

Booklet of Sermon Notes

Earl C. Davis

Petersham, MA

1942-1943¹

Part 1: 1942

January 4, 1942

"A Suggestion about Prayer"

Service 1. Page 3

Readings: Matthew 6:5-15; Matthew 23:13-14; Matthew 26:36-46;
Luke 23:34

Hymn Numbers: 60, 144, 349

Purpose of prayer is not to change God, but to change ourselves.

Pythagoras. 580-500. Greek.²

F.C.C. Broadcasting Station. Location of.

Axiom

47th Problem of Euclid³

[The sermon ends with a drawing of a triangle.]

¹ For the years 1938 through 1947 Davis collected his sermon notes in more-or-less annual hand-bound booklets. This Booklet contained sermons for two years, 1942 and 1943, 101 different sermon notes. I have separated the transcription of the notes into two shorter-although still long-parts, the first with the notes for sermons given during 1942 and the second for notes given during 1943. Here are the notes for 1942.

² Pythagoras of Samos, best current estimates for his dates are c. 570 BCE - 495 BCE. Greek polymath.

³ Euclid (c. 325 BCE - c. 265 BCE) Greek mathematician, famous for his book on Geometry, *The Elements*. Euclid's 47th problem is also known as the Pythagorean Theorem, which states that, for a right-angled triangle, the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the two other sides.

January 11, 1942⁴

"International in Religion"

2nd Sunday in January

2-7. Litany

Readings: Matthew 6:19-34; Marcus Aurelius, *Pilot*⁵

Hymns: 16, 133-103, 75

Marcus Aurelius. 121-180

Emperor, Stoic, 161-180

Wrote in Greek

Thoughts, not published until 1558 in Zurich from mms.
since ???.

First translated into English in. 1734.

Long's translation, 1880, 2nd edition.⁶

Two-fold: The immediate and the remote.

⁴ Davis has written "1941" but the placement of the sermon in the booklet for 1942, and the fact that January 11th fell on a Sunday in 1942, not 1941, suggest this was a mistake.

⁵ Possibly a reference to John Gillespie Magee's 1941 poem, "High Flight;" see the sermon for January 18, 1942.

⁶ *Meditations of Marcus Aurelius Antonius, Emperor of the Romans*, trans., George Long, Chicago: Cornelius H. Shaver, 1882. This edition is dedicated by the publishers to Ralph Waldo Emerson.

January 18, 1942

Amherst, Massachusetts

Installation of R.M.L.H.⁷

"The Way of the Spirit"

Reading: Matthew 17:1-13, Poem Pilot⁸

Hymn Numbers: 28, 79, 348

Story of the transfiguration

The uniqueness and the universality of any event or incident.

What was happening? A critical moment.

"Let us go to the hills and talk it over, apart." A man and his intimates.

Face set towards Jerusalem

"Am I right? If I am right, have I the stuff in me to carry through?"

The disciples were asking, "Is he real? Or just a babbler?"

As they progressed, they began to feel certain, that the man under whose influence they had given up all to follow, was to be depended upon, of the spirit and quality of the great Moses and Elijah, they saw behind the moment the great creative power of God. "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."⁹

Qualities, substantial, dependable.

⁷ Robert M.L. Holt served as minister of the Unitarian Unity Church in Amherst for just one year, 1941-2.

⁸ Possibly a reference to John Gillespie Magee's 1941 poem, "High Flight."

⁹ Matthew 3:17.

January 18, 1942

Petersham, Massachusetts

"The Way of Holiness"

Service 3. Litany

Readings: Isaiah 35; S.B. Page 209; Bojer, *The Great Hunger*;¹⁰
M.R.R.+P., page 207.

Hymn Numbers: 140-141, 250, 274

Chapter 35, Exile

Chapter 34, God's anger against the nation, but 35 is a glorified and ecstatic picture of what will be the condition of the returned exiles.

The Universe is alive. So are we.

1st The way of Expectancy

2nd The way of Adventure

3rd The way of Discovery

4th The way of Peace: Satisfaction: Happiness

Peace: Happiness: Satisfaction.

Examination.

¹⁰ Johan Bojer (1872-1959) Norwegian writer. His book, *The Great Hunger*, was first published in 1916 and first translated into English in 1918.

January 25, 1942

Service 4, Page 17 with Litany

Hymn Numbers: 93, 81, 421

Dr. Charles E. Park, Preacher¹¹

¹¹ Charles Edward Park (1873-1962) Unitarian minister of the First Church of Boston from 1906 until his retirement in 1946.

February 1, 1942

"Atonement, Reconciliation"

1-3 Litany

Readings: Leviticus 16:18- ; Matthew 5:17-26

Hymns: 27, 102, 280

The Azazel ceremony¹²

The two goats. Chosen by lot. One offered as a sacrifice to the Lord. Other: scapegoat. To Azazel.

The story of the Army mule who went down into the river on the Mexican border in 1916.¹³

Prof. Leuba: See "Standard" for January 1942.¹⁴

1. The Root of Religion: Urge to a better life.
2. George Soule, in *New Republic*, Frustrated passion, Hitler.¹⁵

¹² See Leviticus 16:1-34. According to the Book of Enoch, Azazel was a fallen angel. The scapegoat was sent into the wilderness for Azazel, perhaps to placate that evil spirit.

¹³ According to "The Mexican Expedition, 1916-1917," by Julie Irene Prieto, in *The U.S. Army Campaigns of World War I*, on the night of April 10, 1916, while negotiating with the Mexican Army, "someone turned loose a mule to charge into his [the U.S.] troops. ... [A] crowd gathered in the plaza as a woman whipped them into a frenzy shouting, 'Viva Villa!' and 'Viva Mexico!' ... Though no evidence exists that foreign agents incited the mob, the presence of this man [thought to be a German] caused the [U.S.] Major to suspect Germany of a covert plant to cause a wider diplomatic rift between the United States and Mexico." See https://history.army.mil/html/books/077/77-1/cmhPub_077-1.pdf, p. 36

¹⁴ James H. Leuba (1868-1946) American psychologist best known for his contributions to the psychology of religion. His PhD came from Clark University under the supervision of Clark's President, G. Stanley Hall.

¹⁵ George Henry Soule, Jr. (1887-1970) an American labor economist and a long-time editor and contributor to *The New Republic*.

February 8, 1942

"Years of the Modern"

2-8

Readings: N.T. Matthew 4:1-11

Hymns: 6, 378, 416-360

Four Names:

1. Emerson, May 25, 1803, died 4/27/1883¹⁶
2. Whitman, B. May 31, 1815, D. 3/26/92¹⁷
3. James, Born Jan. 11, 1842¹⁸
4. Lincoln. Born Feb 12, 1809, D. 4/15/65¹⁹

Whitman on Lincoln

This dust was once the man,
Gentle, plain, just and resolute, under whose cautious
hand,
Against the foulest crime in history known in any land or
age,
Was saved the Union of these States.

Leaves of Grass, p. 263²⁰

"Our National fabric, with all its benefits, its memories, and
its hopes." 1st Inaugural²¹

¹⁶ Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) originator of American Transcendentalism.

¹⁷ Walt Whitman (1819-1892) American poet.

¹⁸ William James (1842-1910) American psychologist and philosopher, co-founder of American pragmatism.

¹⁹ Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) 16th President of the United States.

²⁰ Walt Whitman's poem, "This Dust Was Once The Man" is in his *Leaves of Grass*, Boston: Small, Maynard & Co., 1897, p. 263.

²¹ From Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861.

February 15, 1942

"Necessity is the Mother of Invention"

"He learned obedience by the things which he suffered."

Hebrews 5:8

3-12: Litany

Readings: Luke 3:21-23, 4:14-21, Emerson's Divinity School Address²²

Hymns: 47, 384, 272

Wm James V.of R.E., 508²³

All religion:

1. An uneasiness
2. Its solution
 - a. Something wrong about us.
 - b. We are saved from that wrong by making proper connection with the higher powers.

²² Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) originator of American Transcendentalism. His July 15, 1838 Harvard Divinity School address was a radical repudiation of then current religious doctrine at Harvard's Divinity School in favor of moral intuition.

²³ William James (1842-1910) American psychologist and philosopher, co-founder of American pragmatism. Davis references his 1902 book, *Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study in Human Nature*, New York: The Modern Library.

February 22, 1942²⁴

Loomis School

"Great Moments"

To the victor belongs the spoils. To one the ashes of an Empire.
To another the spirit of the age to come. A Chinese creed.

Readings: Mark 14:22-42

Hymn Numbers:

Pilot:

The Garden of Gethsemane. Not only an event of the past, but one
of the great parts of the life of every one of us.

The furniture in the flood of 27.²⁵ Old. Well-made. Came out all
right. The cheaply made glued stuff just could not stand the
events.

The old Concord coach at 300 ann. of Windsor. L. Downing.
Everyone must be inspected.²⁶

College mate who won the great prize in mathematics by cheating.
We all knew it.

"Quizlings"

Where and when are these victories won? In the plodding events
of daily life. Etc.

Our imagination is stunned by some dramatic event. How we wish
that we might ring true. But we forget the long hours of quiet,
dreary plodding that prepares for them.

²⁴ Two of the three pages of sermon notes for this February 22,
1942, sermon were mistakenly bound in the booklet of sermon
notes for 1941. I have moved them to their correct position in
the booklet of sermon notes for 1942-1943; I have also included
a scan of these notes in the edited scan of the 1942-1943
booklet.

²⁵ The Mississippi River flood of 1927 was the most destructive
river flood in the history of the United States.

²⁶ The Concord stagecoach was designed and built in a Concord,
New Hampshire shop by Lewis Downing (1792-1873). The
stagecoaches became symbolic of the westward expansion of the
early 1800s. The coaches continued in production until 1899.

We become confused because we do not understand words.

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."²⁷

Jesus: Kingdom of God is here.

Kingdom of God is within you.

Kingdom of God is coming.

See Wm. J. *Varieties of Relig. Exper*, page 508.²⁸

Common to all religious and life:

1. An uneasiness. Something wrong.
2. Its solution

I steer

²⁷ Matthew 6:33.

²⁸ William James (1842-1910) American psychologist and philosopher, co-founder of American pragmatism. Davis references his 1902 book, *Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study in Human Nature*, New York: The Modern Library.

March 29, 1942²⁹

Palm Sunday

First Sunday after vacation

"He Burned his Bridges"

Service 5- Page 22

Readings: Luke 19:29-47

Hymn Numbers: 180, 190, 245

The nature of the Passover

Date: Full moon after equinox = Date of Easter

Next year: April 25, Why.

Like Petersham fever:

Great Spring festival, a great dramatic expressive of life
process

Several bridges burned during the week:

+ the supremacy of human life

Pilate

Judas

Two things happened.

- a. The great Spring Festival of the Passover rolled on.
- b. Meanwhile an individual human being so conducted himself that in the course of the centuries his way of life became the center of this same festival.

Palm Sunday.

By way of Fidelity and "duty."

The events of Holy week mean the burning of all bridges, the sailing on an unknown sea, the complete trust that the chosen path, the untried adventure is the one only way, what we today call an "all out consecration, with all thy heart, and mind and will." "Thy God." Thy Fidelity. Thy duty. Thy cross, here, now.

²⁹ The two pages of sermon notes for March 29, 1942, were bound in the reverse order. I have reordered them here and in the edited scan of the sermon notes.

Nearer my God to thee.

That is the opened door to peace of mind and to world peace, to
Easter.

April 5, 1942

Easter

"Life—and Something Else"

Service for Easter, with "Devotional Readings of Labor and Rest"
by John Austin 1613-1669³⁰

Readings: Mark; Browning's Abt Volger³¹

Hymn Numbers: 196, 198, 197

Outline.

Period of great change. Move onto a higher plane.

Into the framework of the existing Spring Festivals during a period of several hundred years, was incorporated the life and Spirit of Jesus, not alone as an heroic character, but as a symbol of the spirit of God in the Soul of man.

We are made in God's Image. Eternal life is now.

John Fiske:³²

The human mind, however "scientific" its training, must often recoil from the conclusion that this (life) is all; and there are moments when one passionately feels that this cannot be all. On warm June mornings in green country lanes, with sweet pine odors wafted in the breeze which sighs through the branches, and cloud-shadows flitting over far-off blue mountains, while little birds sing their love songs, and golden haired children weave garlands of wild roses; or when in the solemn twilight we listen to wondrous harmonies of Beethoven and Chopin that stirs the heart like voices from an unseen world; at such times one feels that the profoundest answer which science can give to our questionings is but a superficial answer

³⁰ John Austin (1613-1669) English lawyer, writer and one of the founding Fellows of the Royal Society.

³¹ Robert Browning (1812-1889) English poet. His 1864 poem, "Abt Vogler," imagines the German composer, Georg Joseph (Abt) Vogler (1749-1814), older and meditating on the purpose and value of his life.

³² John Fiske (1842-1901) American philosopher and historian strongly influenced by Herbert Spencer's concepts of evolution. Fiske was also a longtime resident of Petersham, Massachusetts.

after all. At these moments, when the world seems fullest of beauty, one feels most strongly that it is but the harbinger of something else,--that the ceaseless play of phenomena is no mere sport of Titans, but an orderly scene, with its reason for existing, its

'one divine far-off event
To which the whole creation moves.'

The Unseen World, Page 56³³

All this is to be seen here and now in Petersham in 1878 or 1942. And back in the Old Roman Empire when titanic forces were breaking through the refuse of a dying age, to bespeak the character and fruitage of an age to come.

The spirit that was in Jesus is the spirit of the life eternal.

It is here and now. Lift up your hearts and sing.

³³ John Fiske, *The Unseen World and Other Essays*, Boston: James R. Osgood and Co., 1876, pp. 56-7.

April 12, 1942

"Out of the Earth--Earthy"

Service 2

Readings: Acts; Doan

Hymn Numbers: 16, 349, 362

The reaction after such a festival as Easter.

Doing God's work. W.H.M. Liaison of Church

Father Joseph of ???

But

Two books:

1. *Grey Eminence*, Aldous Huxley³⁴
2. *Journey for Margaret*, W. Lindsay White Jr.³⁵

1. Adoration of Christ on the cross. "Stigmata"
2. Running around Europe as liaison man between Richelieu and the world powers.

30 years' war 1618-1648

Why stand ye looking up into the heavens?
Old retired Army officer with his symbols on his desk.

Two books: *Grey Eminence*
Journey for Margaret

The reaction after exaltation
(Low Sunday)

³⁴ Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) English writer and philosopher. His 1941 book, *Grey Eminence: A Study in Religion and Politics*, is a biography of François Leclerc du Tremblay, the French monk who served as advisor to Cardinal de Richelieu. Huxley presents Tremblay as an example of what can happen when a person's spiritual energies are channeled in the wrong direction.

³⁵ William Lindsay White (1900-1973) American journalist, foreign correspondent, and writer. His 1941 book, *Journey for Margaret*—adapted for a film in 1942—follows the struggles of a couple who lost their unborn child during a bombing raid during World War II.

April 19, 1942

"Not Revelation, but Discovery"³⁶

Service 3, Page 12, Litany

Readings: Matthew 5:38-48; Matthew 10:34-39; Philippians 4:8-9

Hymn Numbers: 32, 74, 367

Whitehead, "Religion is what you do with your solitude."³⁷ What do you think about?

Pamphlets that I am receiving about "the Second Coming," etc.

Earth = Symbol |
/ = Revelation | Discovery

Lexington, Concord

The organized, semi-corporate Expression of a self-determining people, attempting to direct and create their own destiny, under God.

³⁶ Davis expanded on this theme with a sermon for which a full text exists, "Not Revelation but Discovery; Not Forms but the Holy Spirit, November 30, 1947. See <https://wordpress.clarku.edu/dbaird/not-revelation-but-discovery-not-forms-but-the-holy-spirit/>.

³⁷ Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947) English/American mathematician and philosopher, created Process Philosophy. This quote is from his 1926 book, *Religion in the Making*.

April 26, 1942

"Freedom + Authority. Revelation + Authority. Discovery"

4--

Readings: S.of B. Page 284; Jung, The Living Spirit,³⁸ John
4:19:24

Hymns: 25, 362, 272. 476

Two Way Passage.

Interchange of experience.

Discovery

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.³⁹

To understand.

To respect:

³⁸ Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961) Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst.

³⁹ Matthew 22:39.

April 26, 1942

Berkshire School

"The Great Tradition. The Way of the Spirit"

Readings: Matthew 17:1-13

Chinese creed

Pilot

May 3, 1942

"By thy Spirit, Persuasion"

Force = Persuasion

1-Page 3

Hymns: 54, 310, 312

Readings: Zachariah 4:6; Galatians 5:25-6:10; Gt. Com., page
478⁴⁰

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of
Hosts."⁴¹

Revelation : Discovery

Authority : Freedom

Obedience : Persuasion

In the long run, Persuasion.

Mendel.⁴²

The evening of Feb. 8, 1865. Gregor Mendel, in the little town
Brünn, in old Austria. A Catholic monk, read a paper before a
few people, neighbors.

Mendel died in 1884.

1922: Men gathered from all over the world.

1900: Scientists recalled Mendel's paper.

Sweet peas.

⁴⁰ "Gt. Com." Likely refers to the book, refers to the book,
*Great Companions: Readings on the Meaning and Conduct of Life
from Ancient and Modern Sources*, edited by R.F. Leavens, Boston:
The Beacon Press, 1927. On pages 476-479 there is an excerpt of
the essay, "William Booth" by Harold Begbie (1871-1929) English
journalist and author. William Booth (1829-1912) was an English
Methodist preacher who co-founded the Salvation Army.

⁴¹ Zachariah 4:6.

⁴² Gregor Mendel (1822-1884) German-Czech biologist who
established many of the rules of heredity involving experiments
with sweet peas. He presented his work at two meetings of the
Natural History Society of Brno in Moravia, February 8, 1865,
and March 8, 1865. Largely, however, the work was not noticed
until rediscovered later after his death.

May 10, 1942

"Discovery, Freedom, Persuasion"

Service 2-Page 8

Readings: Proverbs 31:10-31; Lucinda Matlock, *The Peasant Woman*,⁴³ S.B. 363

Hymns: 32, 262, 366

As in the world and society, so in the individual.

5th of 10 commandments.

Honor thy father and thy mother that they days may be long in the land which the God, thy God giveth thee.⁴⁴

The Worship of the Virgin Mary

⁴³ Edgar Lee Masters 1916 poem, "Lucinda Matlock" can be found in his collection, *Spoon River Anthology*, New York: Macmillan and Co., 1916, p. 230.

⁴⁴ Exodus 20:12.

May 17, 1942

"This Freedom"

Service

Readings: Acts 22:27-28

Hymns: 10, 401, 408

May 24, 1942

"To him that knocketh it shall be opened"⁴⁵

4-17: Litany

Readings: Exodus 23:10-17; Leviticus 23:15-21; Acts 2

Hymns: 3; 76; 337

Old Agricultural Feast

Bondage to land of Freedom

⁴⁵ Matthew 7:8.

May 24, 1942

Barre, Massachusetts, 7:30 P.M.

4th Service, Page 10

Hymn and Tune Book

Readings: Deuteronomy 6:4-15; Whitman, G.C., Page⁴⁶

Hymns: 49; 80; 348

46 people present.

⁴⁶ "G.C." Likely refers to the book, refers to the book, *Great Companions: Readings on the Meaning and Conduct of Life from Ancient and Modern Sources*, edited by R.F. Leavens, Boston: The Beacon Press, 1927. Walt Whitman (1819-1892) American poet and essayist. There are several of Whitman's poems included in *Great Companions*: (1) "The Annual Drama," p. 30; (2) "Miracles," p. 31; (3) "Beholding God," p. 131; (4) "Have Your Learned Lessons Only of Those Who Admired You?" p. 262; (5) "The Great City," p. 517; (6) "Pioneers! O Pioneers," p. 583; (7) "Human Progress," p. 632.

May 31, 1942

Union Memorial Day Service in First Parish Church

Rev. James T. Carter, preacher

Hymns: 2, 362, 371

Offering to go [to] the veterans of W.W.I at Rutland.

June 7, 1942

"We lack and need faith"

Service 1, 3: Litany

Readings: Matthew 25:14-30; John 12:20-36; Song of the Man I

Hymns: 9, 248, 315

Elephant

The mother at the Air Drome, *Atlantic*, June⁴⁷

1. Faith: Trusting to things that we do not completely know.
2. Justified by faith: "Paul."
3. Faith without works is dead.

⁴⁷ Possibly refers to *The Atlantic Monthly* for June 1942, but I can find no mention of the Air Drome.

June 14, 1942

Children's Day.

Christening Service

2-8. Litany

Readings: Deuteronomy 6:4-9=Beautiful and True in the midst of
Terrible; Gibran, 18⁴⁸

Hymns: 88, 366, 438

Flag Day + Children

⁴⁸ Likely refers to Gibran Khalil Gibran (1883-1931) Lebanese-American writer and poet, best known for his book *The Prophet*, first published in the United States in 1923.

June 28, 1942

Service of Church Fellowship

High School Graduates and others

"In the Freedom of Truth and in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we unite for the worship of God, and the service of man."⁴⁹

Service 4, p. 17. Litany, 20

Hymns: 28, 280, 407

Reading: Matthew 25:31-46; Thoreau's Journal, March 17, 1842⁵⁰

⁴⁹ This is the "Ames Covenant" developed by Unitarian preacher Charles Gordon Ames (1828-1912) in 1880.

⁵⁰ Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) American naturalist and writer. His journal entry for March 17, 1842: "I have been making pencils all day, and then at evening walked to see an old schoolmate who is going to help make the Welland Canal navigable for ships round Niagara. He cannot see any such motives and modes of living as I; professes not to look beyond the securing of certain 'creature comforts.' And so we go silently different ways, with all serenity, I in the still moonlight through the village this fair evening to write these thoughts in my journal, and he, forsooth, to mature his schemes to ends as good, maybe, but different. So are we two made, while the same stars shine quietly over us. If I or he be wrong, Nature yet consents placidly. She bits her lip and smiles to see how her children will agree. So does the Welland Canal get built, and other conveniences, while I live. Well and good, I must confess. Fast sailing ships are hence not detained."

July 4, 1942

Service conducted by R.M.L. Holt of Amherst.⁵¹

E.C.D. sick.

⁵¹ On January 18, 1942 Earl C. Davis gave the sermon at the installation of Robert M.L. Holt as minister of the Unitarian church in Amherst, Massachusetts.

July 11, 1942

Christening Service and recognition of flag.

2nd Page 8. Litany. Page 10.

Readings: *Think on Those Things*, 28;⁵² Emerson, "In an Age"⁵³

Hymns: 337, 438

"The Church and the War" Article in U.R.⁵⁴

Things are tied in together.

Service Flag.

⁵² Likely refers to Everett Moor Baker, Herbert Hitchen and Vivian Towse Pomeroy, eds., *Think on These Things: Sources of Courage, Hope, and Faith for Those Serving Their Country*, Association Press, 1942. Page 28 begins a section, "Things that Cannot be Shaken."

⁵³ Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) American writer, philosopher, founder of American Transcendentalism. "In an age" begins the third stanza of his 1867 poem, "Voluntaries."

⁵⁴ Likely refers to an article, "The Church and the War," by Donald H. Stewart, originally published in *Christianity and Crisis* on June 29, 1942.

July 19, 1942

"Your Own Cathedral"

3rd - 12:

Readings: Matthew 13:1-9; Ruskin, Gothic⁵⁵

Hymns: 6, 248, 442

The Raw Materials of life: Built into a structure of beauty and significance. Parables?

What is at the heart of this Cathedral Building?

Whether in Amiens or in a village church like Petersham.

Not the building, but the spiritual faith of which the ...

Experience and observation.

⁵⁵ John Ruskin (1819-1900) English writer, philosopher, art critic.

July 26, 1942

"The Essential Christ: The anointed one; the chosen one; the prophet"

4 = P. 17 Litany Page 19

Readings: Matthew 4:17-25; Mark 4:21-29 -not an event but process; Emerson "Be of Good Cheer"⁵⁶

Hymns: 42, 136, 180

1. Understanding
2. Courage
3. Faith

⁵⁶ Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) American writer, philosopher founder of American Transcendentalism. His poem, "Be of good cheer, brave spirit; steadfastly" can be found in his *Poems: New and Revised Edition*, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1890, pp. 332-3.

August 2, 1942

"The Glory Within"

Service 1. Page 3

Readings: Romans 12

Hymns: 47, 76, 272

"The Essential Christs"

Not one but many.

The quiet and resistless search for them.

Not vapid and negative.

But strong and positive.

Who takes the raw material of life and makes it into something beautiful, to be honored, to be respected. The fullness of a positive life.

August 9, 1942

"Life's Incompleteness"

Service 2. Page 8. Litany page 10.

Readings: Matthew 13:31-34; Robertson

Hymns: 8, 102, 245

St. Paul. "Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good."⁵⁷

Seneca: Born B.C. 4, Died 65.⁵⁸
Under Nero.⁵⁹

"The good things which belong to prosperity, are to be wished, but the good things which belong to adversity are to be admired." Sen. Ad Lucil. 66.

"It is true greatness to have in one the frailty of a man and the security of a God." Same, page 53.⁶⁰

Quoted by Francis Bacon in *Essay on Adversity*.⁶¹

Man's limitation, his incompleteness, Dependability of a God.

In the face of limitations:

1. Accept. Take it.
2. Growlers.
3. Workers

Something hidden. Go and find it.

"Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own."⁶²

⁵⁷ Romans 12:21.

⁵⁸ Lucius Annaeus Seneca (c. 4 B.C.E. - 65 C.E.), Roman philosopher, prominent stoic.

⁵⁹ Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (37-68) Roman emperor from 54 until 68.

⁶⁰ These quotes, attributed to Seneca—with references "Sen. Ad Lucil. 66 and Ibid. 53"—is from Francis Bacon's "Essay on Adversity," which can be found in *Bacon's Essays and Wisdom of the Ancients*, Boston: Little Brown and Co., 1884, p. 76.

⁶¹ Francis Bacon (1561-1626) English philosopher and statesman who served as Lord Chancellor of England under King James I.

⁶² James Russell Lowell (1819-1891) American poet. This is a line from his 1845 poem, "The Present Crisis."

August 16, 1942

"No Title"

Service 3.

Readings: Matthew 6:5-15; Eliot's Prayer

Hymns: 50, 234, 312

I would rather work in stubborn rock
All the years of my life;
And make one strong clean thing
And set it in a high, clean place,
To recall the granite strength of my desire.
Jean Untermeyer⁶³

Lin Yutang.⁶⁴

Amoral attitude, of modern.
Academic teaching.

Leads to irresponsible ways of life. Things cannot be
changed.

An irreligion, a negative religion.

A: Resignation, "Thy will be done."

But there is another meaning. Not taking it lying
down, but with a determination to find out what might
become, what ought to become.

The ladder of faith.

⁶³ Jean Starr Untermeyer (1886-1970), American poet translator and educator. This is most of the second stanza of her poem "Clay Hills," published in her collection *Growing Pains*, New York: B.W. Huebsch, 1918, p. 11.

⁶⁴ Lin Yutang (1895-1976) Chinese inventor, linguist, novelist, philosopher, and translator.

August 23, 1942

"The Sound of the Trumpet"

Readings: Jeremiah 29:4-14; Nehemiah 2:11-18; 4:18-20; Josiah
Royce as quoted in James' "Talks," page 241.⁶⁵

Hymns: 1, 349 1+3, 261

⁶⁵ William James (1842-1910) American philosopher, co-founder of Pragmatism. Josiah Royce (1855-1916) American philosopher—Harvard colleague of William James—also a pragmatist and an objective idealist. The quotation that Davis is referencing here is from James' *Talks to Teachers*, New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1914, pp. 241-2. The quotation is long and begins: "What, then, is our neighbor? Thou hast regarded his thought, his feeling, as somehow different from thine. Thou hast said, 'A pain in him is not like a pain in me, but something far easier to bear.' He seems to thee a little less living than thou; his life is dim, it is cold, it is a pale fire beside thy own burning desires. ... So, dimly and by instinct hast thou lived with thy neighbor, and hast known him not, being blind. Thou hast made [of him] a thing, no Self at all. ..." James attributes the quote from Royce's [1885 book] *The Religious Aspect of Philosophy*, pp. 157-162 (abridged)."

August 30, 1942⁶⁶

"The Lesson of Personality"

Service 5. 22. Litany page 24.

Readings: Acts 6:7-15; 7:51-8; 9:1-9; Hugo's *Wm. Shakespeare*,
page 7.⁶⁷

Hymns: 28, 206, 311

A little learneth the whole lump.

What is the lump?

- a. A person "the boy"
- b. A life
- c. An age. Lincoln
- d. The Universe: Towards which?

Victor Hugo's description of a scene with his father, when the family was in exile on the Island of Jersey, in his *William Shakespeare*.

One morning, near the end of November, two of the inhabitants of the place, the father and youngest of the sons, were seated in the lower parlor. They were silent, like ship-wrecked persons who meditate.

Without, it rained, the wind blew, the house was as if deafened by the outer roaring. Both went on thinking, absorbed, perhaps by thoughts of this coincidence between the beginning of winter and the beginning of exile.

Suddenly the son raised his voice and asked the father, "What think you of this exile?"

"That it will be long."

"How do you intend to employ it?"

The father answered, "I shall gaze at the ocean."

There was a silence. The father was the first to speak: "And you?"

⁶⁶ The second page of notes for this sermon with details about Victor Hugo's *William Shakespeare*, was bound out of order in the booklet. I have moved it here and in the edited scan of the booklet.

⁶⁷ Victor Hugo (1802-1885) French romantic writer. His 1864 book, *William Shakespeare* concerns the writers that Hugo considered the greatest geniuses of all time.

"I," said the son, "I shall translate Shakespeare.

Page 7. *William Shakespeare* by Victor Hugo. Translated by
Melville B. Anderson, 1925

September 6, 1942

Sermon by Rev. Robert Jones, Memphis, Tennessee

Readings: Matthew 4:1-11; Emerson, S.B., Page 241

Hymns: 23, 331, 50

September 13, 1942

"The Little Musicians' ???: Judy: Toby"⁶⁸

Readings: Galatians 5+6; Jean Untermeyer, Autumn⁶⁹

Hymns: 27, 208, 337

What do you want for the Judy + Tobys?

??? is in it.

To grow up free from fear.

⁶⁸ Judy and Toby likely refers to the traditional "Punch and Judy" puppet show that included a live trained dog, "Toby," who would attack the puppet Punch.

⁶⁹ Jean Starr Untermeyer (1886-1970), American poet translator and educator. Her poem "Autumn (for my mother)" is published in her collection *Growing Pains*, New York: B.W. Huebsch, 1918, pp. 18-20.

September 27, 1942

"Channing"⁷⁰

April 7, 1780 - October 2, 1842
The Walloomaac Inn, Bennington, VT

4-17

Readings:

Hymns: 28, 209, 313

The tree, Ash on parsonage.⁷¹

George R. Noyes, 1834-1840⁷²

1898⁷³

⁷⁰ William Ellery Channing (1780-1842) foremost Unitarian preacher in the first half of the 19th century. He died while travelling and staying at the Walloomaac Inn, Bennington, VT.

⁷¹ The "Ash on parsonage" refers to a tree planted on the Parsonage grounds in the 1870s in celebration of the birth of a child. Davis writes about this in his 1947 sermon, "Not Revelation but Discovery, Not Forms but the Holy Spirit;" see <https://wordpress.clarku.edu/dbaird/not-revelation-but-discovery-not-forms-but-the-holy-spirit/>, p. 3.

⁷² George R. Noyes (1798-1868) Unitarian minister and minister of the First Church of Petersham (Unitarian) from 1834 until 1840.

⁷³ In 1898 Reverend Robert C. Douthit took over the ministry of the First Church of Petersham (Unitarian). He served until 1902, but then returned to this role from 1912-1930, shortly before Earl C. Davis arrived in 1933.

October 4, 1942

"Will [the] Christian Church Survive?"

World-wide communion

Readings:

Hymns: 63, 92, 442

I know that my redeemer liveth.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Job 19:25.

October 11, 1942⁷⁵

"When the Bell Rings"

Service 9—in part Litany

Readings: Bell⁷⁶; ??? Marking; Copy of ???; Based on *Paul Revere*, etc. by Esther Forbes⁷⁷

Hymns: {88,92,53}=1, 141, 315

1942-1492 = 450

Paul Revere⁷⁸

Refugee: Apollos Rivoire

Born 1702:

Sent to Guernsey to Uncle Simon on Nov. 21, 1715.

Sent to America. Under Captain of ship to be apprenticed to a Goldsmith, 1715-6. Mr. Coney. Coney died about 1720.

In 1729 he married Deborah Hitchborn.

Jan. 1, 1735 the second child of this marriage was brought to the Christ Church (North Church) to be christened, Paul Revere.

⁷⁵ The two pages of sermon notes for this sermon were bound out of order. I have corrected that here and in the edited scan of sermon notes.

⁷⁶ The Petersham First Church (Unitarian) meeting house was destroyed by fire in 1903 along with the church bell which had been made by Paul Revere. A new church bell was fashioned using some of the metal from the original. The original bell was inscribed, "The living to the Church I call, and to the grave I summon all." The new bell is now on display on the West Street grounds of the Church.

⁷⁷ Esther Forbes (1891-1867) American novelist, historian and children's book writer. Her 1942 book, *Paul Revere and the World He Lived In*, won the 1943 Pulitzer Prize.

⁷⁸ Paul Revere (1735-1818) American patriot, famous for his ride to warn Lexington and Concord of the British garrison march to Concord. His father, Apollos Rivoire (1702-1754) was a French Huguenot who anglicized his name to Paul Revere when he emigrated to the American colonies.

Josiah Quincy⁷⁹ | 156
John Adams⁸⁰ |
Joseph Warren + Bunker Hill,⁸¹ Page 279-80

⁷⁹ Josiah Quincy II (1744-1775) American lawyer, patriot, and principal spokesperson for the Sons of Liberty in Boston prior to the Revolution.

⁸⁰ John Adams (1735-1826) attorney, leader of the American Revolution and second president of the United States. With Josiah Quincy II he was co-counsel during the trials of Captain Thomas Preston and the soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770.

⁸¹ Joseph Warren (1741-1775) American physician and critical figure in the Patriot movement leading up to the American Revolution. He enlisted Paul Revere and William Dawes on April 18, 1775, to spread alarm that the British garrison was setting out to Concord. He was commissioned a major general in the colony's militia and fought as a private in the Battle of Bunker Hill where he was killed.

October 18, 1942

"The Four Anchors"

Crete,⁸² Melita⁸³

Service 3. P. 12.

Readings: Acts 27:21-36; S.B. 279

Hymns: 9, 314, 378

1. Purpose = Going to Caesar
2. "Fear not." = Courage
3. Stick by the Ship
4. Get some food, i.e., even in time of great stress we must maintain the ordinary standards of life.

⁸² The Battle of Crete in World War II occurred May 20 through June 1, 1941, and resulted in a retreat by Allied forces from the island.

⁸³ Possibly a reference to Melitta Schenk Gräfin Von Stauffenberg (1903-1945) aviator who served as a test pilot for the Luftwaffe before and during WWII. She was the second German woman to be awarded the honorary title of Flugkapitän (flight captain).

October 18, 1942

"Four Anchors"

Barre, Massachusetts, 7:30 P.M.

Hymns: 9, 237, 370

October 25, 1942

"The Everlasting Reality of Religion: Some Reflections on One
Hundred Years in Petersham"

Service 4. P. 17. Litany

Readings:

Hymns: 6, 148, 362

One Hundred years ago at this time people in Petersham were watching with keen interest the completion of the First Parish Meeting house. It was costing them \$6,667.00, about. The old meeting House was too large. The new one contained the Bell cast by Paul Revere.

In the background of that event is a vast change in both thought and practice in matters of religion.

1842 had behind 220 years from the landing of Pilgrims, a long hard, turbulent history. French and Indian wars—the Revolution—the adoption of the Constitution and the beginnings of Federal Government. Then the War of 1812. Then came the election of Andrew Jackson, and the defeat of the Federalist party, etc.

At the same time, amid all these changes, many things were happening in the religious life of the New England as elsewhere.

The building of the new meeting house one hundred years ago marked the culmination of a long struggle, and the beginning of a new era.

The year 1818 marked the end of the support of the Church by taxation. Festus Foster, minister from 1802-1817 was the center of that bitter and unhappy conflict so far as Petersham was concerned.

Then came Luther Willson 1819-1834.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ Luther Willson (1783-1864) became a controversial congregational minister as the 19th Century Unitarian churches pressed the view that the doctrines of the Trinity and the supreme deity of Jesus were not essentials of Christian faith. Congregational churches split over this issue, including the Congregational Church of Brooklyn, Connecticut where Willson was ordained on June 13, 1813. As a result of that split, Willson lost his ministry. He was hired by the First Congregational

The division of the Parish. The rise of denominations. Baptist, Universalist, Methodist, etc.

The separation of the Church from the State.

Support of churches by voluntary contribution.

Prediction that Christianity would be killed by all these changes. But as limited as are the forces of religion today, they are vastly cleaner and stronger than they were one hundred years ago.

One More Remark:

Authoritarian Attitude: The delivery of revealed truth. Accept and Obey.

Congregational Attitude: Truth discovered. Active participation in the pew. Such authority as a minister may attain unto is the authority derived from his sympathetic understanding of life, as viewed "within the frame of the Universe" or under our impulse to find a deep sense of confidence in the majesty and the worth of human life, as an imperfect and uncompleted purpose of a living process of which we are a part, and whose full significance we do not see.

Church of Petersham in 1819, and again was confronted with a split. In this case a portion of congregation left to form the North Church—the more conservative Congregational Church of Petersham, while Willson continued at the First Congregational Church (Unitarian) until he retired in 1834. He continued to live in Petersham until his death.

October 25, 1942⁸⁵

"Substance of Preaching: Pulpit and Pew"

Worcester, Massachusetts

Introduction.

1. "Blue Birds; Bubbling Brooks; and Butterflies"
2. Single Tax at funeral.
3. Channing: "There are times when the assertion of great principles is the best service a man can render mankind."⁸⁶

Preaching.

An element in public worship, i.e., an element in the celebration of life on its highest levels. The distinctive characteristic of worship and preaching as an element and factor in public worship is not so much the content as the direction in which the worship and sermon move.

- A. Mr. Justice Holmes in an address to students: "Your business as thinkers is to make plainer the way from something to the whole of things; to show the rational connection between your fact and the frame of the Universe."⁸⁷
- B. The same idea in another language, St. Augustine's Confessions. "Thou, O Lord, hast created us in thy likeness; and our heart is restless till we find its rest in Thee."⁸⁸

This direction of movement determines the characteristic and distinguishing quality of preaching.

⁸⁵ The two pages of sermon notes for this sermon were bound out of order. I have corrected that here and in the edited scan of sermon notes.

⁸⁶ William Ellery Channing (1780-1842) foremost Unitarian preacher of the first half of the 19th Century. This quote is from his essay, "Slavery" in *The Complete Works of William Ellery Channing including The Perfect Life*, London: Christian Life Publishing Co., 1884, pp. 489-523. This quote, p. 489.

⁸⁷ Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. (1841-1935) American jurist and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1902 until 1932. This quote is from his 1886 essay, "The Profession of the Law," in *The Collected Legal Papers of Oliver Wendell Holmes*, New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1920, p. 30.

⁸⁸ St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430) theologian and philosopher of Berber origin, Bishop of Hippo Regius in Numidia, Roman North Africa. This quote is from the first book of his *Confessions*.

November 1, 1942

"Religion: The Power that Leads Men Forward"

Service 1. P. 3. Litany

Readings: Matthew 22:15-22; Whittier's Poem, 374⁸⁹

Hymns: 14, 208, 384

Herodians = Quizlings

Point of view of men who are strongly religious. They see not only the immediate, but they see the immediate in terms of its complete fulfillment. "The things that are God's."⁹⁰

⁸⁹ John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) American Quaker poet and abolitionist.

⁹⁰ Matthew 22:21.

November 1, 1942

Amherst, Massachusetts

"Betting on the Universe"

John Fiske. 1874.⁹¹

1866.

Darwin: 1859, *Origin of Species*. Born 1809.⁹² Broad implications of evolution.

Concept of creation versus Doctrine of evolution.

Atheism.

Comptism⁹³ = (Humanism?)

Anthropomorphic theism.

a. The Heavens Declare

b. The moral order in humans

The Great Cosmic Power

"The elements that survive bear witness to the environment in which they swim."

<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>
Revelation	Discovery
Authority	Freedom
Obedience	Persuasion ⁹⁴

"There exists a POWER to which no limit in time or space is conceivable, of which all phenomena, as presented in consciousness, are manifestations, but which we can know only through these manifestations."

*Cosmic Philosophy, Vol, 2, Page 415, John Fiske*⁹⁵

⁹¹ John Fiske (1842-1901) American historian and philosopher popularized evolutionary theory in the United States, and longtime resident of Petersham, Massachusetts.

⁹² Charles Darwin (1809-1882) English Biologist, author of *The Origin of Species* (1859) which presents the theory of evolution.

⁹³ August Compt (1798-1857) French philosopher, mathematician, and developer of the doctrine of positivism. Compt's stance with religion was associated with what was called "humanism."

⁹⁴ Davis developed this line of thought in his 1936 paper, "Democracy Versus Authority in Church (and State)," co-authored with Carl Heath Kopf. See <https://wordpress.clarku.edu/dbaird/democracy-versus-authority-in-church-and-state-1936/>.

⁹⁵ John Fiske, *Outlines of Cosmic Philosophy Based on the Doctrine of Evolution with Criticisms of the Positive*

November 8, 1942⁹⁶

"Things Which Make for Peace"

Romans 14:10

Sixteenth-page 64. Litany

Readings: Isaiah 1:24-31; 2:1-4 (a mixture of primitive barbarism) and 42:1-9

Hymns: 54, 360, 408

2 Page 183

These words⁹⁷ which I have lifted from Paul's Epistle have nothing to do with what we commonly mean by the word Peace. They have to do with a little controversy among the Christians at Rome over the question of ceremonial eating. Yet in a deeper sense they have [to] do with peace, as we have it in mind today when we speak of war and peace.

The driving force of society is not war but peace.

The wired barn door, and the generator. Picking up electricity out of the air.

Philosophy, Boston: James R. Osgood and Co., Vol.2, 1875, p. 415.

⁹⁶ On the backside of this page of sermon notes is a list: China; Veteran's Home; Petersham soldier; Service cover. This was not included in the scan of the notes.

⁹⁷ From the context, I believe "these words" refers to Romans 14:10, "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

November 15, 1942

"Unity of Spirit Among Churches"

3-12. Litany

Readings: Micah 6:8 -700 B.C. essence of prophetic- Acts 2:1-21

Hymns: 23, 63, 407

November 22, 1942

Union Thanksgiving Service

Rev. James T. Carter, preacher

15- Service for Thanksgiving. Page 58.

Readings: Psalm 118

Hymns: 141, 142, 314-315

November 29, 1942

"From Scrooby in 1606 to Westminster, 1942. Via Plymouth and America"

5-22. Litany 24

Readings: Matthew 5:1-20; John Robinson to Pilgrims, p. 8.⁹⁸

Hymns: 17, 151, 294

Coming to Christmas. The Ethical interpretation of Religion, The Prophetic. The ritualistic. The Law.

The Future grows out of the past under the...⁹⁹

⁹⁸ John Robinson (1576-1625) was the pastor of the Pilgrims before they left on the Mayflower. He became one of the early English Separatists and a founder of the Congregational Church. Robinson did not sail with the Pilgrims, but he wrote a letter to them on their departure in 1620. The letter can be found here, although I cannot make sense of the notation, "p. 8:" https://pilgrimhall.org/pdf/John_Robinson_Farewell_Letter_to_Pilgrims.pdf

⁹⁹ The notes end here unfinished.

December 6, 1942

Service 1. Page 3.

Readings: Matthew 7; *The Crisis* by Thomas Paine, Opening
Paragraph¹⁰⁰

Hymns: 99, 208, 349 1-3

In anticipation of Christmas, one has to understand the deeper meaning of Christianity; to understand the festival spirit. Finally, to have become part of the age-long process of "Thy Kingdom Come."

Positive evil,
Neglect.
Positive good.
Security = ???

¹⁰⁰ Thomas Paine (1737-1809) English born American Founding Father and political activist and philosopher. His essay, "The Crisis," published December 23, 1776, begins, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. ..."

December 13, 1942

"In the Fullness of Time"

Service 2-Page 8.

Readings: John 1:1-14; "Prophecy," Diana K. Powell,¹⁰¹ Madame
Curie¹⁰²

Hymns: 151, 152, 154

¹⁰¹ Diana Kearny Powell American poet. Her poem, "Prophecy," is published in the 1935 *Anthology of Magazine Verse and Yearbook of American Poetry*, ed. W.S. Braithwaite p. 129.

¹⁰² Marie Salomea Sklodowska-Curie (1867-1934) Polish-French physicist and chemist, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics for 1903.

December 20, 1942¹⁰³

Tem. 30 below Zero at 7:30 at parsonage

Prelude. A Choral Phantasy. Diggle

Service for Christmas, page 45.

Coral: O Little Town of Bethlehem, Spence

Readings: Matthew 2:1-11; Mark Shaw. Litany and Prayer

Hymns: 165, 166, 163

Offertory

Holy Night, Mrs. Brown.

Sermon: "The Manger of the Unknown Christ"

Service used on Wed. Eve., Dec 20, 1942 in the Church after
Supper and before presents.

Organ: Thou the Highest, Ancient Syrian Carol

The Searching Carol, Maryott

Sentences

Invocation

Lord's Prayer

Hymn 163

Luke 2:1-21

Reading Names of children born in the Parish during the year.

Ave Maria, Gounod, Mrs. Brown.

Hymn 167

Benediction

¹⁰³ Between the page for the morning service and that for the
afternoon service on December 20, 1942, is a misplaced page of
sermon notes for December 7, 1941. I have added a scan of this
page to the booklet of sermon notes for 1941. But I have also
kept the scan of this page here (and in the 1942-1943 booklet)
but removed from between the two pages of notes for December 20.

December 7, 1941¹⁰⁴

"A Record of Discovery: The Bible"

1 -- Litany

Readings: Jefferson Bible¹⁰⁵

Hymns: 16, 272, 289

C.

"The New Roof."

¹⁰⁴ These sermon notes for December 7, 1941 somehow got bound with the sermon notes for 1942-1943. I did not remove them, and they appear here clearly out of place. I did copy them and have put the copy with the 1941 sermon notes.

¹⁰⁵ Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) Second President of the United States. On his own, Jefferson extracted and reorganized elements of the Gospels to create what has come to be known as the *Jefferson Bible*. It is available: Thomas Jefferson, *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*, Boston: The Beacon Press, 1951. The work was done over several years, but first compiled by Jefferson during the winter of 1804-05. The first English publication was not until 1902.

December 27, 1942

"Transfiguration, The elimination of Self into the great
Tradition"

Service 9 (somewhat)

Hymns: 25, 384, 312

Service.

Hymn 25

Readings: Matthew 17:1-8; Emerson 207¹⁰⁶

Reading Names of men in the service.

Prayer, C.E. Park¹⁰⁷

Hymn 384

Offertory

Hymn 312

Sermon

Christening Service

Hymn 438

Hymn 272 (Possibly)

Transfiguration, the elimination of Self into the great
Tradition.

It is no longer I that liveth.

¹⁰⁶ Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) American writer founder of American Transcendentalism. There is no way to identify the reference, "207."

¹⁰⁷ Charles Edward Park (1873-1962) Minister of the First Church of Boston from 1906-1946. Close friend of Earl C. Davis.