, the defeat of all the forces of evil and the final gathering together of all God's people. It is interesting that John begins his writing by referring to the cruel situation of exile in which he finds himself. "I John, who stand in the blood of Jesus the tribulation,..."- was on the island of Patmos, which means we must live in the midst of history's cruel twists and suffering. On the other hand John speaks of the glory in the midst of this situation. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." There is always open to every Christian, regardless of circumstances, the possibility of living in the Spirit in the midst of God's grace and glory.

Every time men have seen the cruel, vicious nature of man unmasked they have asked, "Is it true?" There rings John's terrible analysis of man's ultimate evil. He defies himself as God. Man insists that he is the end of all things as the emperor says he must be worshipped. Interestingly, all the pictures of wierd beasts throughout this Revelation have big mouths—always taking the place of man. All of God's evil is not just one evil. There are many causes, social schemes, and ideas that are set forth for what seems to be the common good but which end is being the anti-Christ. Every age, particularly our own, must deal with man-centered "isms" which claim to be good but which are in the end actually evil.

Running through this Revelation is the picture of the massing of power. One main theme of it is the ascension of political, economic, social and religious powers. This becomes a time of terrifying violence. Human flesh is cheap. Men use their evil imaginations to devise new schemes of torture to destroy the church. Now it is said again that whenever men have found themselves in this kind of a situation they have said, "Perhaps the day of the Lord draws near."

Through all of this John sees and hears the triumphant victory of Almighty God. "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth forever." In the midst of terror John sees over and over again the majesty of Christ. In the midst of His majesty and all the kings and Lord of lords to all men is the end of God's purpose. John also sees the gathering together of all the sante of all the ages. The martyrs with their robes washed in blood are in the midst of a visitation of prayer. John sees that there will be no mean and a new earth at the end of time. God is gathering the community of forgiven sinners, now.

There are many secrets opened throughout this Revelation but all the issues are in the hands of God. Let us thank God that no dictator, no earthly power, will finally determine our human destiny. Let us thank God. He holds the books and they are only opened as His purposes are fulfilled. His throne is the only unchanging fact in the world. It is in the history of man's corruption. The only unchanging thing is God doing and where is He doing His work?" I believe this is the single, crucial question for every Christian today—"Am I aware of where God is at work and am I involved in the work?"

Now, a fact which John sees and understands is that which has been weak in the sight of men now is revealed as God's power. The world has laughed at the weakness of the Gospel but now the power is being compounded. The flaming power of our Lord. The Jesus of history, born in innocence and dying on a cross amid mockers, has now become the Lion of Judah. The Lamb that was slain has become the Judge of all men. Let me be very clear in saying that for those of you who believe in the end there is inevitable peace. To the rest of you it will seem like foolishness. Furthermore, the weak sinful, community of men called the "church" becomes at the end a victorious fellowship of saints who praise God everlastingly. It is amazing that this last week in spite of all the threats and bullying of the present regime, one hundred thousand people are gathering in the Evangelical Church, throughout Germany—East and West, gathered in the Berlin Stadium to hear an address on Christian discipleship. The writer who covered this story for the Chicago Tribune says, "Now, as Hitler did before them, the Communist rulers of the East are finding that it is cheaper to build churches, trade unions, or political parties that are least assimilable into a totalitarian German state." What has seemed foolish will become the power and might of God!

Over and over again John insists that man's only security is to be found in Jesus Christ. We have already been judged through Him at Calvary and our acceptance of His new life is a guarantee for the future. It is amazing how men cry out for the rocks and hills to fall on them. This is almost like building bomb shelters, isn't it? But in the end men who account no ownership of lands, no health plan, military might is adequate—only Christ."
I cannot close this message without laying on every heart the fact that this mighty revelation demands of us a personal response. In the end every man will render up his account. He will do this either with Christ or without Him. This is the most serious issue of any person's life. But beyond this all Christians are urged repeatedly throughout the New Testament to wait for their Lord with expectancy, to live in hope knowing that the day of redemption will come. Let me remind you that we do not live by the moods of each passing crisis of the world. The headlines which frighten so many men are not to be equated with the Word of God which kindles hope. Men are frightened because they have no ultimate security. None of our human contrivances are sufficient. The Christian has heard a deeper, profound life-giving Word and this is his hope.

The Christian is called on to be obedient. He is to be the one who invites men to come to the marriage feast of the Lamb. He is to be salt and light reminding men of an everlasting Kingdom. There rests on all of us who call ourselves Christians, therefore, an urgency of preparing for the coming of our Lord. We do not know in what day or hour He will come but we are to live each day as if that might be the day.

Almighty God, we have seen Thy victory in Thy Risen, conquering Son. We thank Thee that finally every knee shall bow before Him and every tongue confess that He is the Lord of all the ages. Give us eyes to see and faith to cling to Him throughout our earthly pilgrimage. Finally, wilt Thou bring us home Thy redeemed children. In the name of Christ. Amen.
Kirchentag—The Tie That Binds

Chicago Tribune

In the Berlin stadium, where 25 years ago the Olympic games opened in the presence of Adolf Hitler, 100,000 Germans gathered the other day to celebrate the annual Kirchentag (church day) of the German Evangelical church. Mounted all round the stadium were flags with purple crosses centered on white backgrounds. The chairman of the Evangelical Church in Germany, Dr. Kurt Scharf of East Berlin, in the principal address urged his hearers to conduct themselves as Christians, meeting with love those who do not share their faith. For contemporary Germans, he suggested, Christian discipleship requires readiness to take up a cross.

Yet their attack makes a kind of sense. The Evangelical Church in Germany is the principal all-German institution. It gives present substance to the hope for a united Germany. It serves to remind the world that coexistent with political separation is a religious fellowship that transcends the iron curtain.

At Kirchentag, speakers from numerous nations, including the United States, delivered messages of Christian solidarity. They witnessed to a unity that binds the divided Germans not only to each other but to co-religionists throughout the world.

Now, as Hitler did before them, the Communist rulers of East Germany are finding that it is churches, rather than universities, trade unions, or political parties that are least assimilable into a totalitarian German state.
Brookings
Crack S.F.
Team 11-0;
Howard Wins

ARLINGTON, S.D. — Brookings took the Region 1 Class “A”
baseball championship, Junior American Legion, and a berth
in the forthcoming state meet
at Mobridge by ripping the Sioux Falls Juniors here 11-0 in an
abbreviated five-inning game. The
game was called because of the
10-run rule.

Howard won the “B” title in
the Arlington regional with a 5-0
victory over Garretson, behind the
one-hit hurling of Jeff Stock.

ALSO ADVANCING to the state
meet was Rapid City in “A” divi-
"Is This The End of The Age?"

Introduction

1. Purpose of His Sermon
   - Sermon on The End of The Age
   - Does not grow out of a particular crisis
   - We have lived with these for 25 years
   - Come from Greek Commentary in the Bible
   - Used to be a sermon on Christian Hope

2. The World Has Its Theories on The End
   - There is No Meaning - Quest an Unresolved Riddle
   - Ernest Hemingway
   - There is Nothing Left Loos
   - Philip Wylie - Tomorrow
   - George Orwell - 1984
   - Huxley - Brave New World
   - Nevil Shute - On The Beach

3. The Christian Viewpoint
   1. All History, and Time Has A Beginning - Creation
   2. There Is An End - God's End
      - The fulfillment of God's Purpose
      - The Good in Gone Will Return
      - The Invitation to The Guest, Not Out
(3) The Keyos Clan is Jesus' Clan

- Here is the explanation of the beginning and the end.
The Meaning of the Book of Revelation

1. Cruel persecution of Christians
2. Struggling Christian community
3. Given a vision of power and might, and God's people
4. Also sees the end

The situation of John the writer

- Cast into exile by a cruel power - Nations
- Complete destining of the world
- "In the Spirit on the Lord's Day"
- The eye of faith sees and understands

The Cruel Vision: Nature of Man

1. Man Defies Himself as God
   - Worship of the Emperor
   - Practices of weird beasts - Big Money - Always falling

2. Man Masquerading as God
   - Appear for the good, but turns out to be an anti-Christ
   - Social system or religion
(3) Meaning of War
   - Political, Economic and Religion brought together.

(4) Line of Devolving Violence
   - Fear is cheap
   - The Cenain is associated in a Vice War.

The Vision of God

(1) God Is Working Out His Purpose.
   - Christ will be revealed in him and Majesty.
   - He is gathering his community of Faith.
   - There will be a New Heaven and a New Earth.

(2) All the Home Then Are In God’s Hands
   - He closes all the doors. These are being opened one by one.
   - His Throne stands unchanged in the midst of violence and corruption.
   - What is God doing? Where is he working?
3. That Which Appears Weak Becomes God's Strength
   - The Word laughs at this weakness. It seems like foolishness.
   - The膏子 of Incarnation - Baby and Man of the Cross, He now become the Son of God.
   - He has now become the Judge.
   - The weak sinful children, He now become the Saints whose robes are Washed in Blood.

4. Main Only Security Is in Christ Jesus
   - In Christ the Word has been judged.
   - We accept forgiveness and love when our life is centered in Christ.

Our Personal Response

0. The End Is Known Only To Those Who Live in Faith
   - Forgiven sinners know the answer for where Christ came.
   - I have seen this. Hopefully, first hand this week.
Every man must render up an account.
- The Lord will avenge.

The Calling of the Christian
- Wait with expectancy. Hope
- He is to the obedient. The end will come
- An invites
- Fiat
- There rests on their uncleanness.
"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

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And give us grace to amend our sinful lives
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
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Mr. Harold Wortman.............Youth
Miss Lois Harchanko...........Children

Sextons:
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ysbrand
Mr. Lamont Reichelt

Hostess....................Mrs. Hilda Bockelman