

## 1942 Sermons<sup>1</sup>

- January 4, 1942 A Suggestion about Prayer  
[Matthew 6:5-15; Matthew 23:13-14; Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 23:34;  
Discussion of Pythagoras, Euclid and the Pythagorean Theorem]
- January 11 International in Religion  
[Matthew 6:19-34; Marcus Aurelius, Pilot—possibly John Gillespie  
Magee’s 1941 “High Flight”]
- January 18 The Way of the Spirit  
Amherst, Massachusetts, Installation of Robert M.L. Holt  
[Matthew 17:1-13, Poem Pilot—possibly John Gillespie Magee’s 1941  
“High Flight”]
- January 18 The Way of Holiness  
[Isaiah 35; S.B. Page 209; Bojer, *The Great Hunger*; M.R.R.+P., page 207]
- January 25 Dr. Charles E. Park, Preacher
- February 1 Atonement, Reconciliation  
[Leviticus 16:18- ; Matthew 5:17-26. Also mention of the Army mule story  
in Mexico from 1916; Professor James H. Leuba; George Soule]
- February 8 Years of the Modern  
[Matthew 4:1-11. Also mentioned Emerson, Whitman, James, Lincoln.  
Whitman’s poem about Lincoln, “This Dust Was Once The Man” is quoted  
as is a line from Lincoln’s 1<sup>st</sup> inaugural]
- February 15 Necessity is the Mother of Invention  
[Luke 3:21-23, 4:14-21, Emerson’s Divinity School Address. Also reference  
to William James’ *Varieties of Religious Experience*]
- February 22 Great Moments  
Loomis School  
[Mark 14:22-42. Mention of the great flood of 1927. Of the Concord (NH)  
stagecoach. Of William James’ *Varieties of Religious Experience*]

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<sup>1</sup> Davis collected the notes for his sermons in 1942 and 1943 in a small booklet. Given the length—101 separate sermon entries—I have divided the transcriptions into a set for 1942 and a set for 1943. Here I list the sermons for 1942 by date and subject. All locations are Petersham, Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.

- March 29            He Burned his Bridges  
Palm Sunday  
[Luke 19:29-47]
- April 5             Life—and Something Else  
Easter Service  
[Mark; Browning's Abt Volger; Long quote from John Fiske's 1876 *The Unseen World*]
- April 12            Out of the Earth--Earthy  
[Acts; Doan. Mention of *Grey Eminence* by Aldous Huxley and *Journey for Margaret* by W. Lindsay White]
- April 19            Not Revelation, but Discovery  
[Matthew 5:38-48; Matthew 10:34-39; Philippians 4:8-9; Mention of A.N. Whitehead's *Religion in the Making*]
- April 26            Freedom + Authority. Revelation + Authority. Discovery  
[S.of B. Page 284; Jung, *The Living Spirit*, John 4:19:24]
- April 26            The Great Tradition. The Way of the Spirit  
Berkshire School  
[Matthew 17:1-13]
- May 3                By Thy Spirit. Persuasion  
[Zachariah 4:6; Galatians 5:25-6:10; Gt. Com. Page 478, "William Booth" by Harold Begbie; mention of Gregor Mendel and his work on biological inheritance]
- May 10             Discovery, Freedom, Persuasion  
[Proverbs 31:10-31; poem by Edgar Lee Masters, "Lucinda Matlock," the Peasant Woman, S.B. 363]
- May 17             This Freedom  
[Acts 22:27-28]
- May 24             To him that knocketh it shall be opened  
[Exodus 23:10-17; Leviticus 23:15-21; Acts 2]
- May 24             No Title  
Barre, Massachusetts, 7:30 P.M.  
[Deuteronomy 6:4-15; Whitman, G.C., Page]
- May 31             Union Memorial Day Service in First Parish Church, James T. Carter, preacher

- June 7                    We lack and need faith  
                                 [Matthew 25:14-30; John 12:20-36; Song of the Man I]
- June 14                   Children's Day; Christening Service  
                                 [Deuteronomy 6:4-9=Beautiful and True in the midst of Terrible; Gibran, 18]
- June 21                   Remarks at Tenth Anniversary  
                                 In the booklet of sermon notes there are no notes for June 21. But separately there is an undated full text for "Remarks at Tenth Anniversary." Given the possibilities, this is the likely date for that sermon.
- June 28                   "In the Freedom of Truth and in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we unite for the worship of God, and the service of man." (Ames Covenant)  
                                 Service of Church Fellowship: High School Graduates and others  
                                 [Matthew 25:31-46; Thoreau's Journal, March 17, 1842]
- July 5                     Service conducted by Robert M.L Holt of Amherst; E.C.D. sick.  
                                 Notes say "July 4," but July 4<sup>th</sup> fell on Saturday; so, likely July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- July 12                    Christening Service and recognition of flag  
                                 [*Think on Those Things*, 28; Emerson, "In an Age;" also reference to an article, "The Church and the War"]
- July 19                    Your Own Cathedral  
                                 [Matthew 13:1-9; Ruskin, Gothic]
- July 26                    The Essential Christ: The anointed one, the chosen one, the prophet  
                                 [Matthew 4:17-25; Mark 4:21-29 –not an event but process; Emerson "Be of Good Cheer"]
- August 2                   The Glory Within  
                                 [Romans 12]
- August 9                   Life's Incompleteness  
                                 [Matthew 13:31-34; Robertson; Mention of Seneca as quoted by Francis Bacon in his "Essay on Adversity;" quote from James Russell Lowell's poem, "The Present Crisis"]
- August 16                No Title  
                                 [Matthew 6:5-15; Eliot's Prayer; quote from Jean Untermeyer's 1918 poem "Clay Hills;" discussion of Lin Yutang]

- August 23      The Sound of the Trumpet  
[Jeremiah 29:4-14; Nehemiah 2:11-18; 4:18-20; Josiah Royce as quoted in James' "Talks," page 241]
- August 30      The Lesson of Personality  
[Acts 6:7-15; 7:51-8; 9:1-9; Hugo's *Wm. Shakespeare*, page 7]
- September 6    No Title. Sermon by Reverend Robert Jones, Memphis, Tennessee  
[Matthew 4:1-11; Emerson, S.B., Page 241]
- September 13   The Little Musicians' ????: Judy: Toby  
[Galatians 5+6; Jean Untermeyer, Autumn]
- September 20   From Copernicus to Galileo  
In the booklet of sermon notes there are no notes for September 20. But separately there is an undated full text for "From Copernicus to Galileo." Given the possibilities, this is the likely date for that sermon.
- September 27   Channing  
[Reference to George R. Noyes, minister at the Petersham church 1834-1840 and to the Ash tree planted at the Parsonage of the church; also hidden reference to Rev. Robert Douthit, minister of the Petersham church, 1898-1902 and 1912-1930.]
- October 4       Will the Christian Church Survive  
World-wide Communion
- October 11      When the Bell Rings  
[Bell; ??? Marking; Copy of ???; Based on *Paul Revere*, etc. by Esther Forbes]
- October 18      The Four Anchors  
[Acts 27:21-36; S.B. 279]
- October 18      Four Anchors, Barre, Massachusetts, 7:30 P.M.
- October 25      The Everlasting Reality of Religion: Some Reflections on One Hundred Years in Petersham  
[Extensive notes on the history of the Petersham church: mention of Luther Willson; also a discussion of the authoritarian versus the congregational attitude]
- October 25      Substance of Preaching: Pulpit and Pew

Worcester, Massachusetts

[Quotes from William Ellery Channing, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., St. Augustine]

- November 1 Religion: The Power that Leads Men Forward  
[Matthew 22:15-22; unidentified poem by John Greenleaf Whittier]
- November 1 Betting on the Universe  
Amherst, Massachusetts  
[References to Darwin's origin of Species, John Fiske's Cosmic Philosophy, Comptism, and the transition from revelation, authority and obedience to discovery, freedom and persuasion.]
- November 8 Things Which Make for Peace  
[Isaiah 1:24-31; 2:1-4; 42:1-9. Also mention of Romans 14:10]
- November 15 Unity of Spirit Among Churches  
[Micah 6:8 –700 B.C. essence of prophetic— Acts 2:1-21]
- November 22 Union Thanksgiving Service  
Reverend James T. Carter, preacher  
[Psalm 118]
- November 29 From Scrooby in 1606 to Westminster, 1942. Via Plymouth and America  
[Matthew 5:1-20; John Robinson to Pilgrims]
- December 6 No Title  
[Matthew 7; *The Crisis* by Thomas Paine, Opening Paragraph]
- December 13 In the Fullness of Time  
[John 1:1-14; "Prophecy," Diana K. Powell, Madame Curie]
- December 20 The Manger of the Unknown Christ  
[Matthew 2:1-11; Mark Shaw.]  
Noted: Temperature 30 below 0 at 7:30 at Parsonage
- Dec. 7, 1941 A Record of Discovery: The Bible  
Out of order; a copy has been added to the sermon notes for 1941  
[Jefferson Bible]
- December 27 Transfiguration, The elimination of Self into the great Tradition  
[Matthew 17:1-8; Emerson 207. C.E. Park gave a prayer at the service]