

# First Congregational Church

JAMES WILLIAM FIFIELD, JR., Minister

## Ministerial Staff

R. C. M. FISKE, Membership  
ARTHUR LESLIE JACOBS, Music



A DEBT-FREE CHURCH

JAMES B. WILSON, High School Church  
RALPH C. WADDELL, Education  
FRITZ KUNKEL, Pastoral Consultant

TRINITY SUNDAY

JUNE 20, 1943

## MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Eleven o'clock in the Sanctuary

It is expected that Worshippers will assume a reverent attitude upon entering the House of God

### Liturgy of Praise

Organ—Theme with Variations - - - Louis Thiele

Opening Sentences

Procession—Hymn\*

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken (405)  
(Here let the people rise and sing)

Doxology

Invocation

Versicles and Responses

Lord's Prayer and Gloria Patri\*  
(Here let the people be seated)

### Liturgy of Confession and Absolution

Call to Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and have done those things which we ought not to have done. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare Thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore Thou those who are penitent according to Thy promises declared unto mankind through Jesus Christ our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

Meditation Upon the Cross

Spoken . . . Silent . . . Organ . . . Choral

Let My Prayer Come Up Into Thy Presence  
Henry Purcell

Pastoral Prayer and Choral Amen\*

Meditation Hymn—Sweet Hour of Prayer (230)

### Announcements

### Liturgy of Guidance

Anthem\*

Blessed Art Thou - - - Henry Overley  
Soloist, Merwyn Dant, baritone

Reading of the Scriptures—John X:1-12

Anthem—He Watching Over Israel - F. Mendelssohn

Hymn—Sun of My Soul (61)

Sermon—"GUILTY CONSCIENCES"

Text: Romans II:1, "Thou condemnest thyself."

### Liturgy of Dedication

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Organ—Air - - - S. Mattheson

Congregation and Choir Response

"All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own  
have we given Thee."

Prayer of Dedication

Benediction

Procession—Hymn

Turn Back, O Man (385)

Organ

\*Following these points in the Service, Ushers will seat late comers

The Minister extends greetings at the Chancel after the eleven o'clock service

## OTHER SERVICES OF THE DAY

Children's Church—Meets in main sanctuary at 9:30 for Children's Day Services. Parents and friends welcome.

Church School—Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Kindergarten at 9:30 and 11 o'clock.

Dr. Waddell presides at the 11 o'clock service.

Dr. Fifield's sermon subject for June 27 is "HEAVY CROSSES."

## SUNDAY EVENING CLUB

Eight fifteen in the Sanctuary

RALPH LEONARD PHILLIPS, speaker

DR. JAMES W. FIFIELD, JR., presiding

Ernestine Holmes, organist

Organ—March - - - Robert Schumann

Community Hymn Sing at 7:45 led by Merwyn Dant

Invocation

Word of Greeting and Welcome

### Offering

That the Club may be self-supporting, that the speaker may be outstanding and that attendants may be self-respecting.

Organ—Prelude to "The Deluge" - S. Saint Saëns

Address—"WHEN JAPAN ATTACKS"

Forum Discussion



# Devotional Readings for Our Times

Prayer: Our Father, grant that the grace and mercy which we have found in thee may dictate what and how much we do for one another. Amen.

## Monday

Read Mark 1:32-39

We cannot allow ourselves to become heir to the whole of God's vast concern. We must let some small portion of that concern seek us out and claim us as its champion and its servant.

This was the wisdom of Jesus. The world stretched out before him on every hand. He served the needs of but one small portion of the whole. In his first day's service at Capernaum, the myriad needs of men came to light. They needed the word. They needed healing. They needed teaching. Yet, following his early morning of prayer he chose to concentrate on preaching, saying, "Let us go elsewhere that I may preach there also, for to this end came I forth."

One pair of empty plough handles points our way. They wait that our hands should be laid upon them. They call upon our strength and effort to drive one straight furrow down a single field.

Some small corner of the great vineyard which God has planted invites the coming of a single husbandman. Let him take that under his care, to prune, to water and to harvest; making return to the Lord of the vineyard from the yield of his own small field.

No one can do it all. Each can and should choose a small portion of God's vast concern to be his responsibility, as it is his privilege.

## Tuesday

Read Psalm 137:1-6

The Lord's song is a song of truth. Its themes are justice and mercy. Its burden is of goodness and love. Yet if it be sung, it must needs be sung in an alien world where truth is overshadowed by the mighty presence of lies; where the lovely is eclipsed by heavy clouds; where goodness walks as a pigmy in a world of giants. In this alien world, dishonor is the pattern of much that happens. Injustice looms large. The impure and the unholy fill the heavens with the sound of their cry.

Yet the things of which the Lord's song would utter itself are still there. Truth still utters its voice. Honor still stands erect as a shining thing. The just, the pure, the lovely can stand up and be counted.

These things are here. They are here to stay. These things are here to increase. These things are here to triumph. In the final concourse of the victors will be only the blessed men of meekness, of mercy, and of goodness.

## Wednesday

Read Acts 16:16-25

We are now as men under authority. Events which we did not choose command us to go and we go, to come and we come. Circumstances beyond our control dictate what we must do and we do it. Necessity pipes unto us, we dance. It wails and we mourn. Outwardly we are being bound. Yet, as Phyllis Bottome makes one of her characters say: "Nothing that happens to us in life matters much, nor for very long. It is how we take it that matters and that matters very much and matters always." Though outwardly bound, we may be inwardly free, free to preserve our own integrity, to think our own thoughts, to determine for ourselves the meaning which events shall have, to give things a value that is all our own.

To keep that freedom requires (1) that, like the chimney swift, we rise a long while before day from the darkness of the chimney pit to "bathe ourselves in a light that has not yet touched the earth"; (2) that, like the pioneers, we watch to keep our clearings of insight and value free against the ever-encroaching wild; (3) that, like the invalid, whose future was judged to be dark, we declare our purpose to determine the color which our days shall have for us.

## Thursday

Read Luke 10:38-42

The Bible warns us that we shall not be "able to do that thing which is least" for ourselves.

We can forage for daily bread. The more than bread for which we hunger is out of our reach. In sunny weather we can keep a roof over our heads. A shelter from sudden storm is not within our power to build. We have oil and to spare for light in early evening, but at midnight, with its cries, we know our lamps have gone out.

If not from ourselves, whence cometh this living water of faith, courage and endurance?

The practices of piety have been charged with cultivating "being" at the expense of "doing." Yet, only in such practices as lift empty hands to God can we learn what is to be filled.

Quietism is held to be a cowardly looking to God for what we are supposed to do for ourselves. Yet only as we are quiet before him, can the grace of His giving be known.

Passive, "we behold as in a mirror the glory of God and are changed into the same likeness."

Sitting at his feet, hearing his words, changes are wrought within us that make us to realize that our sufficiency is from God.

## Friday

Read Psalm 11

For so long now, safety for our lives and for our interests has meant dwelling in a safe place. We have thought to keep our loved ones and our hopes safe because no danger threatened, because we had surrounded these things with proper safeguards, because there was sufficient protection available.

Where is such safety now? Does it come to this, that we are left with only our uncertainties, our fears, as we gather about us all that we hold dear?

The writer of the eleventh Psalm faced this very question. The situation of his life was no longer safe. Men were bidding him flee like a bird to the mountain that in his removedness he might find safety. True, the pillars of law and order were crumbling. Life, like an archer, drew back its bow, the arrow on the string, and waited only for the cover of darkness to destroy. Where was safety?

The answer was expressed in the writer's resolve: "I take up my shelter in God," he says, "in remembrance that God is still on His throne, that His eye still sees all and that vengeance and reward are still within his power." There — in the place that everyone can find safety, he found it — in God.

## Saturday

Read Matthew 18:23-35

One of our church leaders has termed the Golden Rule a half-way house. When we "do unto others" as we would have them "do unto us" we have gone, in our dealing with our fellows, about half the way that Christians are supposed to go. The distance yet to be travelled is set for us in the demand that we neither tarry nor linger until we have made God's dealing with us the measure of our dealing with one another.

What God has done to us we must give in "kind" to another. If God has bothered with us we ought to have concern for each other. If God has borne our burdens we ought to "bear one another's burdens." If God has shown patience, reserving his judgment hopeful of us, in like spirit should we deal with each other.

We must give men in degree according to what God has given us. The limit of God is our limit. God has gone the second mile with us. God has turned the other cheek. Where God stops, there we may stop. If men ever ask, "Why so much" ours to answer, "God has given as much to me."



## SOLDIER REMEMBERS YMCA CAMP

Transcript of a letter from a Los Angeles soldier in camp on the Atlantic Coast. He had been a Los Angeles YMCA boy and attended one of the famous Los Angeles YMCA summer camps (Little Green Valley).

The letter begins just after the boy has described the gruelling experience of a three-day forced march on maneuvers through a driving rainstorm.

"Now it just happens that I was keen for it. The rain made me feel clean and there were plenty of others who took the three days as fun, but there was also a number who considered the rain to be an arrangement of the army for their personal discomfort. For some reason they were also the ones who thought they had to work too hard on K.P., whose feet hurt in drill, who arrive late to line-ups. I'm sorry that the army doesn't test men for a sense of humor. We would have a better class of soldiers if it did.

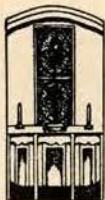
"Maybe what I mean is that the experience of a boys' club should be compulsory in education. I can spot the men who are used to sharing and working with others as easily as if they were painted red. They enter everything with enthusiasm and they smile, and if they feel all empty inside they hide the emptiness so that no one can tell, except maybe when we sit around in the evening and they talk of their families and homes and jobs that they left behind.

"I told you about the boy at Douglas who told Tom he was a Ragger. Well, the experience led me to try an experiment. One of the men here impressed me especially. I liked his attitude and his leadership. When there was work to be done, he was there doing it.

"So one day when we were working together I suddenly said, 'Hi, Ragger, what camp did you go to?'

"It was a thousand-to-one chance, but it worked. 'Green Valley, one of the Los Angeles Y Camps,' he answered.

"Now I'm not saying that camp did that for everyone who went there or that there aren't plenty of fine men who are fine for countless other reasons, but if the Los Angeles YMCA has been able to stamp even a few men with the visible signs of practicing idealism, then it has done a great and worthwhile job."



### THE WORSHIP NICHE

*He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*

Proverbs 25:28.

## Because He Will Not Return

You are sitting in the room he left. The open cupboard shows all his workaday and best clothes hanging cleaned and pressed against his return. And now the paper in your hand says he will not return.

If I might do so I would sit in that clean, still, empty room with you. But after that I wish we might leave the empty room and go out where the children play and the birds sing and flowers grow in the sunshine, where they are all alive with the first taste of life.

The papers say that he is dead, but that is not true. The truth is that he will not return. He went adventuring out ahead of us, following the call to give his life — no, not his real life but that part of it which he shared with us here. That part of life he gave wholly and freely, not careless of us but because he was so mindful of us all. So he no longer needs the body we knew. It is folded away in Mother Earth or in the clean salt sea.

His first taste of life, his apprentice work, is over. We had no thought it would be that way. We thought of him as following us in our long monotone of work and care, his vigor like ours slowing down at last to the anxious step of advancing age. We had no adventure, only a steady plodding through many years. But for him a trumpet sounded! We had thought the days of chivalry gone forever, and yet in an hour our plain man went away like a knight to rescue the innocent and the distressed. He has done his devoir and now the trumpets are sounding for him on the other side. He is now wonderfully, tremendously alive.

We taught him the faith of the Everlasting Arms and the Everlasting Life. In that faith he went out, not speaking of it so openly as we do but holding to it and proving it like a man. Now it is our turn to believe that faith as never before and to practice it. He is alive in the paradise of God. What that means passes all imagining, but surely it means that his love for us is illuminated by a great light.

Do you think that delighted and full of wonder as he is he would want us to sit and mourn with folded hands in his old empty room? To grieve and harden and grow bitter? To turn the room where once he was so gay into a museum and a morgue? No! He wants us to lift up our hearts and catch a glimpse of the vision so clear around him.

Wouldn't he say, "If you could know what I do now, you would have no grief. You would put on festive clothes and sing to God in church and out. I've been promoted. I am busy in a great service. The old frustrations are all gone. We do great things here. Let someone into my old room. Give my things to someone who needs them. And when you get going in your new happiness, go to other houses where men like me will not return and get the truth across to the people there. Where we are, we can see better how God is working His purpose out. It costs a great price and we have paid a little of it, and you are paying some of it, but it is all marvelously worth while." — From *Forward — Day by Day*.

IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE MEETINGHOUSE DUE? IF SO, RENEW!



## Free America

Lieut. Col. Russell E. Clarke

Breathes there a man with soul so dead, who is not proud of his native land and at the least provocation will not boast of his country's Army, Navy, scenery, climate, and family?

You will have noticed that it is impossible to disassociate a name from the person who has the name — and, because of this, names that are repulsive to one are attractive to another. Down through the ages names have been the material history was made of — good names and bad names — names like Nero that represent all that's wrong and names like Paul that represent all that's right. Ecclesiastes 7:1 states, "A good name is better than precious ointment" — so it would appear that names, like ointment, may give off an aroma, pleasant or offensive. So we name our sons after Paul.

The whole Christian world looks to us for leadership in the things that count for time and eternity. Many obligations rest upon us. I have space only to mention one. Every American will want to express his thanks to Almighty God for the equality, freedom and opportunity that is his. How can this be done more effectively than by attending some place of worship today and, in the quietness and solemnity of the church of his choice, lift up his heart to God — not as the Pharisee prayer, "I thank Thee that I am not as other men," but "I thank God I am an American because of the opportunity I have as a free man to live a life before the whole world a credit to the highest traditions of the Christian founders of this Nation."

## Is It Worth 2c a Week?

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IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE MEETINGHOUSE DUE? IF SO, RENEW!

## ANNUAL MEETING REACTIONS

Below are a few comments received by the Meetinghouse on the Annual Meeting, June 9, emphasizing the success of the event.

"The emphases placed on responsibility of our church for coöperation with denominational and interdenominational interests was to me an outstanding feature of the Annual Meeting." — *Miss Louise Atsatt.*

"It was the best Annual Church Meeting I have ever attended." — *Mr. Dean E. Christy.*

"I thought it was a perfectly splendid meeting. There was an unusually fine group of people and the reports were most gratifying. Everyone I spoke with was delighted with it." — *Miss Sue D. Barnwell.*

"It was the best Annual Meeting since I don't know when! The reports were snappier and timed much better than several times heretofore. I think we have a right to feel greatly encouraged by the even keel our Church has maintained during these troublesome times. It should give us confidence for the future." — *Judge Edward T. Bishop.*

"I think the meeting was excellent. It was one of the best managed meetings I have ever attended." — *Mrs. Margaret Daniels.*

"The program was outstanding and one of the highlights of the activities at First Church. Dr. Fifield should certainly be congratulated on his fine work." — *Dr. Clarence W. Pierce.*

"I thought it was a splendid meeting, well attended, particularly in view of present conditions. I was highly satisfied when I heard the nominations for next year." — *Mr. Rex W. Kramer.*

"The meeting was splendid. It showed decided progress in all directions." — *Judge Hartley Shaw.*

"One of the most significant features of First Church is the constructive religious influence it exerts, not only locally but nationally as well." — *Rev. John L. Mixon.*

"The laudatory messages received from church dignitaries at home and throughout the nation and read at the Annual Meeting were intensely thrilling." — *Dr. Bert B. Boyd.*