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The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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Minister



Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.—Deuteronomy, 32:7.

And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. And an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said to them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you; Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on peace, good will toward men.

----- Luke 2:8-14

"O Almighty God, who by the birth of thy holy One into the world didst give thy true light to dawn upon our darkness; Grant that as thou hast given us to believe in the mystery of His incarnation, and hast made us partakers of the divine nature, so in the world to come we may ever abide with him, in the glory of his kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord."

The Sunday School Christmas exercises will be held next Thursday evening, Dec. 23rd. A good program is being prepared, and the usual tree and Santa with his treats are expected.

The many friends of Rev. Irving Maxwell and family will be interested to learn that he is to retire from the active ministry, and has purchased a home in Haddon Heights, N.J. (212 Eighth avenue) . Mrs O.N. Perry in her 96th year, is quite well and busy at this season remembering her friends far and near with Christmas cards. The manse here is honored with one of them.

Christ Eternal

Some time ago Mrs Mary Adams of Toronto, Canada, who is a good friend of the Bulletin, sent us the Magazine of the Deer Park United Church, which contains a Sermon-Lecture by the Pastor, the Rev. Dr. G. Stanley Russel, that pays a glowing tribute to the person and character of our Lord and Saviour Jesus; and we determined then that it would be a fitting Christmas message for our readers.

The Sermon-lecture is based upon the popular book "Gone with the Wind," of which an appreciative review is given; and then from the picture of misery, suffering and sin, together with the failure of worldly hopes and treasures, the speaker draws some pointed moral and religious lessons, having a vital bearing upon the ideals and customs of the present times.

The last lesson is a "Recall to Religion" from which we quote a few sentences that will prepare us for the closing passage,--a beautiful and moving ascription of the divine and human qualities of the larger and eternal Christ.

"As a matter of fact..there is a dreadful nemesis for those who despise or neglect spiritual things. Those homes which are wrecked and those marriages which crash are not those homes which are built beside the altar or those marriages in which the church is a sanctuary for the pledging of vows, not a theatre for the display of wardrobes. There has never yet been an exception to the threat (or promise, if you will) that men shall reap what they sow, that the serpent will bite those who break down a hedge, and that the soul that sinneth shall die unless delivered by the redeeming grace of God. We have not got rid of hell by pretending it isn't there, and we have not dismissed God by bidding the saxophone drown the church organ.....

"Yes, one would fain believe that..people are coming to their senses again, and realizing that life without God is suicide, and

that the hope beyond the grave is only for those who, when the earthly house of their tabernacle is dissolved, have their building of God eternal in the heavens.

"Safety is assured in the surrender of the heart to Jesus Christ. There is no other safety; no other satisfying life; no other way to a good death.

"That Christ who has been before Abraham, and is the same yesterday, today, and forever; Who underlies all religion and every religion; Who spoke in every prophet whatever his race or color; that Christ who is not one individual but the everlasting presence of God in man from the foundation of the earth until now; that Christ who has had many incarnations, who has expressed himself through all the churches, sounded through the bells of every temple ever reared, breathed through the prayers of all the synagogues ever built, cried from the minarets of every mosque whence men and women have been summoned to prayer, lifted His hands in blessing over every sincere worshipper that ever knelt by any altar-- that Christ whose creed is truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, whether it be the truth of science, of history, or art; that Christ whose shrine is all beauty, whether it be the Taj Mahal, or the Air for the G string, or the statue of Venus de Milo.; that Christ who is the dawn and the daylight, the twilight and the sunset, Who is the nurse and the doctor, the artist and the singer, the voice of the bird and the golden bowl and the silver cord; that Christ who is everthing divine that ever was and everything human that is in the process of becoming, and Who in the face of the anti-Christ of war and rapine and hatred and greed still bears His witness from the Cross men make for Him, and still rises again from the grave men dig for Him-- that Christ whose face is Jesus's face and all the faces which make the composite exquisite human face which is Jesus's face--not the bearded pilgrim of misery and narrowness, not the mechanized Messiah of the theologians.. (over)

but that Christ who, with the glorious eyes of youth looks into the faded hearts of disillusioned men and women and revives them: THAT CHRIST stands behind the veils and within the shadows waiting for His own—of whom, if you let your weak heart speak, you know yourself one. It is that Christ Who stands at the top of the ladder that reaches from your humble Bethel heavenward; that Christ who governs the commerce of angels between the unseen and the visible; that Christ who gives on each perplexing path of life a Companion whose face is as the Son of Man, and that Christ unto Whom with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven those with unveiled faces do give all honor and majesty, power and blessing as if with glad and full surrender of all they have and are and think— most important of all those thoughts— they turn out into the dusty crowded ways of a lost world to follow Jesus home to their Father's house."

More publicity for the Furnace is promised by the Federal Writers' Project, a State division of the WPA, who write interesting accounts of historic places and events, and send these to all the schools and libraries, etc. of the State. These "Bulletins" have been coming to Oxford for the past year, and at the suggestion of our Mrs Wm. Dawe they have prepared a very good story about Oxford's historic Furnace, and the Editor has just received a copy from the State Director, with a request for our "opinion and criticisms on it." Which of course will be done most gladly.

We are much pleased with it, and will be able to correct some historical mistakes that they have made from following old histories.

It will be sent out to the schools, etc. some time during next year, and we predict that our home folks will be pleased with it.

It will doubtless add greatly to a general knowledge of the furnace history throughout the State.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

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Ladies' Aid Society

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Leader MRS. E. T. GREEN

