Introduction

1. There are statements about taking up the offering.

2. Asking for a generosity that is to be used in the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Complete the Task

"Go on and finish it! We are eager to complete the scheme as you were to adopt it, and give according to your means."

The Incredible Task to Which We Are Called

- "Make Disciples of Every Nation
  - Teaching them to observe whatever I have commanded you.
- Global, Total, All One.
- Every knows, arisen now and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- Easier to preach the Gospel in Rome.
The Church must stand itself with a

lives of wonderful leaders

like an army that must take

an objective

like a football team that

must stay even when on the line.
2. The Vastness and Variety of the Task
   - The Evangelistic Task
     - Calling and Friendship - cup of coffee
     - Instruction and Listening
   - The Call to Commitment
     - The Drama through Dramatic Ministries
     - The Family: Sculpture by Our
       Say It
     - The Commitment of the Cause of
       Elms.
   - The Task of Christian Witness
     - The Christian Witness in
       Our Building, the Church Within
     - The Strategy of the Family
       Being the Center of Christian
       Teaching.
     - The Training of People Who
       Will Be Our Witnesses and
       Ambassadors
- The Uterine Congregational Ministry
- The Daily Sharing of Life
- In Court and Jail This Week
- At the Hospital, Home, and the Home for Aging.
- In the Home of Death and the Time of Marriage
- In the Coming and Going of People
- The Congregation is Increasing
- in Fair.

- The Farm Responsibilities
- The Beginning of the Farm Plan
- Our College - Harrow Grammar
- Lastly, Marriage, the Commitment

- The Ministry of Social Righteousness
- The Farm of Life on Main St.
- The Farming Does on Great Opportunities
- When They Grow Along
- At the Gate of Hell.
The Under Outreach

The Witness of Christ Throughout the World.

The coming of Master, legh fret, Smith and Peguin.
"Go On and Finish It."

- Do not just start with enthusiasm, but stay with it to the end.
- The danger of not finishing strongly.
- The failure of the whole task.
- The move from building to program.

The wisdom of our common involvement

1. Tone in planning and achieving
   - Both ways.

2. The team that went to Middletown
   - The sister's letter and the power of commitment.

The saga of the whole venture

1. Peter - an eager, passionate colleague.

2. Whenever there is life - there is expectation - creativity.

I am calling for an eager involvement.
ANNOUNCEMENTS
November 20, 1966

1. Greetings

2. Gratitude for the flowers
--given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heyl
by their children
Rosebud, David Trevor, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Larson

3. We want the evening service to be a meaningful experience for our church family with singing, a brief message, and baptism.

4. Wednesday there will be no training session for Lay Pastors.

There will be a service of thanksgiving in the Chapel at 7:00.

5. Union Thanksgiving Service on Thanksgiving Day
--9:00 a.m. at First Methodist Church
Dr. Gerald Sias, speaker

6. How grateful we are that the Above & Beyond campaign is coming to its conclusion. Many who still owe on pledges are finishing up and some are going the second mile in giving a new gift.

7. The time of prayer

11:00 Service
We are grateful that we can share in the ministry of West Sioux Baptist Church. Pastor Mallgren is preaching there this morning.

He I think it goes without saythig that we are grateful that on ocassion our children can assist us in our worship. Perhaps the greatest investment we have as a church our our children. We are grateful for teachers who even know are instructing the youngsters.

Thanksgiving -- enter with a thankful heart
CALL TO WORSHIP
O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. Oh that we would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Then let us bring the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

CALL TO PRAYER
O Thou, by whom we come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod: Lord, teach us how to pray!
"For you know how generous our Lord Jesus Christ has been; he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich." (II Corinthians 8:9)

THANKS BE TO GOD
Organ Prelude—"O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand" ....... W. Lawrence Curry
Call to Worship
Processional Hymn—"To God Our Hearts We Lift" .......... 176
Invocation
Lord’s Prayer and Gloria

* * *
*Dedication of Parents and Children
**Children’s Anthems—“Our Church Is Such a Lovely Place”
German Folk Song
"The Church" ................................................... Robert Schumann
Second Grade Children

Christian Greetings and Announcements
THE RICHNESS OF THE GRACE WHICH GOD HAS IMPARTED TO YOU
Call to Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Choral Response

* * *
GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER
Receiving our Tithes and Offerings
Organ Offertory—"Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult" ....... H. Alexander Matthews
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication
"The Joy of Giving" ............................................ Mrs. Russell Hubbard
*Anthem—"Christ, We Adore Thee" .................................... Theodore DuBois
Senior High Choir
Christ, we adore and worship thee, and we praise thee forever; For on the holy cross thou hast the world from sin redeemed.

**Anthem—"Benedictus Es, Domine" ........................................ Richard Purvis
Sanctuary Choir
Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; praised and exalted above all forever. Blessed art thou for the Name of Thy majesty; praised and exalted above all forever. Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; praised and exalted forever. Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths, and dwellest between the Cherubim; praised and exalted above all forever. Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

HOW HUMBLY YOU OBEY HIM
The Reading of the Holy Scriptures—II Corinthians 8:10-24
To be read in Unison

The Introit
The Sermon—"Go On and Finish It" .................. Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson

FOR THEY GAVE THEIR VERY SELVES
Hymn of Dedication and Decision—"I Bind My Heart This Tide" .......... 302
Benediction
Choral Response
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Organ Postlude

*First Service Only  **Second Service Only  ***Ushers May Seat Latecomers
The flowers on the Communion Table are given by the children of Mr. and
Mrs. Frank Heyl in their memory.
The radio broadcast over KELO this morning is sponsored by Mayme and
Lucille Nelson.
EVENING SERVICE
7:30 P.M.

Organ Prelude
A Time of Hymn Singing and Fellowship
Greetings and Announcements
Receiving the Offering
Reading the Scripture—Judges 9:7-15
The Evening Prayer
Singing a Hymn
The Evening Meditation—"The Other Heresy" Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson
Solo—"Love Never Faieth" Gabriel Faure
Betty Friedel, soprano

Service of Baptism
Hymn of Invitation
Benediction
Closing Moments—"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Organ Postlude

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, November 21—7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts, Youth Room

TUESDAY, November 22—9:00 a.m.—Women's Bible Study, Youth Room
10:00 a.m.—XYZ, Parlor
3:30 p.m.—Brownie Scouts, Youth Room
6:30 p.m.—Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.—Church Calling

WEDNESDAY, November 23—6:45 a.m.—Women's Bible Study, YMCA
9:30 a.m.—Girl Scout Leaders, Youth Room and Nursery
4:30 p.m.—Junior Choir, Choir Room
7:00 p.m.—Training for Lay Pastors

THURSDAY, November 24—1:15 p.m.—Sr. Philathea Class, Parlor
7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir, Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, November 25—6:45 a.m.—Men's Bible Study, YMCA
7:00 p.m.—Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERIAL:
Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson ..........Pastor
Rev. J. David Mallgren...Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Daniel W. Holland ......Minister of Christian Education
Rev. Robert Veninga .................Youth

MUSICAL:
Dr. Stanley L. DeFries ..........Director
Dr. Maynard H. Berk ..........Organist
Miss Lois Harchanko ............Children
Mr. Truman Dalton ..........Junior High

SECRETARIAL:
Miss LeeDel Howard ..........Financial
Mrs. Clarence Anderson ..........Church

JANITORIAL:
Mr. Milo Ehlers ..........Sexton
Mrs. Milo Ehlers ..........Assistant
Mr. Lamont Reichelt ..........Assistant
There is something wonderfully refreshing about this kind of scripture, because it is almost like what we have done today. We want one of our number to speak about what it means to be a Christian and share in Christ's work, and we call on a devoted, conscientious, faithful person like Sylvia Hubbard. So when you read a name like Titus, you must understand that Paul, and these people had the kind of feeling toward him, like we have toward each other here, in many cases, and there are many intimate, wonderful things here, for example you don't need to worry about the way we count money, because we're not going to cheat you. It's all there. And you can trust the men we're sending around because he says here, "the congregation had named them. They're delegates, they're honest, they're well thought of. So in this work we are engaged in together there is a kind of wonderful cross fertilization. Congregation with congregation, life with life. A most wonderful kind of spirit breathes through all of us. And my friends, what we are asking of our congregation, this congregation, in these days, is to manifest something of the spirit, this hilarity that Sylvia talked about. This open, this excitement, about what Christ is asking us to do.

Now you could divide our congregation, or the folks that are here today, between the spectators and the participants. There are some of you here, very honestly whose feeling is not in it. And for you, it is very easy for you to walk out and say what you didn't like, and what you observed and all the rest of it. It's like the family that came home for Sunday dinner and then comments were made about the pastor, and the choir and all the rest of it, but Johnny said, "But you'll have to admit it was a pretty good show for a nickel." The gang in the stands, and there are frankly people who expect us to come around all the time to make them happy, without ever asking "What have I put into it?"

But there's another wonderful, wonderful group of people. I would hope and pray the majority of us, that overwhelming group that is near the center, that understands, that has a sense that the Spirit of Christ has bound them in a great task. It's that kind of a group that Paul is dealing with here and frankly it is that kind of group we have to find in the ministry of Christ in this hour. You have to ask yourself, friend, if you are a spectator, or in it, really in it. Now I like this New English Bible at this point, because it's got these quaint expressions in it and I want to start by pointing out that he says "Go on and finish what you started a year ago." Be as eager to complete the scheme as you were to adopt it, and give according to your means. Tremendous call here to finish what you've started. And what I say now will sound almost like a cliche because the world is full of easy starters.
The guy who runs the first quarter great, but never gets around to give much on the fourth quarter. It's true in business, it's true in work. I talked to some folks recently who had been in a town in Iowa recently, where new plants are coming in and there's a fantastic shortage of labor and if a man is criticized for his work he simply shrugs his shoulders, walks off, says I'll get another job. This kind of thing that takes a chapter in a book and sort of fritters at it so that when the nine weeks come around somehow the whole business of ending poorly is just fallen in us. We see a marriage and of course we see this tragically in the Christian life, all of us in a sense want to get into it but it's so easy to start, forgetting that Jesus said "That if any man would come after me, let him deny himself, pick up his cross and follow me and if you put your hand to the plow you must not turn back." And I'm asking you, Paul says, and I ask you in the name of Christ, To finish what we've started.

I have been, because, twenty years ago we started radio broadcasts as a congregation, twenty years ago in December, I have been reading the Times. That go back to that time, twenty years ago, and it's intriguing how the first broadcast was put together and how it went out and how one of our men sponsored it. And in reading all of this I got the wonderous sense of people not having too many resources. Daring to do something new. Ah! But you see we're twenty years down the road and some of the things we started we have to finish, and I want to make it quit clear at this point that the task to which we're called, the mission on which we find ourselves is a vast undertaking. We stand, as Sylvia has said in her little witness to us today, We stand under the shadow of a massive command. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. Anybody that has the idea that what we're about is some little business in the corner, just our little private affair, kinda making ourselves feel good religiously has missed the staggering fact that we're under an obligation to somehow work at it, be faithful at it, run it. Until every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God. This is why the great apostle says "I'm eager to get to where ever I can." And when he found himself thwarted by being thrown into a jail then he talked to the jailers, so that whatever point he found himself he was on his holy, restless, urgent mission, which the church has always been on. And my friends, as I reminded this congregation over and over again, the difficulty in an affluent culture, where we do not have the outer constraints, the pressure on us from the outside is to discover the inner disciplines, the constraints, that make us say 'by the Grace of God, I'm constrained by the love of God. So that when one comes into the church, he becomes a part of this mission and really understands what God is about. We could for example, throw out the task of evangelism in friendship we try to touch lives. It could be a cup of coffee, a gathering in a home, it may be a call, but there came back to us just this week, something very up to date, a statement by a family, who found great joy, when callers came who were here last Sunday, because somebody from our congregation, without anybody telling them, showed friendship. And when people come to the point where they want to know, here stands a class of instruction. We're going thru thirteen weeks of it in adult classes, a part of this vast task, and somehow there always comes a point of commitment, what will you do about this? And when a person says in the process, and there are 125, 150, 175, 200 a year, who by some step of faith, say I will give myself to Christ and that congregation try to work in it, but when they do this, this is only
the beginning. Here begins the vast task of Christian nurture. There are
now teachers, who have our young people, 300, 350, 400 of them. That price-
less time, hour, it will be today when they try to teach our young, sharing
with them, not only pictures, stories, activities and all the rest, but
the love of their own heart. Then somehow they shall know and understand
what God, and Jesus and themselves is all about. And you may say, this is
kinda little playing at church in some corner, but I tell you it is not.
The battle of your time is the battle of the revolence of ideas, of proof,
in the arena and the market place of men, and it is not just the simple
capitlism versus communism. For somehow the battle in which we find
ourselves is whether we will live by secular values or we will live by the
constraint of Christ in our lives and these boys and girls grow up and
make commitments and learn to grow in the stature and fullness of Christ.
They will become His witnesses on the streets of life. You see this is part
of what we are called to do in the finish. And it's far more than this,
because this morning in this worship service, in a sense, we are teaching.
As we sit with training classes and try somehow at the Y, or in the women's
groups or in our homes to teach what pastors are involved in, what we
are really trying to do, in the words of Gordon Costy, is to get the
shock troops ready, to move out there in a sales culture, or in any part
of the culture, farming, whatever it may be, marketing, to stand there
as Christ's man or woman. This is the battle of pastoral ministry.
I pluck out of this week, not because it happened to be an unusual one,
the business what we stood at deaths door with people this, week, at the
penintenitary we tried to minister because of the call of a father, at the
jail yesterday. And people came and went. Some of them may have come to
the church asking for something, but what they really asked for was the
deeper question, "Is there come meaning for my life?" And the wonderous
thing we have discovered, dear friend, is, in our congregation, this family
plan, as we call it, where we've tried to get you in 50 different groupings,
is only one step in that direction. We as a congregation have been sensing
this. As some people have borne the burdens of others and some have gone
out of their way to help where there was need, some have rejoiced with one
another. This is the way the church ought to be. So that anybody with
scars and brokenness, who comesin, will find not just a minister sitting
in an office, but will discover a people who love and care, who are used,
so that there is healing, as the healing balm of Gileat is put on.
Beyond this we stand in what might be called social righteousness. This
week I was called on to participate on a panel on pornographic literature.
I was amazed to discover, because a man in the group told us this, that
with a 5¢ stamp, this was before we went on the air with the broadcast,
with a 5¢ stamp that was sent off, the whole business of lousy stuff began
to strew into his home. He just wanted to see what would happen and what
he did to touch the lever of a multimillion dollar business.!! Two, four-
teen companies sent stuff to him. Stuff, he said, could not be shown.
And any decent company running all the way from homosexuality, across
the whole gamic. The kind of gutter many people find themselves living in.
And he had no idea, just no idea. And I thought, "My, what is this?
And the fact of the matter is, as this man was pointing out, in the con-
versation that we had, this is an attempt to take advantage of the innocent,
so that they get snared and trapped. Where do we as salt and light stand
in the midst of evil? As Jesus put it to his disciples at the gates of hell
and yet they will not prevail against you. This is what is called social
righteousness. The cry of the prophets, that somehow the kingdom to this
world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
My friends do you understand it when I tell you, we have just started this
work? Did the last generation wind it up? No!
Will we wind it up? No! Unless Christ comes. We are involved in something Paul says we ought to go on and finish. And when we come to talking about stewardship and commitment to the church we are talking about infinitely more whether or not saying whether we ought to put this much into that or that much into education or preachers salaries or the music program and all the rest of it. We are talking about an involvement in the ministry, not in the stands, but on the field. I hope that somehow deep in our hearts we will never forget the visit of Higgins and Smith and Braisted and Tegenfeldt, who came here speaking out of situations where they, as our representatives are trying to do the same thing. The Titus's and Philemon and all the rest of them that we find in the New Testament. They're there in our behalf, all of us, in one great mission. When we try to play missions over against the home base we don't understand what we're doing. There's only one mission and that is to bring all of this world, globally to the feet of Jesus Christ. Are you aware of the fact that there was recently concluded in Berlin, a World Conference on Evangelism? 1300 representatives of a hundred nations came. The newest church were two Auca Indians from Equador. That's the bunch of people the killers, that five young men went to in the 50's and when they lost their lives two widows moved in and said we will now witness, and Betty Elliott had a joy of being involved at a point where one of them ----, became a Christian. And at the world conference on evangelism there were two representatives. In some wonderous sense we are involved. The other night when we installed a new secretary, Superintendent of the Union Gospel Mission, we put in but a pittance out of your budget. I was strangely moved as I heard this new superintendent coming from Fresno, California, where there are transients by the droves, coming to minister at a point, in our city, where I would say there are no churches, and I discovered, since, that he has moved up and down North Phillips and North Main, trying to find lost little people, in back rooms to give them, this week, a great Thanksgiving dinner. How Wonderful. And when I think about the fact that we invest a bit of money in Camp Judson, out of the budget, what comes back from this in terms of: dedication and power that is poured in here, the young people make commitments, as well as adults. It's part of this. And what I lay on your hearts today is the eagerness, the hope that there will come to us an excitement about finishing the work that Christ has Called us to. You know there's a wonderful give and take in this stuff of mutuality, that you must never lose sight of. You see when Braisted came he was bringing word to us from what we were involved in. We sent a group, a team, acouple of weeks ago, to Middletown, Ohio, because they requested it. Are you aware of the fact, the pastor, in the closing service, which is really a sophisticated church in many ways, stood before his congregation and said, "I have never done this in my 12 years here, but I now publicly wish to rededicate my life." I tell you this is not easy for a pastor to do. And when he stood before the congregation they sang the closing hymn our team said two-thirds of that congregation came forward and we have letters this week, that speak, as this man tells us here in this note. Walter Weber, I have a new church. Do you think we are poorer because we did this? Why we are infinitely richer. What we are invited to, is to become a part of a great company that is involved in a mission that will go on until the consumation of time. That knows no length, no breadth, no height or depth, that can be measured. For it is as deep and great as the heart of God. And thru his servant, Paul, he says "Go on and finish it." And two Sundays hence as we move to a communion service, we will ask the people of this congregation to affirm themselves, by a declaration of purpose of what God is doing in this wonderful hour of opportunity.
You Will Keep Mountfield

The Personal Nature of a Gift

You started this a year ago and now I hope you wish it be done. - Nathan Hale

...let me know important thing. The Spirit is Within the Gift & Given. - Huxley

...true, ultimate offering of oneself.

Doris Mountfield - keeps Mountfield

1. The Ongoing Promise - Spiring Wealth
   - The Farmer or the Business Man.
   - The Student
   - The Marriage
   - The Gift of Life - Daring Wit & Others
   - The Meaning of Being A Christian
   - Ave Nice Young Man.
2.

- Drunk heartfully.
- God has dealt heartfully with us.
- The grace of life.
- The dying of Christ.
- Falling into the words and ring.
- The gift of forgiveness.
- The white cloth on the face.
- Do our response can be a heartful thing.
- In dealing with people.
- Our wine and truthness.
- The sharing of ourselves.
- The sharing of life in Christ.
- The power of love that is given.
- Her heart is green joy.
- The Whatever Music Day of.
The Quality of His Life

1. Quien Personally
   - His in the way we first gave ourselves to Christ.
   - His in the nature of being.
   - He came on a case.
   - The investment of life.

2. Quien Willingly
   - Not under compulsion or as duty.
   - But eagerly and expectantly.

3. Quien joyfully or cheerfully or hilariously
   - Very Deman
   - Carrie Ten Hoan
4. The Power of Giving

① You meet the needs of people.

② You have in proclaiming the Gospel

③ Have in a great influence in obedience

The Preparation of His Week

① He thought for prayer in each home.

② Then he list of commitment.
ANNOUNCEMENTS
November 27, 1966

1. Welcome
   --First Sunday of Advent
   --Young men and women home from college

2. Gratitude for the flowers
   --given by Mr. and Mrs. Len Tabor and Sherry
   and Trisha Huether in memory of LeRoy J. Huether
   --given in memory of Irene Westphal on the
   occasion of her birthday, November 30

3. W.M.S. Christmas meeting Thursday night, 8:00 p.m.
   --Mrs. Stavig speaker

4. A very special week
   --The Choir Concert in St. Paul Friday night
   --The televised service next Sunday at 10:30.
     Please be prompt-- by 10:28.
   --The burning of the mortgage and the gratitude
     for the twenty years of broadcasting.
     Balance of Debt now $509.65.
   --Service of Communion.
   --Our commitment to God through our pledges.

5. Our gratitude to Ed Oines as Chairman of our
   Stewardship Program, who will speak later in the
   service.

6. The team in Des Moines.

7. Welcome to our evening service.
CALL TO WORSHIP
Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

THE WORD OF ADVENT -- HOPE
The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

CALL TO PRAYER
Rejoice in the Lord alway:
   And again I say, Rejoice.
Let your moderation be known unto all men:
   The Lord is at hand.
Be careful for nothing:
   But in everything by prayer and supplication
With thanksgiving let your requests be made
known unto God.
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!"

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Organ Prelude—"O Thou, of God the Father" ........Johann Sebastian Bach
"A Saving Health to Us is Brought"

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship
Processional Hymn—"O Come, All Ye Faithful" ........................................205
The Lighting of the Candle
The Word of Advent
The Invocation
The Lord’s Prayer and Gloria

* * *

*Anthem—"Let The People Praise Thee” .......................Ralph E. Williams

Senior High Choir

God of mercy, God of grace, Show the brightness of Thy face; Shine upon us, Saviour, shine, Fill Thy Church with light divine; And Thy saving health extend Unto earth’s remotest end. Let the people praise Thee, Lord; Be by all that live adored; Let the nations shout and sing, Glory to their Saviour King; At Thy feet their tributes pay, And Thy holy will obey. Let the people praise Thee, Lord: Earth shall then her fruits afford; God to man His blessing give, Man to God devoted live; All below, and all above, One in joy, and light and love.

**Anthem—"Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him” ...........Arr. Don Malin

Sanctuary Choir and Fifth Grade Children

Text from Hymn No. 110 is Christian Worship

Christian Greetings and Announcements

BIND ALLPEOPLES IN ONE HEART AND MIND

Call to Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Choral Response

* * *

FILL THE WHOLE WORLD WITH HEAVEN’S PEACE

Receiving our Tithes and Offerings
Organ Offertory—"Come, Redeemer of Our Race” ........Johann Sebastian Bach
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication
"The Joy of Giving” ........Mr. Ed Oines, Chairman of Stewardship Program
Solo—“Think on These Things” .............................Robert MacGimsey

Delores Schmidt, soprano

AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL

The Reading of the Holy Scriptures—II Corinthians 9:1-15
The Introt
The Sermon—"You Will Reap Bountifully” .............Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson

AND CAUSE US IN THY WAYS TO GO

Hymn of Dedication and Decision—"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” ........292
Benediction
Choral Response
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Organ Postlude

*First Service Only  **Second Service Only  ***Ushers May Seat Latecomers
The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Mr. and Mrs. Len Tabor and Sherry and Trisha Huether in memory of LeRoy J. Huether and by Mrs. C. B. Van Ausdall in memory of Irene Westphal.

The radio broadcast over KELO this morning is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Beavin in memory of Mrs. Beavin's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Rosse.

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**EVENING SERVICE**

**7:30 P.M.**

Organ Prelude
A Time of Hymn Singing and Fellowship
Greetings and Announcements
The Singing of a Hymn
Reading the Scripture
The Evening Prayer
Receiving the Offering
Solo—"The Publican" .................................................. Beardsley Van De Water
Al Kleinsasser, bass

The Evening Message—"The Right to Speak" .................. Rev. Daniel Holland
A Hymn of Decision
Benediction
Closing Moments—"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Organ Postlude

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**THIS WEEK**

**MONDAY,** November 28—7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts, Youth Room

**TUESDAY,** November 29—9:00 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, Youth Room
3:30 p.m.—Brownie Scouts, Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Church Calling
7:30 p.m.—Interchurch Council, Fellowship Hall

**WEDNESDAY,** November 30—6:45 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, YMCA
4:30 p.m.—Junior Choir, Choir Room
7:00 p.m.—Board of Christian Education
7:00 p.m.—Prayer Service
7:30 p.m.—Diaconate
7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir
9:00 p.m.—Church Council

**THURSDAY,** December 1—7:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts, Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir, Fellowship Hall
8:00 p.m.—Women’s Mission Society, Fellowship Hall

**FRIDAY,** December 2—6:45 a.m.—Men’s Bible Study, YMCA

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**CHURCH STAFF**

**MINISTERIAL:**
Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson ...............Pastor
Rev. J. David Mallgren ..........Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Daniel W. Holland ..........Minister of Christian Education
Rev. Robert Veninga ...............Youth

**MUSICAL:**
Dr. Stanley L. DeFries ..........Director
Dr. Maynard H. Berk ..........Organist
Miss Lois Harchanko ..........Children
Mr. Truman Dalton ..........Junior High

**SECRETARIAL:**
Miss LeeDel Howard ..........Financial
Mrs. Clarence Anderson ..........Church

**JANITORIAL:**
Mr. Milo Ehlers ..........Sexton
Mrs. Milo Ehlers ..........Assistant
Mr. Lamont Reichelt ..........Assistant
YOU WILL REAP BOUNTIFULLY

November 27, 1966

My friends, for the last three weeks—this is really the third week—we have tried to look at two chapters at the center of II Corinthians which deal with the matter of Christian giving. This grows out of a very human situation, as I have tried to explain. There are Christians in the east who are in great need, and the Christians of the west, the Gentile Christians, are called on to share out of what they have. Now the amazing and powerful thing about the scripture is that it does not just deal with details. Titus will be there. You can rely on the people who are going to do the counting. And the rest of it. But it has in it profound teachings that are eternal, that the church needs to come to again and again in its understanding.

Now let me make it quite clear that what we are involved in, my friends, is far bigger than preparing ourselves for a single Sunday. It is looking at a way of life. You can divide Christian people into those who are generous and open and joyful. They live with abandon. They are, so to speak, loose in the saddle. And when we read scriptures like the one we used today as a part of our call about having no anxiety, they understand this, for this is their way of life. But there are other people who are not like this. I wish we were all the first way, but we are not. We, so to speak, cling to the things given us. There is fear about losing. We worry about if we go to sleep tonight will we wake up in the morning, and all this kind of thing. And what we are concerned about in a real sense in the depth of the life of this church is that all of us should move into that life of abandon—that life of freedom—that life of joy. It is this that we are concerned about.
I was thinking in these days of Thanksgiving about the old, old story of Nathan Hale, young man, forced by the situations of history to bear arms, a schoolteacher. And when General Washington in one of the campaign at a crucial point of the Revolution asked for a volunteer to spy, he was the young man who stepped forward. His friends said, you can't do it. You're too open faced and honest. Hale's reply was I consider it my duty. So disguised as a Dutch schoolmaster he got through the British lines. He got the information Washington wanted, and on the way back he was apprehended. And in the story that I read it said, they took him out into the New England sun to hang him. He would never marry Aletia Adams, even though he was in his early twenties, the girl to whom he was engaged. He would never teach school again. But what he said was, I only regret I have but one life. He did not clutch it or cling to it.

Now friends, in a far deeper sense even than this, or a vaster sense, there is the possibility of openness in daily living, of generosity and joy that outruns all the business of clutching nickels and dimes. And I say to you, it is a way of life. You may be on a Social Security check and know this better than someone who has a million dollars stashed away someplace. And I want to make it quite clear that for the Christian the one who unlocks the door in a real sense is the person who responds himself to the majestic generosity of Jesus Christ Himself.

Now in this passage today that was read--we read together--Paul is saying, and it's entirely human--this is what makes the Bible an inspired book really--he says to them, now I don't want to be ashamed when we get there. I told the other people about the way you're getting ready. And when these delegates come from these other congregations
and we gather up what you want to share, I do not want this to be a kind of small niggerdly thing. So for pride's sake will you go along. Now you see he could have stopped there. He had lots of reasons why he could have said now you kind of owe this to me. But in that wonderful way in which Paul always did it he moved into deeper ground. He said, you see, the point of all this is that the one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly and the one who sows generously will reap generously. This, dear friends, is the principle of life. I want to make that quite clear. We should understand this with tremendous clarity and meaning in an agricultural part of the world. There are areas, I suppose, in great cities where men do not understand the principle of sowing and reaping. Yet it is at the very center of life. If when the farmer comes to springtime and the time of sowing he says I will hold back 5/6 because after all to put it in the ground has fantastic chances wrapped up in it—there may be grasshoppers, there may be hail, there may be drouth, there may be all of this—if he does this, the chance is that he will reap sparingly. But if a man holds back only a sixty and casts in 5/6, what are his chances then? This is at the very heart of life—this matter of deep investment, of deep involvement.

Take the matter of school. Friends I speak to you whether you are in grade school, junior high, high school, or college, or graduate school. It's the person that somehow does not get into it that never gets anything out of it. You take a book and you read it, and if somehow the main thing is the music you are listening to and the wandering mind so that when one comes to the end of the 200 pages there is no more knowledge, then you have reaped little. And if you add up the time that can be wasted and the whole matter of dissipation and the casting away of resources is the way that one goes into
education or learning the end of the nine weeks or the year or the semester will tell the story.

It is this way in human relations, is it not? I am aware of the fact that no one can ever completely open himself to everyone else. This is an impossibility. And yet the fact of the matter is the danger on the other side is that we somehow so defend ourselves, build walls around ourselves, that we can't even give ourselves to our own wife or friends or neighbor. And life never get beyond that level of somehow just doing business at the surface. You see, I am sowing sparingly, so all I get back may be a few muttered comments over the table or perhaps a nod from the neighbor or what have you, and all the rest that's related to it, and in the end I dry up, I become self-centered.

And yet look at the man who takes life and gives it away. He opens himself—I want to say he can be hurt a thousand times, but in his hurt he can find his greatest joy. I think of this so often with regard to Jesus. He took these men—cowards, fearful, men that wanted to play it safe, who yet found it possible to take some kind of a gamble on him, and in doing this Jesus said to them, I do not call you strangers. I call you friends. Think of that moment when he moved into the garden. Here was the sharing of his life. He asked three to come with him. And when he went in and cast himself on the ground and sweat as it was blood and prayed, he came back and found them sleeping. And there is in the thing Jesus said the anguish of blood itself, for he said could you not watch with me one hour? What had he done? He had opened his life and he had gotten hurt. Well, let me tell you, beyond the hurting was the joy of discipleship. Life is always that way. You hold back, you sow sparingly and you will reap sparingly. It's a principle of life.
You throw yourself into it, you take what seed there is in the grainery, the resources of life, and you scatter them, and the possibilities are that a man will know the joy of a great harvest.

Surely it is this way in the Christian life. We know this, do we not? The most miserable among us are the ones who clutch four talents and sparingly use one. The terrible thing is that the four rot. The most terrible thing, and I have said this to you over and over again friends, is to see five talent men playing in a great game niggerly. I could not help but sort of warm within in the Michigan State-Notre Dame game, which I suppose many of us watched if we had occasion to, where in the shadow of the goal post that quarterback from Michigan State threw the ball. It was what they call in athletics the big play. My friends, there is something deep like that in the Christian life where in the shadow of the goal post a man makes his big play, where he says here are my resources, here is my life. And out of it comes that rich thing that God can give us.

And all of this--Paul never lets us forget it--is rooted in the generosity of God. It is in his unspeakable gift, it is in the grace that outruns the years, a kind of generosity we do not understand, that we find this great reality.

You know, our son away at college wrote a letter about going to chapel. They have church every Sunday where he goes to school. It's optional. It's the chapel at the center of the center of the campus. Whenever Chaplain Coffin preaches the students are always there, because they know his life is on the line. And in one of the letters our son wrote home--I was grateful not only that he had been to chapel, but that he had remembered something of what the minister said--this is always great--and Chaplain Coffin told an old story that I thought had
made its rounds so often that no one in sophisticated circles would use it, and yet he did. It's the story of the boy in Tennessee who got in trouble and ended up in the penitentiary and served his time, and because his people were poor they could not come to see him. So the letters went back and forth, and finally the time came for his parole, and the boy wrote home and said, when I come, if you will take me at home after what I've done to you, will you tie a white cloth on the tree. And so as he got nearer home on the train the boy got more and more nervous deep within himself, and finally, sitting next to the particular man who was in the seat, he said to him I can't stand to watch. When we come around the curve my eyes are going to be shut. Would you tell me if there is a cloth on the branch. And as they came around the bend the mate in the chair shouted out and said there is a white cloth on every branch. This is the generosity of God. This is the forgiveness which if a man find he has found life. And what we do not understand so often, people, as we somehow clutch and hang on are are so fearful, is that this great forgiving heart of God, says why don't you get into it. Why don't you dare come around the bend. For on the tree is my son. When a man responds to this, Paul says, he gives willingly, he gives as our friend put it last Sunday, Sylvia Hubbard, he gives hilariously. The words are all there. He gives personally. He knows that in some sense a gift is always personal. It is part of me. If my life is given, then what I have earned out of my income, this coined stuff that is called money, my time, my strength, this comes. And at the end, someplace, somewhere, a person gets in his hand a scalpel, or a Bible, or a bench, or a blackboard, or a man who says let me tell you, God loves you. Because at this end the gift is personal and willing and joyous
at that end it is received that way. This is the marvel and the wonder of all the possibility that Paul spoke about, which is a part of Christian giving. It has that kind of quality in it. And it is this kind of abandon that we are calling our congregation to.

Now dear friends in this kind of giving there is power, wondrous power, not just because it helps people, that's part of the bounty, but people see one's obedience, and in that obedience, Paul says it here, they see the gospel. The power of the love of God is unlocked because they have seen it. Beyond this, there are those, he says, who come to believe because in your obedience there has been this kind of boldness of the gospel. You see, life, dear people, is either managed or it is not. I am either a steward or I am not. A steward is one who is left with a trust. He has things that are given to him to be used only temporarily. It is this way with life, and every Christian knows it. And this is why he either takes this thing that is given him--his life, his talent, his time--and makes of it a shambles, all it becomes is an ego-centric thing, or he makes of it an offering. And I tell you, when one draws near a person for whom this has become an offering, there all of life is blessed. And the humble, loyal, devoted people--one thinks of the two bouquets of flowers and what they represent--these people who share their lives, they are the ones who speak to us, the rest of us, by the quality of what they give. And what we are asking of you is to move into this abandon, to dare believe that somehow Christ on that tree bids us share all that we have. And in this will come back richness, glory, joy, wonder.

Let us pray.
The Promise of His Horn
We Are Not Alone

- Related to Other Christians
- A Work of All Here God is Doing

The War of Time Has Left Us Unfulfilled
- An Hour When Past, Present and Future
  Become Full of Meaning
- A Time of Danger and Great Possibilities

What God Has Done

1. All Here Has Taken Place in Our Church
   - The Faith of Our Fathers
   - The Sacrifice and Struggle
   - Their Courage and Optimism
     - To Launch a Radio Broadcast
     - To Build a House of Worship

2. Work in What God Has Done
   - Work in What God Did Through Christ
- Under Claudius Augustus, we mention
  - In the Winter, life and death of Jesus
  - Also, we know in the Communion.
What Are We Doing

1. Here Is A Covenant That Cannot Be Broken
   - "The New Covenant in My Blood"
   - His Covenant Is Unique Over and Over Again.

2. The Power of What We Know
   - He Worris Among Us.
   - The Stirring of the Waters.
   - The Presence Concern for Others.
     - The House of Christ
     - The Opening of New Doors.

All That God Will Do

1. The Bold, The Future
   - "You Proclaim the Lord's Death Until He Come."
   - The Great Conclusion - The Triumph -
     The End Here Is In God's Hands.
3.

(2) We are asked to be obedient - to be faithful.
  - Live openly and expectantly,
  - Die young, marry well, write
    with oil,
  - Fulfill what we must in our
    talents.

(3) We are on a mission
  - The commitment of ourselves
    and our absence,
  - He will take what we offer,
    and bless it in a wonderful
    way.

The instruction
  - The land
  - Bringing them from man - center lies
  - Fellowship, hell rise - heaven sanction.
  - Reaping, beasts.
December 4, 1966
ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE

1. Gratitude for all the preparations for this service and all who have given of themselves, particularly KELO.

2. Gratitude for the flowers — given in memory of Mrs. Elmer Benson by Mr. Benson and Children.

3. Evening Fellowship at 7:00 p.m. with the Children's Choirs.

4. Invitation for any who wish to profess Christ.

5. The prayer of dedication and the benediction.
I Corinthians 11:23-26
For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Psalm 27:1, 3, 5, 13, 14
The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent, he will set me high upon a rock.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!
Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; hea, wait for the Lord!

I Peter 2:9-10
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.
Ephesians 2:17-22
And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Matthew 1:21, 22, 23
She will bear a son, and you shall call him name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet; "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: (Which means, God with us.)
THE BURNING OF THE MORTGAGE ON THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WING

The Christian Education Wing was completed in 1957, when Dr. Everett Quinton was pastor. Church School classes were first conducted in the new building on May 26, 1957.

The wing contains 16,000 square feet, four floors with 26 classrooms, 25 supply storage closets, 2 kitchenettes, 3 toilets, spacious entrances to the building and wide stairways.

The new wing made possible a Sunday Church School space adequate for 1,000, plus a beautifully furnished and equipped parlor, offices for the entire staff, and a library and conference room.

The mortgage on the Christian Education wing was $150,000.

Call Mr. Harkison and Mr. Cressey to the platform. Mr. Harkison has been chairman of the concluding work on our Above & Beyond program in the last few weeks and is chairman of the finance committee of the Trustees. Mr. Cressey was the honorary chairman of the original campaign and has helped in this concluding work.

After the papers are burned, Mr. Cressey will lead in a prayer of thanks.
Joe Griffin

OUR GRATITUDE FOR TWENTY YEARS OF RADIO BROADCAST

The original radio committee was composed of Earl Lemonds, chairman, Evans Nord, George Hahn, Joe Griffin, Prof. Harold M. Jordan, with Dr. Lee Bright and Dr. Hintz as ex-officio members.

The first broadcast was on December 22, 1946.

Many thousands of people worship with us every Sunday. We are particularly grateful for the shut-ins who are helped and blessed by these broadcasts.

We are particularly grateful to Mr. Evans Nord, Vice President and General Manager of KELO, who has cooperated with us so eagerly through all these years.

Call Mr. Nord to the platform and present the certificate.
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!"

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
Organ Prelude—"Prelude and Pastorale" (Suite for Organ))

The Chimes
Call to Worship
Processional Hymn—"Angels We Have Heard On High"

The Lighting of the Candle of Peace
The Word of Advent
The Invocation
The Lord's Prayer and Gloria

* * *

AND ORDER ALL THINGS, FAR AND NIGH
Our Gratitude for Twenty Years of Radio Broadcast........Mr Joseph Griffin
The Burning of the Mortgage on the Christian Education Wing
   Mr. Merle Johnson, Mr. Tom Harkison and Mr. John Cressy
The Invitation to the Lord's Supper
The Anthem—"Springs in the Desert" ..........................Arthur B. Jennings
   Sanctuary Choir

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not; Behold, your
God will come and save you. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be
glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. For in the wilder-
ness shall waters break out, and streams flow in the desert. And the parched
ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water. A highway
shall be there, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the redeemed shall
walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return with songs and ever-
lasting joy; and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

BIND ALL PEOPLES IN ONE HEART AND MIND
The Words of Institution
The Eating of the Bread
The Drinking of the Cup

FILL THE WHOLE WORLD WITH HEAVEN'S PEACE
Receiving our Tithes and Offerings
Organ Offertory—"Rejoice Greatly O My Soul"............Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL
The Reading of the Holy Scriptures—Revelation 19:1-8
The Introit
The Sermon—"The Promise of This Hour".................Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson

AND CAUSE US IN THY WAYS TO GO
Hymn of Dedication and Decision—"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"....307
The Presentation and Dedication of Our Commitments at the
Communion Table

(The ushers will guide the congregation in making the presentation.
The first to come will be those in Fellowship Hall, then those on the
main floor of the Sanctuary, followed by those in the Balcony. The
last ones to make their presentation will be the choir and the
ministers.)
The Benediction
The Choral Response
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Organ Postlude

*** Ushers May Seat Latecomers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in memory of Mrs. Elmer Benson by Mr. Benson and Children.

The radio broadcast over KELO this morning is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lemonds in recognition of our twenty years of broadcasting.

Our entire church family is deeply grateful to the management and staff of KELO-TV for the hour of time shared in worship with all the people of this area.

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF CHILDREN’S MUSIC
AND MEDITATION
7:00 P.M.

Organ Prelude
Processional Hymn—“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ..............................................100
“Jesus Our Brother” ..............................................................................First Grade
“Dear Little Stranger” .............................................................................Second Grade
Congregational Hymn—“Good Christian Men, Rejoice” .........................102
“What Child Is This” .............................................................................Third Grade
“What Can I Give Him” ...........................................................................101
Congregational Hymn—“Joy to the World” ..............................................Fourth Grade
“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella” .......................................................Fifth Grade
A Word of Announcement and Offering
“I Heard the Bells” .............................................................................Sixth Grade
Congregational Hymn—“While by My Sheep” ........................................96
“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” ...............................................................Meditation by the Pastor
Hymn of Invitation—“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ............................94
Benediction
Closing Moments—“Silent Night, Holy Night”
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Organ Postlude

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, December 5—7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts, Youth Room

TUESDAY, December 6—9:00 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, Youth Room
10:00 a.m.—XYZ, Parlor
3:30 p.m.—Brownie Scouts, Youth Room
6:00 p.m.—Study Club Dinner, Room 111
7:00 p.m.—Church Calling

WEDNESDAY, December 7—6:45 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, YMCA
4:30 p.m.—Junior Choir, Choir Room

THURSDAY, December 8—12:00 noon—Board of Trustees, Youth Room
1:15 p.m.—Sr. Philathea Class, Room 111
7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir, Fellowship Hall
8:00 p.m.—Jr. Philathea Class, Parlor

FRIDAY, December 9—6:45 a.m.—Men’s Bible Study, YMCA
THE PROMISE OF THIS HOUR
December 4, 1966

My friends, I want to say in the first instance in these few moments of meditation that what we do here today we do not do alone. We are united with a great host of Christian people who like us have tried to communicate the gospel by one means or another. It may not have been in all instances that they have been fortunate enough to be able to do this by radio over the years, but let us thank God we have had this opportunity. And we are united with all these folks who perhaps today are with us by means of mass media who have tried as we have to communicate this gospel by word of mouth, by deed, and life. But it is also true to say that in some wondrous sense we catch this in the scripture that we are a part of all that God is doing to bring this history to its consummation, that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses to see how we shall run, that the faithful ones who have gone on before and are no longer here in a real sense are here, and that we unite with them, the Church Triumphant, the communion of the saints, in all that God is trying to do in our world.

It struck me that this is a moment that is filled with much meaning. I recall how Jesus said when the Greeks came to him, "Now is my soul troubled, but this is the hour of my glory." And in some wondrous sense it may well be that with all other churches and Christian people we stand against the background of something that has been for which we thank God, but also we stand before that which is the exciting invitation of God to do wondrous things that even go beyond that which has been done. And so in some wonderful way, not only because we have the occasion to rejoice in these special events, but because of Advent, and because of the Supper, there is a
sense in which past, present, and future come together and converge in this time. We read that when the time was full, Jesus was born. And there is in a wondrous sense a fulness that comes to individuals, to churches, to communities, to the world in which that which God wants to do gets done.

Could I then affirm another word of gratitude for the past, for what God has done. Would we have had the courage twenty years ago to do what some brave souls tried when going out on the radio even twenty years ago was rather a rare thing for a church? Who kindled the idea? How was it that God moved so that people dared do a thing like this? And who was of fearful heart when folks said let us build? And more than this let us even dare go into debt because we think that in some real sense we have a responsibility to young and to old in Christian nurture. And because of this God did a wonderful thing. I would not for one minute minimize that human effort has been in this--sacrifice and prayer--for there is no church without this, but let me say there would not be the sacrifice or the prayer if it were not for the moving of God, who in the first instance always in the initiator.

So we give thanks today for what God has done. We have done it at the table because in the act of communion we remember what God did once, back there, under Cesar Agustus and Pontius Pilate, under Herod and Caiaphas he came and lived and died and because of this, as John Knox, the New Testament theologian says, we are a community that remembers.

Ah, but let us not stop there. It is because of what God has done that he now is doing. It is not enough to sit and say that back some time ago this happened. The point, you see, is that there is a Covenant. And in this Covenant God is faithful and will not deny
himself, and he does over and over again what people will let him do. I think that we ought to thank God then that amongst us there is a sense of stirring, there is a sense of deeper concern, there is a willingness to speak of price unashamedly, and faith, and the fact that one belongs to the Kingdom and has sought first that Kingdom, so that out of it there is a sense of the reality of God now in a man's life. I deeply believe, as I have said over and over again, that the deepest argument for the reality of God and the meaning of the gospel is the contagion of a life. It is what I see now what God is doing in a life, in a community, in a church, that somehow I say perhaps I too can believe, for there is a God who has done great things and there is a God who is doing things.

But my friends it is this God who calls us into the future. There is not a one of us here who does not have fear of the future. I saw one of our young men come into the congregation today home from the service. And it is a fearful world in which we live—cracked and divided and hostile, anguish and brokenness. I was with a group of people this week who on the streets, believe it or not, of a major city, pick up a poor, stumbling man to leave him with his head broken open and so on at a mission where someone could care for him in the midst of a city like that. You see, there are so many reasons to say that pessimism, despair is the order of the day. Ah, but did you hear the word at the communion table. We will eat and drink together until he come again. That is the promise of the future. And did you hear the word of the scripture which spoke of that glory and wonder and majesty that defies all description, of people gathered together like vast tides of the sea around a throne bringing glory and honor to a name that is only worthy of all man's
honor and glory in the end. And what God is doing, my friends, is preparing us for that hour. So that Christian people who reach into the past and thank God for that and are aware of what God is doing now move into the future. They have built once, they will build again. They have reached out once, they will reach out again. So that the word will be spoken in faithful obedience in our generation and the next generation because we have heard that claim of God who comes to us.

My dear friends, there is not one of us here who knows what the blueprint is. But we know that there is one who has the blueprint, and what he asks of us is faithful obedience like the maidens left with lamps who maintained the oil and trimmed the wicks so that when the cry came, "The bridegroom cometh," there was light. And when the cry came later on in another story of men who had gone and invested their talents, they could enter with a report and say, "We have invested, and the investment has doubled." It is that way with us. A congregation is called time and time again--I would say every time it worships--to examine its heart, to ask about its faithfulness, and to somehow dare reach out toward a God who holds not only yesteryear and today, but holds tomorrow in his hands. So that unafraid we may place our hand in his and move in obedience.

We stand at the end of a time of preparing our hearts for this day. And before us lies a great future. Dear friends, we are asking of you today a kind of faithful obedience. I speak now to you of the commitment not only of self but of financial resources. We have asked that people in this congregation as is done in hundreds of congregations at this time of the year should think and pray and ask, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" We have said that this is not
only a commitment of money, but commitment of life, and therefore, on a little card that has been prepared we have allowed space for this. It is our hope that somehow this will be an act as unto God. We are going to do this in a very different fashion than we have done before. After the prayer and as we begin our hymn together a family, the Ed Oines family because Mr. Oines has been chairman of our stewardship program, will come and present their commitments as a family at the table here. Then from down in Fellowship Hall, most of the people down there are young people, they will come and share their commitments, down the center and down again into Fellowship Hall. Then the folks in the balcony and then the congregation here, and finally the pastors and the choir. We are going to ask that we come down the center aisle and go up the side aisles and that we remain seated except when we go forward as an aisle or a pew of people. May I say if you are a friend here visiting with us today we hope that without any sense of embarrassment you will simply join in and walk with the group and that those who can under God will leave their commitments at either table, which represents a table of sacrifice. Shall we then pray.
"Half Acre Was The Night"

The Beautiful, Haunting Theme of Salvation

O "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of His root. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge, and of the fear of the Lord."

- The Majestic History of the Jewish People.
- The Beacon of a Great Destiny.
- Chosen to be God's people.
- From Heir Free Jesse - From David, The Great King and then Finally Jesus.

2 "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground."

- To form a bulrush - The Vicar in the office
- Depicted and Described - The Manager Among Friends, and at the end.
- Acquainted with Grief -
- The Domain of Men -
- The Foolishness of People -

Wounded for our Transgressions -
"Blessed for our Misgivings,"

"The Christendom of our Peace Was
Upon Him"

"With His Stripes We Are Healed -
Someone In My Place"

- When a Man Gives Blood to
Someone Else

- A Person Goes In Another Place

- A Parent Wants to Suffer for the Child.

The Incredible Wonder of His Incarnation.
When Half Spent Was The Night

1. The Fear of The Night
   - He Chied In Acre With The Croupy Coffin
   - He Rief To All Wile, The Enemy Will Stille
   - The Paralysis of Life Because Of
     - Pain, Despair and Fear

2. His is the Time of Great Opportunity
   - Of Waiting and Expectation
   - When Manifold Come, Her Dawn
   - She In Hope In The Darkness
     - A Tender Heart in Dry Ground

3. The Lord Come To Heir Half Spent Night
   - At The Time of The Scripture
   - At The Time Of Jesus
     - Our Own Hour In History - Judgment
       - "Resumen Historalis, Why"
         - "Out In Orders Rebellion Marion's Ch GOP"
           - "Two Younger Count After Long Chase"
             - "Reptile Author - Wrang. Foe - Her Run Life"
               - U.S. York - Kill The Marines"
3.

- A time of religion and moral confusion
- A time of little mutation and much personal failure.

(Hen 5) When God Does His Mighty Work

1. "The love to men in favour."
- Hen 1. When the deliverer comes.
  "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light."
- Hen could be "the hour of greatest opportunity."
  - In the stress and quietness of Christmas

2. Hen He does In Our Own Time
- When the ground was hard and the night was dark - Hen was the hour of personal opportunity.

3. Our responsibilities In the winter
- Anita Bryant - with Doe Hope in Neil Dymar at Christmas
- Neil Dymar - the taste of new wine
1. Our gratitude for the day.

2. Gratitude for the flowers
   --given by Mr. and Mrs. Doug Wilson in honor of
   the 50th wedding anniversary of Mrs. Wilson's
   parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Rowe

   Rosebud
   --in honor of Sarah Marie, daughter born to
   Mr. and Mrs. Williard Harless

3. Today
   --4:00 p.m. - Sioux Falls College Christmas Vespers
   --7:00 p.m. - Evening Service with Mr. Neal Dorsch
                and Baptism

4. Wednesday evening
   --Prayer Service at 7:00 in the Chapel
   --Lay Pastor Training at 7:30 in the Youth Room

5. Thursday
   --Circle #9 will meet at the home of Mrs. H. M.
   Robinson, 2419 S. Phillips, at 1:00 p.m.

6. Saturday
   --6:00 p.m. - Men's Dinner in Fellowship Hall

7. Stewardship Report
   --To date, 462 pledges, $105,936.40.

8. A word of greeting from the Gideons

9. Moment of Silence
   --Mrs. Edna Foster
   --Mr. Fred Holm
So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11
December 11, 1966

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!”

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
Organ Prelude—“Rejoice! The Lord Cometh” ———— Stanley Saxton
Call to Worship
Processional Hymn—“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”  ———— 190
The Lighting of the Candle of Joy
The Word of Advent
The Invocation
The Lord’s Prayer and Gloria
* * *
**The Dedication of Parents and Children
Christian Greetings and Announcements
A Word of Greeting from the Gideons
BIND ALL PEOPLES IN ONE HEART AND MIND
Call to Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Choral Response
* * *
FILL THE WHOLE WORLD WITH HEAVEN’S PEACE
Receiving our Tithes and Offerings
Organ Offertory—“Christ Jesus, Who Maketh Us Glad” ——— Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication
*Anthem—“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Gates of Brass” ——— Wurtemberg Gesangbuch
Junior High Choir
Lift up your heads, ye gates of brass, ye bars of iron, yield and let the king of glory pass; the cross is their field; that banner, brighter than the star that leads the train of night, shines on their march, and guides from far his servants to the fight. A holy war those servants wage; in that mysterious strife, the powers of heaven and hell engage for more than life or death. Ye armies of the living God, ye warriors of Christ’s host, where hallowed footstep never trod, take your appointed post. Though few and small and weak your hands, strong is your captain’s strength, go to the conquest of all lands; all must be his at length. Uplifted are the gates of brass, the bars of iron yield; behold the king of glory pass; the cross hath won the field.

**Anthem—“Love Came Down at Christmas” ——— Seth Bingham
Sanctuary Choir
Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas, Star and Angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love Divine; Worship we our Jesus; But who for this Sacred sign, Love shall be our token, Love be yours and Love be mine, Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.

AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL
The Reading of the Holy Scriptures—Isaiah 53:1-9
The Introit
The Sermon—“Half Spent Was the Night” — Dr. Roger L. Fredriksen
AND CAUSE US IN THY WAYS TO GO
Hymn of Dedication and Decision—“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” ——— 194
Benediction
Choral Response
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Organ Postlude

First Baptist Church
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

*First Service Only  **Second Service Only  ***Ushers May Seat Latecomers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Mr. and Mrs. Doug Wilson in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mrs. Wilson’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Rowe.
The radio broadcast over KELO this morning is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harkison in memory of Janet and Tom, Jr.

AN INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS VESPERS
All members and friends are invited to a lovely service of Christmas in our Sanctuary at 4:00. The Music Department of Sioux Falls College is presenting the service again. Dr. Stanley DeFries is in charge. We urge you to be here.

EVENING SERVICE
7:30 P.M.

Organ Prelude
A Time of Singing
Scripture and Prayer
The Witness of Mr. Neal Dorsch...

A Hymn of Preparation
The Service of Baptism
The Hymn of Invitation
Benediction
Closing Moments—“Silent Night, Holy Night”
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Organ Postlude

THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 12—7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts, Youth Room
TUESDAY, December 13—9:00 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, Youth Room
3:30 p.m.—Brownie Scouts, Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Boys Scouts, Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Church Calling
WEDNESDAY, December 14—6:45 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, YMCA
4:30 p.m.—Junior Choir, Choir Room
7:30 p.m.—Training for Lay Pastors, Youth Room
8:00 p.m.—Circle #15, Mrs. Gordon Stewart, 21 Riverview Heights
THURSDAY, December 15—WMS Circle Meetings
9:30 a.m.—Circles 1 & 2—Parlor
Circle 3—Mrs. E. A. Kerber, 315 S. 9th
Circle 4—Mrs. Robert Hahn, 2017 S. Faris
1:15 p.m.—Circle 5—Mrs. Wesley Nelson 1701 Edgewood Road
Circle 6—Mrs. Max Day, 2028 S. Lake
Circle 7—Mrs. W. O. Knight, Jr., 628 Wiswall Place
Circle 8—Mrs. W. P. Graham, 1408 Edgewood Road
Circle 9—Mrs. Jennie Hurst, 2800 W. 28th
Circle 10—Mrs. Joseph O’Connor, 901 S. Cleveland
Circle 11—Mrs. Harry Gruber, 2013 S. Sherman
8:00 p.m.—Circle 12—Mrs. Don Basham, 2605 W. 22nd
Circle 13—Mrs. Clayton Olson, 1105 W. 14th
Circle 14—Mrs. Margaret Miller, 1506 S. Covell
7:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts, Youth Room
7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir, Fellowship Hall
FRIDAY, December 16—6:45 a.m.—Men’s Bible Study, YMCA
1:00 p.m.—Union Gospel Mission Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
SATURDAY, December 17—6:00 p.m.—Men’s Dinner, Fellowship Hall
THE MINISTRY OF
THE GIDEONS—WORLD-WIDE

Serving as a non-sectarian, extended arm of the church, The Gideons International, comprised of Christian business and professional men, is carrying out a broad ministry of Scripture distribution in more than 70 countries which no single denomination could undertake. Bibles and New Testaments are distributed by Gideon nationals in some 25 different languages. The fact that the Gideon Association is interdenominational gives its members access to almost all institutions. Gideons give freely of their time and money and enjoy the good will of the public. Their cause is liberally supported by the Christian church.

THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL
A Christian Business and Professional Men's Association
2900 LEBANON ROAD, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214
That One Disturbing Presence

Introduction
- The普遍存在 in Wise Men
- For 4 or 5 Days A Hunter
- Why not October or July 4
- Why Christmas?
- The Ninth day of the Prince of Peace.
- LORD is the Everlasting Father, the Almighty Everlasting God.
- We Are In God’s Hands?
- This is the Most Real Thing We Know.
- Do In the End We Have an Unanswerable Conscience.

There Was an Event and the World Can Never be the Same.

1. Not to My Ple
   - A Lovely Story, Quite Harmless
   - This Was a Lecture Happening
     - Under Caesar Augustus during a Joy and a Census & Baby Born.

2. History Can Only Be Saved by Historical Events.
   - Someone Must Share Within the Camp...
The Celebration of a Presence

1. A Person Has Come.
   - You Shall Call His Name Jesus.
   - After the Law and the Prophets - His Own.
   - Not Some Thing - But Someone

2. The Power of the Personal
   - Not a Committee or a Resolution.
   - Not a Thing or a Gift.
   - True One Self, - Given To Others.
   - Do God Comes Him Self.
   - Personally, Intimately, Personally,

   -> The Lutheran Social Service Unit for A.D.O. Mother, and Children.
   - The People Giving Themselves.

3. God in His Absence
   - Her Has Not Forgotten Her People.
In the Winds of Life: Not On Its Shores
"He who became near and direct among us."
[manuscript]

1. Coming to Where We Are
- The States
  - In a small, picturesque village
  - In the midst of faces, arms, 
    hearts, and feet

2. For to Us He Was Born or Vierhues
- He Comes To The States Of Our Life
- Our Quiet - Near and Distant

In the End - We Are Disturbed
"And Mary kept all these things...."...in her heart"

God Will Not Let Us Go..."...where we want to be...
- We cannot drive him off."
The prince, our bitter system,
I see in the conscience of man.
2. When It Was When Jesus Was Born
   - Mary Who Wandered Alone These Days
   - Joseph Wondering the Musical Apparatus
   - Shepherds Destroyed the Flock with the Sheep
   - Wise Men - Led Aload on Un, A Star
   - Here - Uneasy Conscience - Feeling
     Thrice Fetter - Thrice We wished

3. If We Have Way One by Way Through
   - Halo, Unspoken and All Phrases
   - The Departed Where the Future
   - The Crowds Who Where Have
     Followed Him

4. It's That Way To Day
   - Studds - Kennedy - To The People
   - Him, North - Salvation Army
   - Him West - With The Upright

In the Dream of Some People
ANNOUNCEMENTS
December 18, 1966

1. Welcome — All the joys of season —

2. Our gratitude for the flowers
   — from the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Johnson
   (Connie Stapp)
   — New Ranch — Cullum Estate

3. Family Worship at 5:15 led by the Fredriksons

4. The Christmas Services
   — Dec. 24, 5:00 p.m. — Carillon Concert

   — Dec. 24, 11:00 p.m. — Service of Carols and Candles

   — Dec. 25, 11:00 a.m. — Worship Service

   — Pastor Veninga will be leading in these services

5. Stewardship Program
   — 553 pledges totaling $119,598.40.

6. "The Open Door to Worship" to be ready Thursday.

   Last week — funeral for andersen family
   — loss of us all — moment of silence.
December 18, 1966

CALL TO WORSHIP
Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

THE WORD OF ADVENT
Today we light the Candle of Love--Mr. Merle Johnson
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

INVOCATION
Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

CALL TO PRAYER
The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!”

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
Organ Prelude—“Wir Christenleut” W. Friedemann Bach
“Two Choral Preludes” T. Tertius Noble
“Rhapsody on Two Noels” Guy Ropartz

Call to Worship
Processional Hymn—“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” 192
The Lighting of the Candle of Love
The Word of Advent
The Invocation
The Lord’s Prayer and Gloria

** Children’s Anthems—“The Friendly Beasts” 12th Century Carol
“Away In a Manager” Carl Muller

** The Act of Baptism
Christian Greetings and Announcements
*Hymn—“Away in a Manager, No Crib for His Bed” 199

BIND ALL PEOPLES IN ONE HEART AND MIND
Call to Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Choral Response

FILL THE WHOLE WORLD WITH HEAVEN’S PEACE
Receiving our Tithes and Offerings
Organ Offertory—“In Quiet Joy” Marcel Dupré
“O Little Town of Bethlehem” Richard Purvis
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication
Anthem—“Prepare the Way, O Zion” Swedish Chorale
Junior High Choir

Prepare the way, O Zion! Ye awful deeps, rise high! Sink low ye lofty mountains,
The Lord is drawing nigh! The righteous King of glory, Foretold in sacred story.
O Zion, He approaches, Your Lord and King for aye! Strew palms where he advances, Spread garments in His way! God’s promise faileth never, Hosanna sound forever. Fling wide your portals, Zion, And hail your glorious King! His tidings of salvation To ev’ry people bring. Who, waiting still in sadness, Would sing His praise with gladness. O blest is He that came In God the Father’s Name.

***“O Bethlehem” arr. Clarence Dickinson
Sanctuary Choir
Soloists: Jean Blacksmith, Delores Schmidt, Stanley DeFries

AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL
The Reading of the Holy Scriptures—Responsive Reading 49, New Testament
The Introit
The Sermon—“That One Disturbing Presence” Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson
The Anthem of Adoration—“Jesus Name of Wondrous Love” Everett Titcomb
Sanctuary Choir
Alice Jo DeFries, soprano
AND CAUSE US IN THY WAYS TO GO
The Invitation to Decision
Hymn of Dedication and Decision—“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”...253
Benediction
Choral Response
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Organ Postlude

*First Service Only  **Second Service Only  ***Ushers May Seat Latecomers

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are from the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Johnson.

The radio broadcast over KELO this morning is sponsored by The Park Family in memory of Dr. Harry C. Park, Sr.

A SPECIAL FAMILY SERVICE
5:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Once again we invite you to a special family service of carols and sharing at 5:15. The Fredrikson family will be in charge. The Junior Choir and other members of the staff will participate with them in a time of joy and gratitude. We hope you can be with us.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, December 19—7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts, Youth Room

TUESDAY, December 20—9:00 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, Youth Room
10:00 a.m.—XYZ, Parlor
3:30 p.m.—Brownie Scouts, Youth Room

WEDNESDAY, December 21—6:45 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, YMCA
4:30 p.m.—Junior Choir, Choir Room
7:00 p.m.—Midweek Service, Chapel

THURSDAY, December 22—7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir, Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, December 23—6:45 a.m.—Men’s Bible Study, YMCA
7:00 p.m.—Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, December 24—11:00 p.m.—Service of Carols and Candles

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERIAL:
Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson ........Pastor
Rev. J. David Mallgren....Assoc. Pastor
Rev. Daniel W. Holland .....Minister of Christian Education
Rev. Robert Veninga ..........Youth

MUSICAL:
Dr. Stanley L. DeFries ........Director
Dr. Maynard H. Berk ........Organist
Miss Lois Harchanko .........Children
Mr. Truman Dalton ..........Junior High

JANITORIAL:
Mr. Milo Ehlers .............Sexton
Mrs. Milo Ehlers ..........Assistant
Mr. Lamont Reichelt..........Assistant

SECRETARIAL:
Miss LeeDel Howard .........Financial
Mrs. Clarence Anderson .......Church
THAT ONE DISTURRING PRESENCE

December 18, 1966

My friends, it always strikes me with a sense of peculiar power that after twenty centuries we should celebrate once again, God willing, the birth of a baby. As a matter of fact, this birth is so significant that it is proposed that for four or five days in a far-off tiny, war-wrecked land men lay down their arms and that no bombs be dropped and that no snipers shoot in the jungle. Why not do this on July 4, or in October, or February? Why do it at Christmas? Could it be that somehow we are guilty, we know that the one who is the prince of peace came now, that there is an uneasy conscience, that somehow the little systems of men that build walls and tear at each other's throats—that all of this really in the long run does not work after all. When, my dear, beloved friends, will we learn what the birthday of Jesus is all about?

I want to insist that what we celebrate is not something that happened under celophane or just tinsel. It's significant that the only decorations on this tree today are gloves and mittens for youngsters who do not have anything to warm their hands. This may be the best way to decorate a Christmas tree. Or if there is anything that needs to be said about the birthday of Christ, it is an event that happened. In the time of Caesar Augustus when Quirinius was governor a decree went out. It is an established fact of secular history that in a tiny land in the midst of that taxation a mother gave birth to a child. You might toss away all the Bibles there are and yet there are men whose names—like Tacitus and Cestonius and Josephus—secular historians say it happened. We cannot explain the peculiar, mysterious, superstitious group of people who call
themselves Christians, these historians said, without the fact that there was a man called Jesus. It is a fact of history. You may think that this is not an important thing to say, and yet let me tell you the most important thing perhaps that can be said in a time of agnosticism and nonbelief where unbelief has become a word now taking on positive meaning that someone nailed down in history God has moved and acted so that a particular time in a particular way under particular circumstances a man was born, who was called the Saviour of the world.

The only way you can redeem history is if you get into it and redeem it there. The only way you can pull a man out of the water is if you get into the water with him. And something of the whole meaning of the incarnation is that God has now gotten down into history, gotten into its agony, has not left it run down, as some people say, like a clock that has been wound up and is not running down, not something he has turned his back on, not something is spite of all that we've done in this world that has no meaning, no relevance, no depth in existence. The fact is, this happened, and the reason that men will not shoot for a few days is because it happened. It is not a pleasant story, it is not something that men can tie up like a package in a stable among cattle with the smells is where he came.

I must tell you, dear friends, that this is a Presence, a Person who has come. The law and the prophets have now done their good. All that can be done in giving gifts is done. There comes a point when finally the gifts have been sent, the letters have been written. Now the man must go himself. He must come personally, intimately, so that he can look you in the eye, and say, this is what I bring. The essence of the Christian religion is theism. It says that if there is a God at all this God is personal, that the highest thing
this God can create is persons, and will create is persons. And therefore, he wishes to enter into personal dialogue, intimate conversation, saving language, that men can understand and respond. So finally he comes and looks at the world through eyes, the eyes of a saviour. And it is not without reason that Matthew's gospel says, "You shall call his name Jesus." That's the name. That's a man. That's a person. And if we understand what the Christian gospel is all about, in the end we have to reckon with a person. All of the great words of trust and obedience that run through the scriptures are related to personal trusting, personal obedience, personal commitment.

Last night I had an experience that frankly with our family is unforgettable. I shall always be grateful that Oliver Bergelund invited our family to come to the First Lutheran Church for a party for all the mothers who are receiving aid to dependent children. I cannot put in words the meaning of the experience. It was not the gifts that came out of money raised by this organization. It was not the fact that they passed out pop. It was not the racket, because these kids were almost like, you could hardly hear yourself think. And finally it began to become clear that the real meaning of this was that there were persons involved. And there were workers there who had gotten in their car and driven off and picked up youngsters and mothers and driven them to the church. And they were the ones who moved among them, who got down a carried them to the nursery, some 200 or more youngsters. For in the last analysis what youngsters like crave for, who do not in most cases have fathers is a person, a man if you will, who loves them and understands. And in the end what this world cries for is not what we put under the Christmas tree,
not the bottles of pop we pass out, somehow always trying to shield people from what is the deeps of ourselves. What this world cries for, I heard it this week as you have heard it, is the sharing of the self, the giving of one's deepest love and affection. This is what God did at Bethlehem. So that the Christian religion in its essence is a Presence.

My friend, this Presence is in our world. I want to make it very clear that you cannot say that God belongs on the edge of life. That you cannot push him to the edge of history and say that the big affairs of men that are being decided in Washington and Moscow and what have you, the rest of the great cities and power capitals of the world, this is what's important and everything else is unimportant. Because in the last analysis it is God who wrestles in these places with men. And little men who sit somehow in places of responsibilite have upon them the burden of the Presence if they come to be believers. And any man who finds himself having encountered that Presence knows that in this world God is at work and God is going before us. The trouble that has happened with our Christian religion and our faith in general is that we've got it so neatly packaged that you toss it out into the struggle of life it busts and breaks into a thousand pieces. And yet the essence of this is the smell of cattle and a woman who cries alone and a father who does not understand in the situation why God has done this to this woman to whom he is married, and the song of angels, and the shepherds, and all the rest.

I do not care, my friend, how you have stumbled into the sanctuary today for Christmas, this service, the last service of Advent before the celebration of Christmas itself, be your heart
as a stable, be it lonely and broken, be it twisted and perverted, whatever it may be, the reality of the gospel says God stands at the center of life in his saviour, in his son, the Lord of the world. And may I tell you, people, after all these centuries he disturbs us. We can't shrug him off. We try to build our little systems and go our little ways. We try to build somehow our empires and all the things that men clutch after but in the end they become ashes. Do you realize this? This is why running throughout the whole Christmas story people are disturbed. Here are wise men way off hundreds of miles away who have studied the stars and who have talked about things that are to be, and somehow there is the pull, the impulse, the dragging power of something that brings them to Bethlehem. They are disturbed. Here are shepherds who gather their cloaks around them and take care of their sheep and go to sleep out there someplace, and angels start to sing. Thank God some poor ragged people that night heard and understood. And when the Wise Men moved through the capital city of that province and stopped at Herod because after they think that in the palace they can at least get the right information and say tell us about the birth of the king whose coming has been announced, and he says you go find out, the wily old fox put it and you come back here and let me know so I can worship him too. And in the teetering, tottering throne in which he sat was all the fear of men who have drunk of power in all the ages. And finally they were told not to go back that way. And then in wild fear, more than anything else, Herod strikes out blindly thinking that if he kills enough babies perhaps he can kill this one. But in the end, it was Herod who rotted and died.

My friends, that Presence disturbs us, doesn't it? We who have sat comfortable in our religion ever since we were kids, we who have
recently come into it, those of us who are wondering, He disturbs us, like Mary who wondered, like Joseph who had a difficult time, like shepherds who went to Bethlehem.

Studdert-Kennedy, the great poet of the trenches of the First World War wrote of the suffering of God, for he saw Christ in the trenches. He is there. William Booth— for when our pastors gathered this week with our wives for a kind of Christmas dinner, the Salvation Army captain and his lassies came— William Booth in the slums of London knew he was there. And if we do not know that he is in our home, our community, our life, God pity us. All this week He's been around. Some men got on their knees at the Y to eat bread and drink the cup together, and he was there.

(Tape ended)