STATUTE OF LIBERTY
"... Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

KENNEDY STATEMENT

"We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans -- born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage -- and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed ..."

Let every nation know whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty . . . ."
We Are Anxious People

1. The Great Uncertainty That Stalks Us.
   - Our dreams come crashing.
   - We are surrounded by the unknown.
   - In the end there is always death.
   - Business Man - Competition
   - The Mother - Her Children
   - The Student - The Examination
   - The Elder - The Closing

2. Do we Clutter at the Mechanics
   - The Line, The Quantity, The Program.

3. And Here Are the Deeper Issues
   - Why doesn't anyone love me?
   - Is there any meaning?
   - What about guilt?
   - Is there anything beyond death?
2.

2. Our Life - What We Shall Eat and Drink?
   - The food on the table.
   - The noise in dining.
   - Why did someone else go ahead?

2. Our Dress - What Shall I Put On?
   - The importance of clothes.
   - Why do I look so old?
   - How can I keep up with the others?

2. Our Fear of Life - How Can I Fend Off Death?
   - Why does my health fail?
   - How can I avoid it?
   - Why does death always come?

2. Tomorrow - Terrible Anxiety
   - Money in the bank.
   - The fear of calamity.
   - The terror of going on.
3.

Do We Have God?

- We can manipulate and control the Means,
  but can we trust the Father's Hand -
  The End of Life

- God was a Guest, He/in, Doctor's Home
  God is with the Three James, Ten, etc.
  Heavenly Universe, Open skies
  Son of Daughter of Children

(a) God Here Given

- Life
- The Hosp
- Ten Day
- We see Here His Hand

(b) His Care Surrounds Us - The Grass

- The Days of the Air
  - Health, Food and Housing - Howard, Karen
  - Free Beauty of the Life
  - Born in Wondrous Simplicity
3. The Guarantee - The One Who Spoke the Words
   - He Had Come to Share His Life
   - He Knew the Plans of that Crown
     - Joy and Suffering
     - The Loneliness of Life
   - The Death of Friends
   - The Failure of Christian Dreams
   - The Struggle of Decision
   - The Lives Their Life Under a Cross
   - Yet the Source of a Good God

4. The Power of Faith
   ① To Face Life with Open Eyes
   ② To Commit Ourselves with God's Hands
   ③ To Accept His Gifts
     - Joy, Peace, Love
     - Also Adversity
As the Father God goes sorrowing still
For his Child who is gone to sea,
And he runs up a leg on Calvary's spike
That beckons to you and me.
The beacon light of the sorrow of God
'As been shining down the years,
Roasting its light through the darkest night
O' our human blood and tears.

Awake, awake to love and work!
The last is in the sky!
The fields are wet with diamond dew,
The unsh with the call to cry,
Their blessing on the Lord of life
As he goes weeping by.
CALL TO WORSHIP:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace;
What gain has the worker from his toil?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-9

CALL TO PRAYER:

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.
Instructions on our service:

The chimes will be for "America." "America" should be played softly while the flag bearers come forward. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a statement on the meaning of this day we will go directly into the Call to Worship.

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, with conquering limbs astride from land to land; here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand a mighty woman with a torch, whose flame is the imprisoned lightening, and her name Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand glows world wide welcome; her mild eyes command the air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame. "Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she with silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

"The New Colossus" written by Emma Lazarus in 1883 to aid the Pedestal Fund Drive
ANNOUNCEMENTS
November 22, 1964

1. Welcome
   Mrs. Wade Rubick

2. Our gratitude for the flowers
   Mr. Frank Heyl, James, Charlotte, Patricia
   the Richard Schmucks
   the Lenton Loftins
   in loving memory of Mrs. Frank Heyl

AND

the Len Tabors, Sherry & Trisha Huether
in loving memory of LeRoy J. Huether

3. The sharing of the food

4. The Open House at the parsonages
   and the Afterglow

5. The Silent Youth Choir from Parker
   in the Evening Service

6. The Union Thanksgiving Service
   First Presbyterian Church
   10:00 a.m.
   Howard Carlson, preacher
We have now come together; we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter struggle, proud of our ancient heritage—

and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this Nation has always been committed...

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty...
“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO
Organ Prelude—“Morning Hymn” Flor Peeters
“Let Altogether Praise Our Lord” Dietrich Buxtehude
“We Thank Thee, Jesus, Dearest Friend” Dietrich Buxtehude

Presentation of the Colors
Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
The Meaning of this Day
Call to Worship
Processional Hymn—“Oh, Beautiful for Spacious Skies” 550
Invocation
Lord’s Prayer and Gloria

* * *

I CANNOT CLOSE MY HEART TO THEE
Call to Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Choral Response

* * *

MY HEART RESTORES ITS BORROWED RAY
Christian Welcome
Receiving Our Tithes and Offerings
Organ Offertory—“Now Thank We All Our God” Eric Thiman
Doxology
Prayer of Dedication
*Anthem—“Prayer of Thanksgiving” Netherlands Folk Song Arr. by E. Kremser

Senior High Choir
We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing, He chastens and hastens His will to make known; The wicked oppressing cease them from distressing, Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine, So from the beginning the fight we are winning; Thou Lord, wast at our side, all glory be Thine! We all do extol Thee, thou Leader in battle, And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be. Let Thy congregation escape tribulation; Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

**Anthem—“As Men of Old” Seth Bingham

The Sanctuary Choir
As men of old their first fruits brought of orchard, flock, and field, To God the Giver of all good, The Source of bounteous yield; So we today first fruits would bring The wealth of this good land, Of farm and market, shop and home, Of mind, and heart, and hand. A world in need now summons us to labor, love and give; To make our life an offering To God, that man may live; The Church of Christ is calling us To make the dream come true; A world redeemed by Christ-like love; All life in Christ made new. In gratitude and humble trust We bring our best to thee To serve thy cause and share thy love With all humanity. Thou who gavest thyself In Jesus Christ thy Son, Teach us to give ourselves each day Until life’s work is done. Amen.

* * *

O LIGHT THAT FOLLOWE ammunition ALL MY WAY
Reading of the Holy Scriptures—Matthew 6:25-34
The Introit
The Sermon—“Security Beyond Anxiety” Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson

* * *
I GIVE THEE BACK THE LIFE I OWE
Hymn of Preparation—“Oh Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”........................................388
Service of Baptism
Hymn of Dedication and Decision
Benediction
Choral Response
Postlude

*First Service Only  **Second Service Only  ***Ushers may seat latecomers

The flowers today are shared with us by two families—Mr. Frank Heyl and his children—James, Charlotte, Patricia, the Richard Schmuck’s and the Lenton Loftin’s, in loving memory of Mrs. Frank Heyl and by the Len Tabor’s, Sherry and Trisha Huether in loving memory of LeRoy J. Huether.

The broadcast of the Service this morning over KELO is sponsored by Clayton and Kathryn Moore in memory of their loved ones.

EVENING SERVICE
7:30 P.M.

Prelude
Fellowship Singing
Greetings and Announcements
Special Devotional Interpretations by the Silent Youth Choir, from the Baptist Church of Parker, S. Dak., Mrs. Esther Pence, Director

Scripture—Selected portions from the Book of Jonah

Call to Prayer—“Spirit of the Living God” In Unison

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

Pastoral Prayer
Prayer Response
Receiving the Offering

Special Devotional Interpretations by the Silent Youth Choir

Evening Meditation—“Jonah and The Big Fish” Rev. Roger L. Fredrikson

Hymn of Invitation—“Send Me, Oh Lord, Send Me”

Benediction
Closing Moments—“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Postlude

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.—Open House at Two Parsonages, last names beginning with J through Z
3:00 to 6:00 p.m.—Jr. Hi Supper in Youth Room
5:30 p.m.—Jr. Hi Choir, Choir Room
6:00 p.m.—Jr. Hi BYF, in Youth Room
6:00 p.m.—Sr. Hi BYF, Parlor
8:45 p.m.—Special Afterglow in Fellowship Hall, families whose last names begin with J through Z, by the Harlan’s and Fredrikson’s

MONDAY, 4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts in Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts in Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Guild Girls Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, 9:00 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study in Youth Room
10:30 a.m.—XYZ at the Pancake House
7:00 p.m.—Church Calling

WEDNESDAY, 6:45 a.m.—Men’s Breakfast, YMCA
4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts in Youth Room
6:00 p.m.—Webelos
7:00 p.m.—Midweek Service
7:00 p.m.—Sr. Hi Choir, Choir Room
8:15 p.m.—Diaconate, Parlor

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

FRIDAY, 6:45 a.m.—Men’s Breakfast, YMCA
4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts in Youth Room
7:00 pm.—Cubs in Fellowship Hall
Tape not transcribed of Dr. Jeschke's message.
Announcements

- This Week
- Wednesday Night
- Preparation for next Sunday

Music

- Sunday Service
- Student Music
CALL TO WORSHIP

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

INVOCATION PRAYER

"Lead us, O God, through this sacred season of Advent, that by star or angel, by holy hymn or chastened sorrow, we will come to the manger of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lead us into wonder we have never known before, and may we know of love, praise, and deathless life. Hear us as we wait before thee, and pray together as our Saviour has taught, saying, .....Our Father, ......"

CALL TO PRAYER

"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. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice as they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Midian."
First Baptist Church
SIoux Falls, South Dakota

November 29, 1964

You shall call His name Jesus, for He will have His people from their sins.

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME!
Organ Prelude—"Choral Fantasia on Three Hymns" .................. Roland Diggle
"Entrata" ................................................................................. John Holler
The Lighting of the Candle of Hope
Call to Worship
Processional Hymn—"O Come, All Ye Faithful" ...................... 205
Invocation
Lord's Prayer and Gloria

NO MORE LET SINS AND SORROWS GROW
Call to Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Choral Response
Solo—"I Talked with God Last Night" ...................................... David Guion
Jean Blacksmith, alto

AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE
Christian Welcome and Announcements
Receiving Our Tithes and Offerings
*Anthem—"O Saviour, Hear Me" ........................................... Christoph W. von Gluck
Junior High Choir
O Saviour, hear me, I implore Thee; In Thee alone can peace be found. Thou canst sustain and Thou restore me, What-e're the cares that hover round. Hear my supplication; Turn on me Thy loving eyes, O turn on me Thy loving eyes.
Lord, I long for Thy salvation and would fain attain the prize. When cares of earth to me seem heavy, Heart-sore, I seek of Thee relief. Thy grace remaineth ever ready to sooth my pain, assuage my grief.

**Anthem—"Now Thank We All Our God" ............................... Johann Cruger
The Sanctuary Choir
Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices; Who, from our mother's arms, Hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.
O may this bounteous God, Through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; And keep us in His grace, And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven. The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever-more. Amen.

Doxology
Prayer of Dedication

HE RULES THE WORLD WITH TRUTH AND GRACE
The reading of the Holy Scriptures—Galatians 4:3-11, 5:1
The Introit
The Sermon—"Flight from Freedom" ................................. Dr. Reuben P. Jeschke
LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM
Hymn of Dedication and Decision
Benediction
Choral Response
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Postlude

*First Service Only  **Second Service Only  ***Ushers may seat latecomers

The lovely flowers on the Communion Table are given by Mr. Earl Sherburne, his boys and their families, in memory of Mrs. Sherburne.
The broadcast this morning over KELO is sponsored by Mayme and Lucille Nelson.

---

EVENING SERVICE
7:30 P.M.

Prelude
Fellowship Singing led by Harold Wortman
Greetings and Announcements
Solo
Scripture—Ezekial 37:1-14

Call to Prayer—“Spirit of the Living God” ............................................In Unison

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

Pastoral Prayer
Prayer Response
Receiving the Offering
Singing a Hymn—“Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me” ..................................120
Evening Meditation—“Can These Bones Live?” ..............................Rev. Roger L. Fredrikson
Hymn of Invitation
Benediction
Closing Moments—“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Postlude

---

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, 4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts, Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts, Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Guild Girls Rehearsal, Sr. and Jr. Hi’s, Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, 9:00 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Church Calling

WEDNESDAY, 6:45 a.m.—Men’s Breakfast, YMCA
4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts, Youth Room
4:30 p.m.—Jr. Choir, Choir Room
6:00 p.m.—Webelos, Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Sr. Hi Choir, Choir Room
7:00 p.m.—Midweek Prayer Service
8:15 p.m.—Council, Parlor

THURSDAY, 4:00 p.m.—Primary Choir, Youth Room
7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir
8:00 p.m.—WMS Christmas Meeting, Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, 6:45 a.m.—Men’s Breakfast, YMCA
4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts, Youth Room

SATURDAY, 9:00 p.m.—Membership Class, Library
1:00 p.m.—All Choirs Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Can These Homes Live?  11-29-64
P. M. Service

The Valley of Roses

- Episode on the scene of a great tragedy
- Some battlefield - Red Memories
- The Shock Out My Salem
- The Town That Is No More
- The Reaches of Cambria
- Simply Bleached, Dead Roses

- His & Her Situation of Rome
- Shackled and Humiliated
- Murder, Porn and Faith Desecrated

Our Contemporary Situation

1. The American Family
2. The American Citizen
3. The Individual
   - The Negative, Nationalizing
   Analysis.
The Question: Can These Bones Live?

1. Not by Human Power or Ingenuity.
   - Not by Analysis, Manipulation or Program.

2. His, in the hand of God.
   - His free, sovereign grace.
   - We do not control or handle.

The Calling of the Prophet

1. Faithful to God's Work.

2. He will create his own army.

The Great Warning of God

1. God's dramatic entrance at Crucifixion.
   - After the Third Term.
   - The great awakening.

2. Life from the dead - Salvation, Return - D.C. Clendenin
   - St. Joseph's, Illinois

- Claude M. Austin
3.

(3) The Meaning of the Spirit
- Great Central Reality
- The Unseen of God
- The Intimate Life of Christ

Our lame

© Will we be faithful?
© Will we believe?
0. Welcome

1. Flowers
   - Baptism - Mr. Earl Ashburne, his family, in memory of Mrs. Ashburne
   - Other flowers - Mrs. W. Parsons

2. The Importance of His Week
   - Preparation for Communion at next step of faith
   - Our historia
     7 p.m. next Sunday

3. Gratitude for Mr. Hulin Linelle

4. Moment of Silence - Mrs. W. Parsons - Frank Herb
The Chimes

The Lighting of the Candle by Mr. and Mrs.
Steve Flood of the Zeto Class

The Candle of Hope
Oh, how shall I receive Thee,
How meet Thee on Thy way;
Blest hope of every nation,
My soul's delight and stay?
O Jesus, Jesus, give me,
By Thine illuming light,
To know whate'er is pleasing
And welcome in Thy sight.

Call to Worship
"For to us a child is born, to us a son is giver
and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Wonderful,
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."

Call to Prayer
"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.
Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast
increased its joy; they rejoice before thee
as with joy at the harvest,
as men rejoice as they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
thou hast broken as on the day of Midian."
LET'S BE THANKFUL

First Baptist Church

November 24, 1963
10:00 A.M.

Call to Worship .................. Terry Sheppard
Processional of Gifts ............. Jr. Maynard Berk
Invocation ........................ Terry Sheppard
Hymn — "Now Thank We All Our God" .......................... 598
Offering

Thanksgiving .......................... Donalene McCabe
................................................ Jeff Greenlee

Primary Choir ......................... Miss Lois Harchanko
Presentation of Our Gifts........... Sandy Julin
Prayer of Dedication.................. Bob Grewe
Recessional

"Thank You" to the Senior High Department for their leadership in this Service of Worship.
The Venture of First Things

Our Response To the Lord's Supper

1. The offer of God: deep and pure.
   - His love and confidence,
   - Given while we were helpless.

2. The offer of our deep despair.
   - Our gratitude and allegiance.

The Great Claim of Jesus

1. He asked for first love, first loyalty, first obedience.
   - "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."
   - "Whoever puts family before me is not fit for the kingdom of God."
   - "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
   - "Seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things."

2.

(1) Love is a Mystery and Mysterious about What Remains.
   - Like a Mountain, Mountain Real.
   - We respond with Deep Awe and Fear or we turn away. The Case is too Heavy.

(2) All Capacity for Man’s Deep Response
   - Made for God, the Vast of His Being.
   - He is the End of All Man’s Being.

Ours Resistance to Jesus’ Claim

(1) Our Confusion over the Finite and Infinite
   - We are Made for Eternity, and we want to settle for Time.
   - The Finite Stares while we face the
     physical Man. We can face all.

(2) Our Settling for Mediocrity
   - This is Generally true Today, “The Common Man”
   - Mediocrity in ultimate alteration.
The Totality of Jesus Claim

1. A single claim which gathers up all else
   - all life, all time, all money.
   - a single direction with everything.

2. The joy and power of a single story.

   - Lee Smith football team and
     Paul Mattel.

   - The powerful witness of a single life in
     Rev. Leon Carlson.

   "A single life with a special, tragic meaning."

   - He went to Congo in 1961 with
     the Protestant Relief Agency.
   - Served as a missionary for 32 years.
   - One missionary for 100,000 people.

   "We thank God that we have this opportunity
   to be out there, these days."
"Continue to explore us in Oregon. May that through the trials we face here we may be an effective witness for Christ and that through the trials being faced, we may see growth in the Congregational Church.

3. What will you do with your pledge card?"
The Chimes

The Processional of the Candle Lighters
8:30 Mr. and Mrs. Roger (Nina) Larson - Harmony Class
11:00 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis (Mary) Larson - Harmony Class

The Words for the Candle of Peace
The happy Christmas comes once more,
The heavenly Guest is at the door,
The blessed words the shepherds thrill,
The joyous tidings: Peace, good-will.

The Call to Worship
Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in fatness.
Incline your ear, and come to me; hear,
that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

The Spoken Call to Prayer preceding the Senior High Choir
For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign which shall not be cut off.
Brief Announcements at the time of the Right Hand of Fellowship

1. The beauty of the Sanctuary and the flowers elsewhere from the family of Frank Heyl.

2. The Christmas Oratorio at 7:00 p.m. -- note change of time.

3. The "Messiah" given by Sioux Valley Nurses and the Barbershop Singers, 8:00 p.m., Monday

4. The Invitation to the Lord's Supper
   The Right Hand of Fellowship
First Baptist Church
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

December 6, 1964 Eight-thirty and Eleven O’Clock

“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME!
Organ Prelude—“Pastorale” .................................................. Cesar Franck
The Lighting of the Candle of Peace
Call to Worship
Procesional Hymn—“Angels We Have Heard On High” .............. 187
Invocation
Lord’s Prayer and Gloria
* * *
The Meaning of This Day .................................................... Michael O’Connor, Jr., Chairman
* * *

NO MORE LET SINS AND SORROWS GROW
The Choral and Spoken Pastoral Prayer
**“Morning Prayer”—Senior High Choir .................................. Franz J. Haydn
Father, now at the day’s beginning, We come to thee in earnest prayer; Father, keep thou our hearts from sinning, Guide us ever, leave us never, Give us strength to do and dare! In thy presence, all want confiding, Oh, let us live from day to day; Let us ever, in love abiding, Tell the story of thy glory, Learn to live the Jesus way. Amen.

***“St. Francis’ Prayer”—Sanctuary Choir ................................. W. B. Olds
Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson, Narrator
Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

* * *

AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE
The Right Hand of Fellowship
Receiving Our Tithes and Offerings
*Offertory Anthem—“Cherubim-Song No. 7” ......................... D. S. Bortniansky
Senior High Choir

**Offertory Anthem—“Springs in the Desert” ......................... Arthur B. Jennings
Sanctuary Choir: Stanley DeFries, tenor

Doxology
Prayer of Dedication

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM
The Invitation to The Lord’s Supper
The Eating of the Bread
The Drinking of the Cup
(The Deacon’s Offering will be received as the congregation leaves the Sanctuary)

HE RULES THE WORLD WITH TRUTH AND GRACE
The Word of the Scripture—Matthew 6:33
The Moment of Meditation
The Sermon—“The Venture of First Things” ........................... Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson

REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY
The Invitation to Commit our Resources
Hymn of Decision—“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” ............ 228
(First two verses)
The Blessing of our Commitments
The Invitation to Commit our Lives
(The last two verses of the Hymn of Decision)
Benefaction
Choral Response
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Postlude

*First Service Only  **Second Service Only  ***Ushers may seat latecomers
Miss Peggy Reynolds is the organist at the 8:30 Service; Dr. Maynard Berk is the organist at the 11:00 Service.
The broadcast this morning over KELO is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harkison in memory of Janet and Tom, Jr.
7:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

by

Camil Von Hulse

I. Prologue—Narrator

II. Prophecies—Baritone, Tenor and Chorus

III. Hope—Baritone, Tenor, Mezzo-Soprano, Chorus and Narrator

IV. Expectations—Tenor, Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano and Chorus

V. Fulfillment—Soprano, Children's Choir, Women's Trio, Chorus and Narrator

VI. Adoration—Soprano and Tenor Duet, Three Male Voices, Children's Choir and Chorus

VII. Joy to the World—Soprano, Children's Choir and Chorus

CHORUS: Senior High Choir, Sanctuary Choir

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Primary Choir, Junior Choir

SOLOISTS: (In order of appearance) Truman Dalton, baritone; John Lusk, tenor; Alice Jo DeFries, mezzo-soprano; Clarice Dalton, soprano; Patti Heyl, mezzo-soprano; Women's Trio—Alice Jo DeFries, Marlys Kroon, sopranos, Jean Blacksmith, alto; Patrick Elliott, tenor; Delores Schmidt, soprano; David Nuss, tenor; Harry Talley, tenor; Merlyn Lippert, baritone; Lynne Larson, soprano.

NARRATOR: Mr. Robert Veninga

ORGAN: Dr. Maynard Berk

CHORAL DIRECTORS: Stanley DeFries, Lois Harchanko, Harold Wortman

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, 9:45 a.m.—High School youth and Adult Membership Class, Chapel
5:30 p.m.—Jr. Hi Choir, Choir Room
7:00 p.m.—Christmas Oratorio, Sanctuary
9:00 p.m.—Afterglow, City-wide Singspiration

MONDAY, 4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts in Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts in Youth Room

TUESDAY, 9:00 a.m.—Women's Bible Study in Youth Room
8:00 p.m.—"Messiah," performed in Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.—XYZ in Parlor
7:00 p.m.—Church Calling

WEDNESDAY, 6:45 a.m.—Men's Breakfast, YMCA
4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts in Youth Room
4:30 p.m.—Jr. Choir, Choir Room
6:00 p.m.—Webelos in Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Sr. Hi Choir, Choir Room
7:30 p.m.—Midweek Prayer Service
8:15 p.m.—Memorial Committee
8:15 p.m.—Music Committee
8:15 p.m.—Children's Division

THURSDAY, 12:00 Noon—Trustees, YMCA
12:00 Noon—Sr. Philathea Pot Luck Luncheon, Room 111
7:30 p.m.—Jr. Philathea, Parlor
4:00 p.m.—Primary Choir in Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts
7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir in Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY, 6:45 a.m.—Men's Breakfast, YMCA
4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts, Youth Room
6:30 p.m.—Golden Circle Pot-luck Supper in Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, 9:00 a.m.—Jr. Hi Age Membership Class, Library
4:00 p.m.—Troop 176 in Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Zeto, Harmony and Golden Circle Class Christmas Banquet, Salsbury Student Union, Sioux Falls College—$3.75 per couple or $1.85 single
Good Things To Those Who Ask

The Issue of Judgment

1. The Danger of Judgment
   - We Realize Ourselves in Judging
     - We see in the other what we hate in ourselves.
   - The Danger of Finding Scapegoats.
     - Life gives back what we pour into it.
     - Argue & contest, breed the same.
   - Poisonous criticism brings back criticism.
   - Oneulp the will forgive into life
     - Then a, what comes, chance.

2. Holy Treatment of Us
   - Giving the greatest gift.
     - His evaluation of us: Immensurable.
     - In the end “Father, forgive them—
       for they know not what they do.”
2.

Guarding the Holy

1. The Studying Virtue from the Old Testament.
   - Flesh: prepare for the altar;
   - Burning is true for hope to loom.
   - In thin picture:
     - There is a wishless reality;
     - Drop and spine Simuland a faith.

2. The Necessity of Great Gifts,
   - A God Mind That is Squandered.
   - The Cheaper of the Human Spirit.
   - The Question of Appetite and Drives

3. The Cheaper of the Kingdom of God
   - The Image Being Somethings We Wedge
   - The Adoration of Worship Becoming Common
   - Seen before blame.

4. Once Again, God: Seeking of the Gift
Our Coming to God

The Devotional Approach

1. There are deep needs I have
   - I need to get me focused with God
   - I am restless and dissatisfaction and there is no center to center
   - I need forgiveness and a straightening out

2. What is the Nature
   - How can I be sure it will work?
   - Does God even exist?
   - Can I enter with the discipline?
   - I will wait until the right time

Break the great ice up - start with a step
   - Your past - ask, hear, know
   - Your flesh - answer - let yourself
   - The One Who Died First - Arose from
   - The Wise
2. Here Is A Word To Kneel On
   - I Am Called Into A Presence
   - Not Myself or My Limits,
   - But The Almighty Who Love and Wants,
   - A Real Experience That Calls.

3. The False Freedom of Wandering Around
   - Going Wherever I Will
   - Feeling What I Want - Not My
   - Home Where, or
   - Twenty-Four Hours a Day "I Am My Freedom"
   - Work through Life Unchanging and
   - Unshaken.

4. The Wrinkles Of Kneeling On A Don
   - Whole Intimacy and Majesty of
   - Life's Center.
   - We May Kneel and He Will Open.
   - He Sees Himself - Christmas!
ANNOUNCEMENTS
December 13, 1964

1. Greetings

2. Rosebud
   William Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thomas

3. Sioux Falls College Christmas Vespers

4. The Evening Vesper Service in the Chapel,
   Mr. Robert Veninga

5. This month marks the 18th year of continuous broadcast. First broadcast in December, 1946, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Griffin. Earl Lemonds and Evans Nord were on first committee.

6. The report of our Stewardship Program
   562 pledges (406 adults)
   $103,740.64 total pledged

Encouragement on completion of the program

7. The Christmas greeting as you leave

[Handwritten note: Fellowship Supper]

[Handwritten note: Under Three - Slices of Hot Dish]

[Handwritten note: Over Three - Salad and a Hot Dish]
GUIDE TO THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 13, 1964

The Chimes

The Candle of Joy
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.
Lord, Thou hast been favorable unto Thy land:
Thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

8:30 - Mr. and Mrs. Mel Forsesth, Golden Circle
11:00 - Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fellows, " "

The Call to Worship
O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Call to Prayer
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters
I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not
overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall
not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
GUIDE TO THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 13, 1964

The Chimes

The Candle of Joy
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.
Lord, Thou hast been favorable unto Thy land:
Thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

8:30 - Mr. and Mrs. Mel Forseth, Golden Circle
11:00 - Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Fellows, " "

The Call to Worship
O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Call to Prayer
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters
I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not
overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall
not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
A CHRISTMAS GREETING

To All Members and Friends of our Congregation:

There is no other time of the year quite like Christmas. There is a beauty and a wonder in the great event of "the word becoming flesh" which is unique. It is only as we become as little children that we can see the wonder of what God has done. We invite you to join in praise and adoration with us during this time.

The worship services and times of fellowship which are a part of our church program during the remaining weeks of Advent have been planned in the hope that we can all journey to Bethlehem together.

Our staff sends greetings to you! We are thankful for a common venture that is greater than any of us and for the bond in Christ that unites us.

A Blessed Christmas to You,

The Roger Fredriksons  The Tom Harlans
LeeDel Howard  The Stanley DeFries
Mabel Anderson  The Maynard Berks
The Rei Olsens  The Harold Wortmans
The James Timmermans  Lois Harchanko
The Lamont Reichelts  Robert Veninga
The Russell Hubbards


OUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 13—8:30 and 11 A.M.—“Good Things to Those Who Ask”

5:00 P.M.—SFC Christmas Vespers, directed by Professor Stanley DeFries
7:30 P.M.—Worship in the Chapel
Robert Veninga

Wednesday, December 16—5:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.—Caroling in Rest Homes by Junior Choir, directed by Lois Harchanko
6:15 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.—Pot Luck Fellowship Supper, Bible Study and Prayer

Sunday, December 20—8:30 and 11 A.M.—“A Rose E'er Blooming”
Service of Baptism
4:00 P.M.—Open House Christmas Program in Children's Division
5:00 P.M.—Family Worship in Sanctuary

Thursday, December 24—4:30 P.M.—Carillon Christmas Concert from the Church Steeple
5:15 P.M.—Family Service in Sanctuary led by the Fredrikson and Harlan families
11:00 P.M.—Service of Carols and Candles
Sanctuary Choir and Meditation by Pastor Harlan

Sunday, December 27—8:30 and 11 A.M.—“The House That God Builds”
Family Services—No church school
7:30 P.M.—Special service led by our students

Thursday, December 31—8:00 P.M.—Coffee and Fellowship Hour
9:00 P.M.—New Year’s Eve Communion in Sanctuary
“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME!
Organ Prelude—“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”.................................................. Ralph Vaughan-Williams
“Come, Redeemer of our Race”........... Johann Sebastian Bach
The Lighting of the Candle of Joy
Call to Worship
Processional Hymn—“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”.............................. 185
Invocation
Lord’s Prayer and Gloria

* * *

NO MORE LET SINS AND SORROWS GROW
*Anthem—“Sing Gloria” ................................................................. Katherine K. Davis
Senior High Choir
The shepherds sleep among their sheep, All silent they lie, When clear and strong there comes a song from Angels on high. Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria! Jesus is born! Now hark and hear this word of cheer, And be not afraid. In humble guise the infant lies, In a manger laid. Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria! Jesus is born! The shepherds heard the wondrous word the angels did sing, And travelled then to Bethlehem to worship their King. Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria! Jesus is born! We follow them to Bethlehem, Our Saviour to greet. Our hearts we bring, an offering to lay at his feet. Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria in excelsis! Sing gloria! Jesus is born!

**Anthem—“Voix Celestes” (Humming Chorus)................................. Gilbert A. Alcock
Sanctuary Choir
Call to Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Choral Response

* * *

AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE
Christian Welcome and Announcements
*Hymn—“Joy to the World” ......................................................................................... 190
Receiving Our Tithes and Offerings
*Organ Offertory
**Offertory Anthem—“Oh, Rejoice Ye Christians Loudly”........ Harvey E. Maier
Sanctuary Choir
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Oh, rejoice ye Christians loudly, Jesus Christ is born. Sing your praise to God in heaven for his only Son. Long has earth been patient waiting for this Child so dear. Oh, rejoice ye Christians loudly, Jesus Christ is here, Alleluia, . . . amen. Oh, rejoice ye Christians loudly, Jesus Christ is born. Sing your praise to God in heaven for His only Son. Long has earth been patient waiting for this Child so dear. Oh, rejoice ye Christians loudly, Jesus Christ is here. Alleluia, . . . amen.
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

HE RULES THE WORLD WITH TRUTH AND GRACE
The Reading of the Holy Scriptures—Matthew 7:1-12
The Introit
The Sermon—“Good Things to Those Who Ask”............Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM
Hymn of Dedication and Decision
EVENING SERVICE
7:00 P.M.

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."
The SINGING of Favorite Christmas Carols
The READING of the Christmas Story
The SHARING of our Christmas Experiences
The MEANING of the Christmas Season
“A Christmas Question”
The DEDICATION of ourselves

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS—There will be no Primary Choir rehearsals until January 7th, and no Junior Choir rehearsals December 23rd and December 30th. All are invited—to the Sioux Falls College Christmas Vespers program 5:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary, conducted by Mr. Stanley DeFries—TODAY!

THIS WEEK
SUNDAY, 9:45 a.m.—High School youth and Adult Membership Class, Chapel
5:00 p.m.—Sioux Falls College Christmas Vespers
5:00 p.m.—Youth Supper in Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m.—Junior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m.—Youth Groups
7:30 p.m.—Evening Service, Chapel
8:45 p.m.—Afterglow, Roger Williams Caroling
MONDAY, 4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts in Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts in Youth Room
TUESDAY, 9:00 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study in Youth Room
7:00 p.m.—Church Calling
WEDNESDAY, 6:45 a.m.—Men’s Breakfast, YMCA
4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts in Youth Room
4:30 p.m.—Jr. Choir Rehearsal
5:00 p.m.—Jr. Choir Caroling and Christmas Party in Youth Room
6:00 p.m.—Webelos in Youth Room
6:15 p.m.—Fellowship “Pot Luck” Supper in Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.—Sr. Hi Choir
8:15 p.m.—Board of Christian Education
THURSDAY, 7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir in Fellowship Hall

W.M.S. CIRCLE MEETINGS
9:30 A.M.
#1—Mrs. Max Rysdon, 2000 S. First
#2—Church Parlor, Mrs. Richard Beatty
#3—Church Parlor
1:15 P.M.
#4—Mrs. Gordon Stewart, 21 Riverview Heights
#5—Mrs. H. W. Hahn, 626 Wiswall Place
#6—Mrs. Charles Kemmerling, 924 W. 12th
#7—Mrs. Hazel Windle, 219 S. Duluth, Apt. 1
#8—Mrs. Bob Klock, 1201 S. Hawthorne
#9—Mrs. Robert Olson, 2713 W. 28th
#10—Mrs. Elmer Wohlers, 2420 S. 1st
8:00 P.M.
#11—Mrs. Leslie Young, 3804 E. 22nd
#12—Mrs. Maurice Paulsen, 4411 S. Cliff
#13—Mrs. Don Krug, 2015 S. Kiwanis
#14—Mrs. Jack Holt, Skyline Heights
FRIDAY, 6:45 a.m.—Men’s Breakfast, YMCA
4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts, Youth Room
SATURDAY, 9:00 a.m.—Jr. Hi Age Membership Class
Do A Rose Ee Bloom

The Special Meaning of This Day

1. We Are Together.

2. The Action of One Affect to Many.

3. The Man Who Love Our Cluncher And Have Guarded It.

4. The Concern Of Other Christian
   - Father Delahoyde, Francis Shearman,
     The Newspaper Man in Minneapolis.

5. The Overwhelming Sense Of God's Presence.

Jesus Said - The Ultimate Test of A True or A False Friend.

1. Not True - Has Fruite
   - Cannot Live on False Fruite
   - Unfruitful to Simply Azure Leaves.
   - Then the Judgment!
   - In Life And At The End.
Oct 4th - God's Fruits
- The life that is rooted in God
- Dependent on Him.
- Life that is hindered with inner integrity - moved beyond comfort.
- His free, has His own kind of fruit.

The Wonder of God's Planting

© The Great Parable: One of Captivity

"Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."
3.

- In Babylonian Captivity - The Reality of God.
- His Majesty and Movement in History.
- His despised Minority - God's Chosen People.
- The Hope of a Coming Savior.

(2) The Wonder of Christmas

- Dry Ground and an Unpromising Situation.
- Lowly, Despised People - Paul & Silas
- A Small Undescript Village - Paul & Silas

- An Magnificent, Heavenly Advent Message
  That God Chosen Vessel
- In the End & Cross Was Blended And The
  Ground Was Made High - That The Guardian,

(3) His is God's Way Of Blunting

- In Weary, Helpless Situations
- In God's Gift Always Changes Real
  Situation.
- For Salvation Is in His Hand.
4. The Sign of God’s Planting

- Children Hiring at the Homes for Aged
- The Gifts to the Planting from Two of Our Church Advance Classes.
- The Member Who Stepped In to Share a Gift with Some Family in Need.
- Our Gathering for the Mid Week Service
- The Music from the Steeple
  - The Leadette Me.

5. How Life Can Enter A Man’s Life
- Unpromising and Needly.
GUIDE TO THE MORNING ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 20, 1964

After the organ prelude, before the call to worship, I will make a brief statement about the possibility of this day.

Please note the lighting of the candle will come immediately after the call to worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP
It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to thy name, 0 Most High; to declare thy steadfast love in the morning, and thy faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For thou, 0 Lord, hast made me glad by thy work; at the works of thy hands I sing for joy.

CALL TO PRAYER
Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

STATEMENT ON CANDLE OF LOVE

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Word of greeting -- brief -- radio people

2. Evening Service at 7:30 in the Chapel -- Prayer and Meditation

3. Children's Program will be sometime in January

4. Thursday evening -- encourage people if they would like to come hear the Christmas Carillon Concert at 4:30, from our church steeple.

   Family Service at 5:15 same evening.

   11:00 p.m. -- Candles and Carols -- This means there will not be a Wednesday evening service.

5. Encourage them to pick up their envelopes at rear of church -- and bring their pledges up to date.

We are all gathered here with a sense of God.
"You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME!
Organ Prelude—"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star".........Ernst Pepping
"Andante Sostenuto (Gothic Symphony) ............................
Charles Marie Widor

Call to Worship
The Lighting of the Candle of Love
Processional Hymn—"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".................189
Invocation
Lord's Prayer and Gloria

***
** Service of Baptism
***

NO MORE LET SINS AND SORROWS GROW
Call to Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Choral Response

***

AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE
Christian Welcome and Accouncements
Offertory Hymn—"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"..............................193
Receiving Our Tithes and Offerings
Organ Offertory—"Pastorale" (Suite Noel)...............................Alec Templeton
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem—"Angels We Have Heard on High"............................arr. Franz Warner
* Mixed Quartet
  * * Junior High and Sanctuary Choirs

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
   And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
   What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
3. Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
   Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
4. See Him, in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise;
   Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

  Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

HE RULES THE WORLD WITH TRUTH AND GRACE
The Reading of the Holy Scriptures—Matthew 7:13-20
The Introit
The Sermon—"A Rose E'er Blooming"...............................Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM
Hymn of Dedication and Decision—"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming".........194
Benediction
Choral Response
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Postlude

*First Service Only  **Second Service Only  ***Ushers may seat latecomers
The broadcast this morning over KELO is sponsored by The Park Family in
memory of Dr. Harry C.Park, Sr.
EVENING SERVICE
7:30 P.M.
A Service of Prayer and Meditation in the Chapel, led by Mr. Robert Veninga.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, 9:45 a.m. — HS youth and Adult Membership Class, Chapel
4:00 p.m. — Children’s Division Christmas Program
5:00 p.m. — Family Worship in Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. — Mr. and Mrs. Class, FH
7:00 p.m. — Service of Prayer & Meditation, Chapel

MONDAY, 4:00 p.m. — Girl Scouts, YR
7:00 p.m. — Explorer Scouts—YR

TUESDAY, December 22 — 9:00 a.m. — Women’s Bible Study, YR
XYZ postponed until Jan. 5
7:00 p.m. — Church Calling

WEDNESDAY, December 23—6:45 a.m. — Men’s Breakfast, YMCA
4:00 p.m. — Girl Scouts, YR
6:00 p.m. — Webelos
7:00 p.m. — Sr. Hi Choir, Choir Room
7:00 p.m. — Midweek Prayer Service

THURSDAY, December 24—4:30 p.m. — Carillon Christmas Concert from Church Steeple
5:15 p.m. — Family Service in Sanctuary led by Fredrikson and Harlan families
11:00 p.m. — Service of Carols and Candles, Sanctuary

SATURDAY, December 26—9:00 a.m. — Jr. Hi Age Membership Class

MINISTRY OF REMEMBRANCE

“The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.”
In the fellowship of the Risen Christ we extend our hand of understanding to the family of Dr. and Mrs. Harry Park in the death of his aunt.

ATTENTION, JR. HI CHOIR MEMBERS!
Schedule for Sunday Morning, December 20th. Be at church Choir Room by 10:30 a.m. This is a MUST!! Thanks—Harold Wortman.

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERIAL:
Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson..........Pastor
Rev. L. Thomas Harlan..........Christian Education
Mr. Robert Veninga..........Student Assistant

MUSICAL:
Mr. Stanley L. DeFries..........Director
Dr. Maynard H. Berk..........Organist
Mr. Harold Wortman..........Youth
Miss Lois Harchanko..........Children

SECRETARIAL:
Miss LeeDel Howard..........Financial
Mrs. H. C. R. Olsen..........Pastor’s Assistant
Mrs. Clarence Anderson..........Church

JANITORIAL:
Mr. James Timmerman..........Sexton
Mr. Lamont Reichelt..........Assistant
Mr. Russell Hubbard..........Assistant
"A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING"

December 20, 1964

My dear friends, it is at the end of this great sermon that Jesus tried to gather up all that he has said and to give to it one central thrust and he does this in language which I believe every person who I believe is acquainted at all with farming or things that grow should be able to understand that what you put in the ground you will reap. That you cannot put into the ground seeds for thistles and gather grapes that you cannot put good fruit, good seed into the ground and reap bad fruit. This is inevitable. This is the law of cause and effect. This is the great law of harvesting and the fact of the matter is that all of these things that Jesus said if a man scatters his life he will never have the key to it, if a man depends on himself instead of God he will inevitably end up in anxiety. If a man thinks he is proud and stands in the market place or in a public place to pray or give his alms, his gifts, if he makes a great clatter of his religion while inwardly he is empty and bankrupt, then this will be known by the fruits that that man has. It is the fact that I can fool you if I will for a certain time but in the end what I am will not fool God. The whole thrust of the end of Jesus' sermon has to do with the integrity of life, it has to do with its unity, it has to do with its wholeness. Let us admit that one of the diseases with which all of us struggle is the scattering of life, the going off in so many directions that we think with one hand we can gather thistles while with the other hand we gather grapes. All that Jesus says is that you cannot gather two kinds of fruit from one tree. There are some people who think that the main business of trees, let us say, is to only grow leaves. But not in Jesus case. He says that somehow we have to push your hand beyond the leaves to ask is there any fruit there. What is the manner of this man's life, what is his loyalty, that is the central affection of it which direction is it going in. And there might even be some people who would gather up, let us say, a kind of fruit and try to tie it to the branches as if somehow life could become a facade and a show.

But inevitably there is the cracking of life, there is the melting down of life to its central essence so that there is a fruit by which a man is known. Now on the one hand there is a kind of fruit that is reaped when a man tries to live without God. Centered in himself, a life of anxiety and worry, a life of a public show of religion which in the end has its own judgment. For Jesus insisted over and over again that life is not only judged day by day in the tests that come to us but that there is the ultimate unmasking of life when a man stands only with his naked soul in the presence of the Almighty.

But on the other hand he said there is good fruit. There is the kind of fruit that was intended out of this tree and if there is a soundness at its core, there will be grapes so that Jesus said in spite of a man's mistakes, his stumbling, his falling, his doing of wrong things that he does not want to do in the end by the providence and the grace of God he can have at least enough integrity in life to make of life itself an offering to God. Now all of this on this day made me think frankly of the Old Testament and Christmas.
Because do you know that there are a number of places where it speaks about God's kind of planting? And I do not think that we can discuss our own kind of planting and growing of things without the way God does things. And there is no more beautiful passage in all of the Old Testament the last part of Isaiah which speaks of this planting listen to the beginning of the 53rd chapter: "Who hath believed what we have heard and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed, for he grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or comeliness that we should look at him and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." Most of us understand the historical setting of this passage. It comes from a people who sit in darkness and captivity, a people who are despised and rejected, whose home land has been stripped of all its strength, its cities have been leveled, there are foxes and the beasts of the field that now dwell in what was once the temple and in the midst of this being in Babylonian captivity a pawn of a powerful nation there comes this great song of Israel. In the midst of derision when people say Where is your God now we have wrecked your house where is your God now. There is one singer who raises his voice How shall I sing the song of the Lord in a strange land and to that man wistfully there comes the song. And that song has to do with the dealing of God even in the midst of the difficulty for this singer dares to say by faith that God has bared his arm, that he is at work in the midst of nations, even their enemies, that he is to be seen in his majesty and his righteousness even in that hour and the depth of the song is, that out of our suffering and brokenness, God will bless all nations.

There is no deeper point in the Old Testament than the point where this prophet says in the book of Isaiah We will become used by God, we will be used by God because out of our suffering we will become like a plant in dry ground. Ah, but you have to go beyond this. For the one who wrote not only for that generation but for the generations that were to come, so as he looks down by the spirit into the future what he sees is not a nation that will come but one who will come. And this one will be born in the midst of poverty, out of enturies later the same nation but in another setting, despised and rejected, the pawn now of the Romans, of broken people occupied, paying the weighty taxes that they had to, soldiers stomping on every street and somehow in the midst of the night of that what should we say humiliation, God would give his greatest gift. And so it was out of dry ground in Bethlehem that God put his seed into the earth. And what came out of that was a tiny babe, a song to a few scattered shepherds on a hillside, a start some wise men, but what was it that finally did come out of this? Matthew said you shall call his name Jesus for he shall save your people from their sins and out of that tiny beginning in Bethlehem there came a great tree which bloomed as a thing of beauty. Here was a seed that was scattered in night and yet gave its beauty in the midst of day. Here was Jesus of Nazareth, a non descript preacher, who went about and loved people and talked of God, and did more than that, shared his love and healed and opened the eyes of the blind and did all these things that we've read about for so long and who in the last analysis, died on a tree that in one sense you could say was planted by God on his own cross. But
from the blood that that day poured forth on the ground there came out of that death the hope that every one of us has for not only is this hour but for all the hours that are ahead. Ah, I cannot talk about my being planted in the ground and bearing the kind of fruit that God wants me to without understanding that the story of my life and faith as yours is tied to that great, majestic story of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of men.

And so it is that I say as perhaps you do, I cannot bear this kind of fruit myself, there is lack of integrity, there is a kind of brokenness of promise that I make, there is all these needs, these problems that dog me. And he says I will plant in your heart my seed and my life and it will grow forth into a thing of beauty. And all of us who know anything about life in Christ know that somehow this beginning, the Saviour in our lives, as once he came to Bethlehem, has reached its fruition in the loveliness of the roses that he grows.

I saw that life this week. We thought on Wednesday night that we would have a handful of people, all the excitement and agitation and then it was bitterly cold. But the amazing thing that happened was that we had to set up more tables and folks came in with a kind of a joy and an abandon that warmed our hearts. I thought about these youngsters that went out to sing for the aged, some of whom perhaps are listening today. And the thing about their singing was not that it was such a magnificent thing it was a childlike singing, it was the way they went around and greeted the old folks afterwards and the eagerness with which they took their hands and said Thanks for coming. I thought of this, there have been a number of you that have stopped by and said I want to help some family have a worthwhile Christmas. I do not want anyone to know this. But here are a few dollars or here is a check, perhaps a candle of hope can be lighted in someone home because of this. I thought of this life which while it is ½ planted in very common ground where nothing is expected, grows up to bear fruit which has in it integrity and the life of God. I thought of this as in the midst of this week we amazingly were able to get the music into the steeple and how we opened the windows to make sure it was all working right and the hymn that came through that night was He leadeth me, o blessed thought.

Friends, the most real thing that is loose in this world is that life of God made known in Christ, available for every heart. However hard and unlikely that heart may look. Dear people, let me remind you, Christmas was meant for our kind of world. A world in which there is Viet Nam and the Congo, a world in which great cities have become like jungles, a world in which there is prisons and ental hospitals, a world in which there are people just like you and me who in spite of our best intentions do not live as we ought. Yet he keeps believing in us. Is there any more unlikely ground, hard ground honestly, than your own heart at times? If this is the case then, do I dare let God plant that seed in me? And if he does, will I let it grow and if it grows, there will come not thistles but the loveliness and fragrance of a rose, or the fruit of grapes. By their fruits ye shall know them.
My friends on this day the answers are bigger than the problems. Hope runs more deep than despair. And life is greater than death and love always outruns hate, let this note sound in your homes, let it sound in your hearts, let it move across our community and ultimately let it conquer the world.

(Open hymnals to 194 — look at the words of this hymn — "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming")
Two Men and Two Houses

1. Close Together - Perhaps near a river
2. Very Much Alike
   - Spacious Rooms with a fireplace
   - Carpeting and lovely interior finish
   - Beautiful picture window
     - To stand and watch.
3. Yet These Houses Are Vastly Different
   - One Built on Rock
     - The Other on Stone
     - Catholic Student Center in Vermillion
4. The Foundation Is the Most Important
   - Our Experience with Tornadoes in Omaha
     - Everyone Bought Out All Houses, with strong foundations & basements
     - The Fires in the Northwest
     - How Many Homes, Standing?
The House Of Our Lives

1. The Stones Of Our Early Years
   - The Love Of Our Parents
   - The First Words - Our First Prayers

2. Then Building Ourselves
   - Our Learning Ourselves - A B.C.'s
   - The Responsibility Of Work
   - The Decision Of Marriage
   - The Wider Community Experiences
      - The Stones Of Our Building

3. The Great Storms
   - Overwhelming Sense Of Disappointment
   - Failure In Love Or Marriage
   - Terrific Sense Of Quiet And Failure
     - Giving In To Temptation
   - The Cruelty, Rages That Defeat Us.
     - Death Or Loneliness

→ The Cauldron Way
3.
The Foundation Is The Word of God

1. Not Many of The Things We Imagine
   - Power or Money or Influence.

2. Hearing All These Again Said.
   - Trusting God - Being Humble & Childlike
   - Opening Our Hearts Deep to God.
   - Being Careful About Our Language
     Having the Second Mile
   - His Is a Work for Me.
   - Finally Hearing Thine Is The Word
     of God.

3. Then Being Obedience
   - Living All Our Life In The Truth

4. The Foolish Man
   - He Hears - In One Ear and Out Another
   - No Obedience
   - He Was Not Heeded God.

For Two Weeks at Bible - The Student at Mission School
Dr. Fantome
Call To Worship

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Call To Prayer

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."
First Baptist Church
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

December 27, 1964
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O’Clock

“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME!
Organ Prelude—“Bethlehem” ........................................ Otto Malling
“A Rose Tree Hath Arisen” ..................................... Johannes Brahms
Call to Worship
Processional Hymn—“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” .................. 182
Invocation
Lord’s Prayer and Gloria

* * *
Dedication of Parents and Children

* * *

NO MORE LET SINS AND SORROWS GROW
Call to Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Choral Response
Duet—“The King of Love” ........................................... H. R. Shelley
Byrean Blacksmith, soprano; Jean Blacksmith, contralto

* * *

AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE
Christian Welcome and Announcements
Receiving Our Tithes and Offerings
Organ Offertory—“O Little Town of Bethlehem” .................... Richard Purvis
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication
*Anthem—“Great is the Father” .................................. George Handel
Senior High Choir

**Anthem—“What Child is This” ................................. Sir John Stainer

HE RULES THE WORLD WITH TRUTH AND GRACE
The Reading of the Holy Scriptures—Matthew 7:21-29
The Introit
The Sermon—“The House That God Builds” ........................ Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM
Hymn of Preparation for Baptism—“Away in a Manger” ........... 199
Service of Baptism
Hymn of Dedication and Decision—“As With Gladness Men of Old” ..... 196
Benediction and Choral Response
Moment of Silence
The Chimes
Postlude

*First Service Only **Second Service Only ***Ushers may seat latecomers

The broadcast this morning over KELO is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lemonds and Ethel in memory of Mrs. Margaret Lemonds.

The lovely Sanctuary flowers are given by Mrs. Fred Nelson, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nelson, Jr., in memory of Fred Nelson.
EVENING SERVICE
7:30 P.M.

A SPECIAL STUDENT SERVICE

A SPECIAL INVITATION

Dear Friends—The year that lies ahead will mark our 90th year as the people of God united in First Baptist Church to serve and witness for Christ. We expect this to be a year of praise and jubilee when we give thanks for all that God has done through our beloved church.

Therefore, you have a special invitation to be with us for the New Year’s Eve Communion at 9:00 in the Sanctuary. Will you lay aside all lesser plans to spend this hour in the House of God? This can be a time of confession, thanks and renewal for all of us. Each of us will receive communion by coming to a special table arranged across the front of our Sanctuary. You are invited by the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, to join in this service.

There will be coffee and friendly visiting for an hour preceding the Communion in Fellowship Hall.

In Christian love,
Your Pastors

---

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 27th—No Church School
9:45 a.m.—Membership Class, Chapel
   No Youth Supper or Afterglow

MONDAY, December 28th—4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts, Youth Room
   7:00 p.m.—Explorer Scouts, Youth Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29th—9:00 a.m.—Women’s Bible Study, Youth Room
   No Church Calling

WEDNESDAY, December 30th—6:45 a.m.—Men’s Breakfast—YMCA
   4:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts, Youth Room
   5:30 p.m.—Pheasant Supper for College Students and Servicemen, Fellowship Hall
   6:00 p.m.—Webelos, Youth Room
   No Midweek Prayer Service this week.

THURSDAY, December 31st—7:30 p.m.—Brief Diaconate meeting, Parlor
   8:00 p.m.—Coffee and Fellowship Hour
   9:00 p.m.—New Year’s Eve Communion in the Sanctuary

FRIDAY, January 1st—A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

---

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERIAL:
Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson.............Pastor
Rev. L. Thomas Harlan.............Christian Education
Mr. Robert Veninga.............Student Assistant

SECRETARIAL:
Miss LeeDel Howard.............Financial
Mrs. H. C. R. Olsen.............Pastor’s Assistant
Mrs. Clarence Anderson.............Church

MUSICAL:
Mr. Stanley L. DeFries.............Director
Dr. Maynard H. Berk.............Organist
Mr. Harold Wortman.............Youth
Miss Lois Harchanko.............Children

JANITORIAL:
Mr. James Timmerman.............Sexton
Mr. Lamont Reichelt.............Assistant
Mr. Russell Hubbard.............Assistant
"THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILDS"

December 27, 1964

My friends, here is a very simple picture of two men who build two houses. In my own imagination I have a picture of them putting up their houses next to each other. I see them building these houses by a river, a stream perhaps, not very large. One man I believe is in a hurry, he wants to get his house up fast. So he builds it on top of the ground. It's a lovely house. The other man takes a longer time. He digs down until he hits rock and puts in the footings, the foundation and on this he puts up his house. There are enough of you here who know about houses to know what I'm talking about. Now when these two houses are finished onw let me say, six months later than the other for these were slow house builders, we take a tour of the house. In the living room there is a nice picture window where the family can stand and look out at the traffic that passes by and it's all very lovely. At the end of this living room there is a fireplace. There is beautiful paint on the wall, wall to wall carpeting, there is a den, a kind of a playroom in back. The loveliest fixtures you can imagine in the kitchen and all the rest. There's only one basic difference. One is on rock and the other is on sand. When I was in Vermillion some time ago at the University of South Dakota our opening meeting was conducted in the Catholic Student Center with where the Newman Club meets. After the service was over it was a lovely building, the priest in charge took me around and the girl who is president of the Catholic Student Group said you know it cost us $50,000 extra to build on this what used to be a swamp, she said it was the best location that we could find and so we wanted to build here. But we had to go through the swamp and get on the rock and I said now why would you do that because the $50,000 extra was worth the location. Rock.

You see, friends, the thing that sometimes we dismiss as being unimportant according to Jesus is the essentials. I remember when we had a whole state of tornadoes in Kansas. You remember a little town called Udall a few miles from Wichita? One Saturday evening in about two minutes time 82 people died in that town, the town was wiped out. For when tornado warnings came up in the town where we lived, a town of about 11,000 people, you can imagine what happened. The phones began to go and people began to say, can I come to your house. Now the basements are not as common Kansas as they are here. The question was not, now listen to this carefully, what kind of cover if your house, do you have wall to wall carpeting? Do you have a fireplace in your house? The question was have you got a foundation and will you let me come down in your basement. And I will not forget to my dying day the fact that we had about 50 some people that came to the parsonage and in the midst of all of it, the power lines were cut for there was a tornado that swept through a mile and a half away, a trucker stopped hit a vast number of semi trailers like they were match boxes and through (threw) them out in pastures. And in the darkness of ur basement as the lights were out, we found a candle and one man in the grup said don't you think we ought to pray and thank God for the house with a basement in it? This was the way Jesus talked about building houses.
I could labor the point at great length but I think you understand it. It's as simple as this. Either a man's life is built on rock or it is built on sand. I do not care what the exterior of your life looks like. You may be cultured, you may be very sophisticated and suave. You may think you have the world by the tail, this is not the basic question. The basic question that Jesus is putting to men at the end of his sermon is Have you listened to what I have said and do you dare build on what I have said? Now it is a fundamental affirmation of faith that man that builds that way builds on rock, this is the gamble you take. And the man that does not build on this does not build on rock but on sand. Now a man's life is like a house. He starts as a baby, like the ones dedicated here today. He does not at the first know anything about life except his mother puts into his life rocks. She gives him love. If the child has a good father, when the father comes home from work he plays with the child, puts rocks into his life. Stones the building is going up now.

The first words the child learns are the word learned at home. They can be words of blessing or words of cursing. Jesus has already pointed that out earlier in the sermon. The first prayer if the child learns to pray will not be learned in Sunday School, perhaps, but in the home and I want to say to some of you here who belittle prayer, the day will come when you'll rue the fact you did not teach your youngsters how to pray. Mark my words. But now the child leaves home. He moves out to school. Now it is no longer someone else giving rocks, now he must take the stones of life. The teacher writes the ABC's on the blackboard, the child either learns or he doesn't. He moves on through the grades. And into the more complicated areas of study. He may go on into college. Now the great rocks, the stones are being put in. He moves into a job, he is given responsibility this becomes to him like a stone that he puts into the building. Now he is given some community responsibility, the community comes to him and says Will you do this. Now you see the stones are still being laid. There is the fact of marriage. Now children come to him and the house is going up, it will soon be finished. But you see Jesus said you can do all of this, all of this, and not build on rock. The fundamental question that Jesus put is not how does it go when the sun shines and it's lovely outside, the question that he puts is how does it go when the storms of life come, when the stresses and strains tear at the beams— I recall visiting the First Baptist Church in Providence, Rhode Island. One of the most historic churches of America, as a matter of fact, my initials are in the steeple, like they are here. It's an important thing to know how high a steeple goes, because perhaps on the basis of how high it goes you can tell how deep it goes and in 1938 when the hurricane swept into Providence in a fantastic storm on the eastern seaboard, the amazing thing was that when the tidal wave and the winds hit that old church made largely of wooden beams, it stood and men in the city would say that building went, that one went, that one went but the old church stood because it had great, great foundations. It is this fundamental question that Jesus asks of us. When disappointments come, and I assure
you friend, you may be only youngsters here today but you will
have disappointments. You counted on this but you got that instead.
There may be a series of frustrations, all the way from a kid in
school who is disappointed because the girl he wants pays no
attention to him and I assure you that to a teenager this is not
a small thing at all, to the man who last week suffered terrific
reverses in business but you will not escape disappointments.

Jesus was a realist. He understood this. Take for
example the storm of guilt that pours in on us. There is no person
here who has reached the age of moral accountability who does not
know what it is to carry the burden of guilt like an undigested
lump in his stomach, like a heart that beats because he is
ashamed. Jesus is saying, How does it go in that hour. Jesus
is asking of us how does it go in the hour when storms that you
did not count on that were not of your own making strike you.
I know as I look over this congregation that at the beginning of
1964 there were many of you here that did not expect the storms
to come, that did come to you. Death, hospital bills, a boy that
you prayed over that did not turn toward home as you expected,
ah, it is of this kind of stuff that men drink sooner or later
is it not? So that Jesus is saying, you have to test the house
not just by how it goes when everything is lovely. You have to
test it by the way things go when everything has been taken away.
I am reminded of the fact that we were called by a certain man
in this town who has asked of us if we would not consider in this
church bringing a Cuban boy into this community. It is a decision
that we will ask our church to make. This is a 14 year old boy
who did not ask to be born in Cuba but when he becomes 16 years of
age according to this man who is a distant relative of his, this
boy will go into an army and work like a forced slave in labor.
You see the storms of life come to us young and old.

Now Jesus is saying, and this is the climax of the whole
matter, there is just one thing that is an adequate rock and this
is the word of God. Now my dear friends, do not lose me here.
You say well here we go down the same old road again. But I want
to ask of you, an you think of anything better than the word of
God? Do you think you can somehow build a wall with wealth that will
hold the house? Do you think that power will hold the house?
Look at Kruschev in 1964. Do you think that somehow status, the
externals of life, its wrapping, its tinsel, will hold. If we
believe this, under God we are miserable fools. Sooner or later
a man has to bet his life on something that he will build
constructively and we are miserable people if we think that somehow
this is secondary stuff. This is something that can be put off,
this is peripheral. The central fact of any building is how deep
the soundings go down into the rock beneath it. So Jesus said
these things that I have told you, this that I have spoken to you
is the very word of God. Blessed are the poor in spirit for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven; blessed are the meek for they
shall inherit the earth; blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness. You are the salt of the earth. You are the
light of the world. Let no man stand and pray his prayers in
public while his inner life is like a rotten cave of bones. For somehow what Jesus was driving at all the way through was can you trust God, can you commit the intimacies of life to him, the depth of life, the heart of life to him. For if you can, then a man lies behind anxiety. He lives a life of joy and a wonder and a glory. He is like a man who comes in saying Lord, Lord and he means what he says. It is that man who dares trust that God who has built on the rock.

In the last analysis I must say to you that the final word of God is not a spoken word, it is a living word. Take the analogy of Christmas. I can give you gifts, send you roses, boxes of candy, buy cars for you to try to say I love you, but sooner or later if I love you I must come to the door of your house, knock on it and when you come to the door say to you Here I am, I love you. This is what God has done. The whole incredible meaning of the incarnation that is after the words of the ‘waw’ and the words of the prophets then God himself came and stood at the door of mankind and said, I give myself to you. This becomes the ultimate rock on which a man builds his life so that later on the apostle said there is only one foundation and that is even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Like many of you we have had a wonderful time together as a family. As a matter of fact I came home from Kearney where Ruth's folks live, late last night and I wouldn't begin to tell you the kind of unique, special kind of joy we have when we get together. Grandma's and all and of course it's wonderful to have your son home from college. I look over this congregation and I see that there are some of you in the same happy situation. There are two things that Randy told about his college experience. That I thought about driving home last night. The one was the divinity student at Yale Divinity School who the week before Christmas took his own life. And the note that he left behind said in effect, I don't think I'll make it so I'm checking out. I want to tell you, that men do not only build on said in the market place, they build on it in the pulpit too. When I heard of this I thought of all the fellows I have known in the ministry whose life is gone because there were inadequate resources. They are like ships whose sails are fluttering in the wind driven by every wind that blows on them. But there was another wonderful man who took our son to dinner. This is why I hope you'll come to our house, students, because we want to repay in a way the kindness that we have known by at least opening our home to you. This man is Dr. Kenneth Scott Lauterette, the great church historian. Whose work on church history is definitive, a history of Christianity, who was gracious enough to ask a freshman out for a Sunday dinner and in the course of it, Randy said, we talked about everything from sex to belief. And finally he said if at any time you would like to visit with me about questions you've got, this is my phone number. And he said I was just overwhelmed. This wonderful old man, 73 years of age who writes 400 words every day, now, ready for publication when it is through who walks about five miles a day to keep himself in shape, as he says, makes a lot of us feel guilty doesn't it? And who took
time out for one student, a bachelor, who has devoted his life to students. And when Randy said I tried to say goodbye to him and I said thank you Doctor and he cut me right off and he said my friends call me Ken. A man who had built on the rock.

Friends, what are you building on? That's the question of the Sermon on the Mount. And in the end, amid the ravages of life, and finally in God's fire of judgment it will be known what you and I built on. The lowliest peasant here or the most lofty prince.