

Booklet of Sermon Notes

Earl C. Davis

Petersham, MA

1942-1943¹

Part 2: 1943

January 3, 1943²

"Face to Face: Things We Take for Granted"

Service 1-Page 3.

Readings: *Great Com.*, page 247;³ Thy Kingdom Come, Holt; R.R.
64th 113 ??? of ???

Hymns: 67, 149, 103

The storm, and the way it revealed to us our dependence on each other.

Sanding the roads. Repairing the lights.

Our daily food. "Give to us this day our daily bread."⁴

See Lowell's "Crisis," *Great Com.*, page 551.

"Standeth God Within the Shadow. Keeping watch above his own."⁵

A milestone in History. "I have seen God face to face."⁶

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.

² The notes have "1942" but clearly "1943" was meant. Sunday fell on January 3rd in 1943.

³ "Great Com." 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 247-248 there is an edited excerpt from the Book of Genesis 32:22-30.

⁴ Matthew 6:11.

⁵ "Great Com."—again—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 551-554 there is reprinted the 1845 poem, "The Present Crisis" by James Russell Lowell (1819-1891) American poet. "Standeth God Within the Shadow..." is a line from that poem.

⁶ Genesis 32:30.

January 10, 1943

"A Thought about Prayer"

Service 2: 23 Psalm.

Readings: Matthew 26:36-44; Matthew 6:5-6; G. Eliot Stradivarius⁷

Hymns: 90, 234, 241

1. The attitude of prayer. Charles Coolidge incident.
2. Varied forms of prayer.

"Michael, do you not hear the divine message which calls you to church to assist the priest in his service at the later of God?"⁸

Altar Boy		
Tending cattle		All are listening to the Divine Messenger ⁹
Light-Sound		

⁷ George Eliot (1819-1880) English novelist, poet, journalist and translator. Her poem, "Stradivarius" is in *Poems of George Eliot*, New York: White, Stokes, and Allen, 1885, pp. 139-143.

⁸ Likely a quote from Michael Pupin's 1923 book, *From Immigrant to Inventor*. Michael Pupin (1854-1936) Serbian-American physicist. The quote can be found excerpted in a review of the book by Albert Edward Wiggam, "Science Is Leading Us Closer to God: An Interview with Michael Pupin, the distinguished scientist," *American Magazine*, Vol. 104, September 1927, pp. 24ff.

⁹ These three items, "Alter Boy," "Tending Cattle," and "Light-Sound" all reference experiences Michael Pupin describes in his book.

January 17, 1943

"The Language of Prayer"

Service 3--

Readings: Job 28

Hymns: 28, 47, 245

Talking about a person.

Talking with [a person].

Insight * Communion.

The Heavens declare the Glory of God.

The God of Nature.

Personality.

Whence cometh Personality?

Whence cometh electricity?

The world is not less than personality.

When questions involving personality are upmost, and we feel the ties of our relationship to all things, then we use the language of personality.

January 24, 1943

"The Dignity of the Individual: Freedom of Opportunity.
Initiative."

4 Service 18

Readings: Luke 15

Hymns: 17, 296, 349 1/3

Freedom, not an abstraction. We do not live in a vacuum.

Mr. Henry Wallace: "The idea of freedom—the freedom that we in the United States know and love so well—is derived from the Bible with its extraordinary emphasis on the dignity of the individual. Democracy is the only true expression of Christianity." From "The Price of a Free World."¹⁰

Right to go to hell.

Right to go up.

Plenty of natural restrictions.

Artificial ones.

¹⁰ Henry Agard Wallace (1888-1965) American politician, journalist, farmer, served as the 33rd vice president of the United States under Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1941-1945. "The Price of Free World Victory," is an address he delivered May 8, 1942 to the members and guests of the Free World Association, published as a pamphlet by New York: Fescher.

February 7, 1943

"Freedom of Speech and Press, Ser. 1"¹¹

4 Service 18

Readings: Acts 22:22-29

Hymns: 54, 294, 416-360

A letter from an Atlantic Seaport town in occupied France, a woman writes to Wrul, Boston. Page 236 "They Spoke for a Nation, Letters from France"¹²

"I was lucky not to have my radio taken. So, you can well understand how my ears are open. We know everything. Confidence and hope, hope centered especially in your country. I listen with my head hidden in a wardrobe, for there would be serious punishments if we were caught. Punishments everywhere and always, fines and hostages."¹³

"If the history of civilization has any lesson to teach it is this: there is one supreme condition of mental and moral progress which it is completely within the power of man himself to secure, and that is perfect liberty of thought and discussion. The establishment of this liberty may be considered the most valuable achievement of modern civilization, and as a condition of social progress it should be deemed fundamental. The considerations of permanent utility upon which it rests must outweigh any calculations of present advantage which from time to time might be thought to demand its violation."

Prof. J. B. Bury, *History of Freedom of Thought*. Pub. 1913. Page 240.¹⁴

¹¹ The sermon, and the following three sermons, take up in turn each of the "Four Freedoms" that President Franklin D. Roosevelt spelled out in his January 8, 1941 State of the Union address. Roosevelt gave the speech 11 months ahead of the Pearl Harbor attack and the United States' entry into the War. The four freedoms are, (1) Freedom of speech, (2) Freedom of worship, (3) Freedom from want, (4) Freedom from fear.

¹² *They Speak for a Nation: Letters from France*, ed. Eve Curie, Philippe Barres, Raoul De Roussy de Sales, New York: Doubleday, Doran and Co., 1941.

¹³ Evidently from *They Speak for a Nation*, but I cannot verify this quotation.

¹⁴ J.B. Bury (1861-1927) Anglo-Irish historian. His book, *A History of Freedom of Thought*, New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1913. This quote, page 240.

February 14, 1943

"Freedom of Worship"¹⁵

Service 2, Page 7

Readings: Acts 19:23-41; Civil Liberties; Portion of Lincoln's
Gettysburg¹⁶

Hymns: 1, 754, 76

Peter Waldo. 1170. Merchant of Lyons. Poverty.¹⁷

In 1648 they were granted full religious rights in Savoy.¹⁸

Separation of Church and State.

Plymouth. 1606-1620.

Rhode Island. 1663. Roger Williams.¹⁹

Maryland. 1649. 1654

Not Unitarians.

Massachusetts

Federal Constitution, 1789.

Mass. 1818

¹⁵ See the footnote for the sermon for February 7, 1943.

¹⁶ Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) 16th President of the United States. He gave the Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863 dedicating the Soldier's National Cemetery in Gettysburg.

¹⁷ Peter Waldo (c. 1140-c. 1205), a wealthy merchant from Lyon who gave away his property around 1173, preaching apostolic poverty as the way to perfection. He started a movement, the Waldenses, in the late twelfth century. The teaching of this group came into conflict with the Catholic Church and by 1215 they were declared heretical. Davis has written about them in his history notes, "Lecture Two: Late Medieval Period, Frederick II, John Wyclif." See <https://wordpress.clarku.edu/dbaird/lecture-two-late-medieval-period-frederick-ii-john-wyclif/>.

¹⁸ This is a reference to the conclusion of the "Thirty Years War" (1618-1648) and the 1648 "Peace of Westphalia."

¹⁹ Roger Williams (c. 1603-1676) English-born New England Puritan, minister theologian and founder of Providence Plantations, which became the Colony of Rhode Island. He was a strong advocate for religious freedom and was expelled by the Puritan leaders in Massachusetts Bay Colony for his positions. He fled to what would become Rhode Island.

Present. Under necessity. Conferences of Jews, Protestants, Catholics to safeguard freedom of worship.

Free religious association. In U.S. the legal status is complete freedom of worship, including the recognition of the negative side.

So, we have in America, Jews, Christians of various forms, Hindus, Bahahist, Mohammadens, and atheists, actually living together in peace.

February 21, 1943²⁰

"Freedom from Want"

Service 3, Page 12

Readings: Acts 4:32-5:11; The Lord's Prayer (Explanation: The four freedoms are an epitome of the Lord's Prayer)²¹

Text: "Give us this day our daily Bread."²²

Hymns: 11(00) 12, 261, 280

The story in Acts is one of those illuminating stories that goes deep into the ways of human life.

Story of the early enthusiastic dreams of the Christians.

All things in common. Each according to his need. But Annanias and Sapphria are the fly in the ointment. They represent both the crook and the hoarder, present in times of peace as in times of distress and war. Paul's constant difficulty in collecting for the Saints at Jerusalem.

The Law of Christ? Twofold:

- a. Each shall bear his own burden.
- b. Bear ye one another's burden.

Our common task is to see to it that each shall have a fair chance to bear his own burden, no parasites.

Upon the individual rests the responsibility of bearing his own burden.

Upon us as a whole, as a social order rests the task of seeing to it that the individual has the opportunity to bear his burden, to earn his keep.

But there is a call for severity, and that is the most perplexing problem of the day. Roughly speaking one may put it in the very blunt language...

²⁰ See the footnote for the sermon for February 7, 1943.

²¹ The Lord's Prayer, "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name..." (Matthew 6:9-13).

²² Matthew 6:11.

February 28, 1943

"Deliver Us from Evil: Freedom from Fear"²³

Readings: Psalm 25; The Song of Man IV

Hymns: 14, 32, 308

We are all victims of fear in one form or another. Deliver us from Evil is a constant but negative prayer.

Be not overcome with evil but overcome evil with good.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.

Personal.

Adrenalin. Strength. Poison.

Social forces. Cosmic forces.

Courage, Purpose, Faith.

Life is positive, but dangerous.

²³ See the footnote for the sermon for February 7, 1943.

March 7, 1943

"Freedom from Want"²⁴

Service 1

Readings: Galatians

Hymns: 11, 33, 329

"Whether there be gods or heavens we may not know for certain, but we can know our cultural inheritance—or as much of it as is necessary to bring dignity, freedom and purpose into our human world."

Everett Dean Martin, Page 94, *Civilizing Ourselves*²⁵

While "The Universe may not have purpose, it is such a place as where individuals and societies may have purposes, and, in a measure, realize those purposes."

E.C.D.

Charter of Freedom.

Conflict between Paul and James, etc. over the law, circumcision. Just to Jew or to Gentiles. A problem that is at the heart of all life.²⁶

Personal Resolutions. Freedom to make them, but difficulty to carry them out.

Social changes. Etc.

²⁴ See the footnote for the sermon for February 7, 1943. See also the sermon notes for February 21, 1943 on this same topic.

²⁵ Everett Dean Martin (1880-1941) American minister, writer, journalist. This quote is from his book, *Civilizing Ourselves: Intellectual Maturity in the Modern World*, New York: W.W. Norton, 1932, p. 94.

²⁶ See Galatians.

March 24, 1943

Philadelphia

Lenten Vesper

"Events that Nurture Faith"

Readings: Mark 9:2-8

Hymn: 54 or 63

Prayer.

Some of the great events of history stand out as having unusual importance. In time we lift them out of their setting and in our effort to draw attention to their importance, we frame them as unique and as a result, cut..

Jean + Victor Hugo²⁷

Charles Gray

²⁷ Victor Hugo (1802-1885) French novelist. His 1862 novel, *Les Misérables*, focuses in part on the character of Jean Valjean a struggling ex-convict.

March 28, 1943

Lancaster, PA²⁸

"Jung: Modern Man"

Readings: Galatians 5:13 in part to 6:10

Hymn: 54

Scripture: Paul and James

Circumcision

Life with father: Technicality

Call of the particular to its universal consecration.
The linking spirit.

Purpose.

²⁸ Earl Davis was the minister of the Church of Our Father, Lancaster, PA from 1919 until 1924. Almost certainly this sermon was given at that church in a return visit.

April 11, 1943²⁹

1st Sunday after vacation.

Dan Fenn, preaching.³⁰

²⁹ On the reverse side of the sheet with these sermon notes are the two words, "Flowers, Literature."

³⁰ Dan Huntington Fenn (Sr.) (1897-1989) Unitarian minister and administrator in the American Unitarian Association. He was a friend of Earl C. Davis. He was also son of William Wallace Fenn (1862-1932) long-serving Dean of the Harvard Divinity School (1906-1922) and Earl C. Davis' teacher and friend. In addition, Dan Huntington Fenn Sr. was the father of Dan Huntington Fenn Jr. (1923-2020) one of the last surviving members of President Kennedy's White House senior staff and founding director of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library.

April 18, 1943³¹

Palm Sunday

Service 3, 12

Text: "Bound in the Bundle of Life with the Lord thy God."
Samuel 1 25:29.

Readings: John 14, parts of.

Hymn: 88, 180, 190

The festival of Spring.

It gathers up the past and set forth on a new day's journey.

³¹ 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.

April 25, 1943

Easter Sunday

Service 13, Page 50

Readings: Mark 16:1-9; John 4:19-24; Browning's "Saul"³²

Hymns: 192, 198, 196

We celebrate festivals because they reveal to us, not something that happened some time long ago, but because they reveal to us and confirm our faith in something that is always happening, and is right in our own lives today.

"Know ye not that ye are the Temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you." 1 Cor. III-16

"There is one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Ephesians IV-6

"For in him (God) we live and move and have our being."
Acts 17-28

1. Substance of it is have faith.
2. In the common daily relations.
3. In the fine quality of life.
4. And in Life eternal.

³² Robert Browning (1812-1889) English poet and playwright. His poem, "Saul," was first published in 1855.

May 2, 1943

"Jefferson's Four Freedoms"

Service 1

Readings: Matthew 5:1-20

Hymns: 33, 294, 208

Freedom 1:

Bill "declaring tenants in tail to hold their land in fee simple." Thus, preventing the transmission of great estates from generation to generation.

[Freedom] 2:

Primogeniture. Eldest son. Freedom of S???

[Freedom] 3:

Education.

[Freedom] 4:

Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom.

1. Land.
2. Body.
3. Mind.
4. Soul.

Jefferson's Bible.³³

"The Life and morals of Jesus of Nazareth, Extracted textually from the Gospels in Greek, Latin, French and English."

³³ 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.

May 9, 1943

"From Age to Age"

Service 2, Page 7. Litany.

Readings: Soul of the Bible, pages 44-45.³⁴

Hymns: 74, 269, 366

Transmitting the heritage of experience.

Individual responsibility.
Corporate responsibility.

The age to come,
 Through us.
 Our children.

³⁴ *The Soul of the Bible: Being Selections from the Old and the New Testaments and the Apocrypha Arranged as Synthetic Readings*, Ulysses G. B. Peirce, ed., Boston: The Beacon Press, 1908. On pages 44-5 is a version of Deuteronomy 6 and 11.

May 16, 1943

Service Flag Dedicated.

Service Page 64. =16=

Readings: Soul of the Bible, 100;³⁵ Ruskin, Human Nature.³⁶

Hymns: 54, 378, 384, (349), (337)

³⁵ *The Soul of the Bible: Being Selections from the Old and the New Testaments and the Apocrypha Arranged as Synthetic Readings*, Ulysses G. B. Peirce, ed., Boston: The Beacon Press, 1908. On pages 100-101 is a version of Nehemiah 2, 4, 6.

³⁶ John Ruskin (1819-1900) English writer, philosopher, art critic.

May 23, 1943

"Weaving the Fabric of Life"

Service 4

Readings: Matthew 13:24-32; Carlyle, "Church Clothes"³⁷

Hymns: 63, 313, 315

Carlyle's Statement.

George I. Brown's interest in the Ginkgo tree. Came from China, in the Mesozoic Era, i.e., when coal etc. was deposited. When?

Pre-Cambrian era	36,000,000 [years ago]
Paleozoic	18,000,000
Mesozoic	9,000,000
Cenozoic	3,000,000
Modern. (Man)	2,000,000

Ginkgo. Mesozoic, 5,000,000.

Man. 2-3 million years.

What about all this long process?

The urge of life within us, and the meaning thereof?

Carlyle. (In reverse)

Third—and worst—a Church gone dumb with age, or which only mumbles delirium. Prior to dissolution.

2: A Church that struggles to preach and prophesy but cannot until its Pentecost come.

3: A audible preaching and prophesying Church, which is best." i.e., which as some inkling of the direction...

³⁷ Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) Scottish essayist, historian and philosopher. "Church Clothes" is the second chapter of the third book of his 1831 *Sartor Resartus: The Life and Opinions of Herr Teufelsdröckh*, in the *Collected Works of Thomas Carlyle*, London: Chapman and Hall, 1901.

May 30, 1943³⁸

Memorial Day Union Service, North Church

Readings: Matthew 17:1-8.

The fog comes on little cat feet.
It sits looking over harbor and city
On silent haunches
And then moves on.
Carl Sandburg³⁹

Vagrant Sayings of Jesus.

"The seeker should not rest until he finds that which he seeks; but when he finds it, he will wonder; but when he has wondered he will be master; but when he is master, he will find rest."

From an Egyptian papyrus, and one very ancient church father relates that it comes from a Hebrew Gospel.⁴⁰

Moments of Transfiguration.

"Arise and be not afraid."⁴¹

The growing symbolism of Memorial Day. But its real spirit is not in decorating the graves, but in taking up into our lives their very best, *having them dwell within us* as we become the living witness to their fidelity, courage, and faith.

The fog of war has settled over us.

Light here and there.

Now it lifts; and again it settles upon us.

But the landmarks still stand.

The meaning of the story of the Transfiguration. The landmarks, the hills and the mountains are still there, and here in our midst.

³⁸ Davis gave a similar sermon on August 24, 1947. The notes for that sermon are more fully expanded than here.

³⁹ Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) American poet, biographer and journalist. His poem, "Fog" first appeared in his 1916 collection of poems, *Chicago Poems*.

⁴⁰ This is a quotation, including the reference, that Davis has taken from Adolf Von Harnack, "Sayings of Jesus Outside the Gospels," *The Living Age*, Volume 319, Number 4142, November 24, 1923, pp. 364-367. This quote on page 365.

⁴¹ Matthew 17:7.

"The seeker should not rest. He will wonder. (The thinker) Then he will be master. And then he will find rest.

June 6, 1943

"The Church Universal (The Invisible Church)"

Service 9, Page 3. Litany 5.

Readings: Matthew 7:21-27; Channing, *Great Companions*, 217⁴²

Hymns: 69, 280, 329

The product of truth seeking under Freedom.

⁴² *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 214-217 there is an excerpt of the essay, "The Free Mind" by William Ellery Channing (1780-1842) early 19th century Unitarian minister. On page 217 are these words, in part: "Without this inward spiritual freedom, outward liberty is of little worth. ... The worst tyrants are those which establish themselves in our own breast. Civil institutions are to be estimated by the free and pure minds to which they give birth. The human soul is greater, more sacred, than the state, and must never be sacrificed to it..."

June 13, 1943

Children's Sunday. Christening.

Service 2, Page 8. Litany.

Readings: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Luke 2:40-52

Hymns: 26, 366, 438

Talk based on Luke 21 to 40.

Simeon. The Child and the flag.

Faith in the child.

Corporate responsibility of parenthood.

The Prophet Anna⁴³

They returned to Nazareth.

"The Grace of God Was upon Him."⁴⁴

⁴³ The Prophetess Anna is mentioned in Luke 2:36-38. She prophesied about Jesus and the Temple of Jerusalem.

⁴⁴ Luke 2:40.

June 20, 1943

Union Service for the Senior Class Baccalaureate

Sermon by Rev. James T. Carter

Service 3, Page 12. Litany page 14.

Hymns: 17, 6, 290

Notices.

Service for admission to the fellowship of the Church.

June 27, 1943

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see
The goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13

Readings: Luke 4:14-24; Doan, page 70

Hymns: 63, 308, 407

Where do you see the Goodness of the Lord in the land of the
living?

For each one of us that is the constant question of life.

The answer is:

1. In the lives of those we actually know in person.
Imperfect? Yes, but still the spark of the divine
2. Especially in the ones we pick out for our heroes.
3. The heroic characters of history.
4. In our ideal human soul, that is the place of the founder
of Christianity in the world in which we live.

July 4, 1943

"The Anchors of Thy Hope"

Service 16, Page 64. Litany page 67.

Readings: Isaiah 40:6-11; 41:1-7; H.W.L. The Ship of State⁴⁵

Hymns: 384, 383, 376

The contrast in the attitude of mind in the two readings may suggest the essential truth gained in the 2,500 years of human experience.

Both recognize the overwhelming power which the old puritans called the sovereignty of God.

To Isaiah it was so overpowering that men were left helpless. Jehovah must do it.

But in the Ship of State there is a different note. Our human effort, our human responsibility, are factors. We are, under God, masters of our fate.

Roger Williams Illustration⁴⁶

Ship at sea.

Papists, Jews, Turks and Protestants.

No compulsion to attend ship's service. Liberty of conscience.

But no action to endanger the Commonweal. Those on the ship must obey the commanders. They represent the Common weal.

⁴⁵ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) American poet and educator. His 1850 poem, "The Ship of State" opens with these lines, "Sail on, sail on, O Ship of State! Sail on, O Union, strong and great!..."

⁴⁶ Roger Williams (c. 1603-1676) English-born New England Puritan, minister theologian. He was a strong advocate for religious freedom and was expelled by the Puritan leaders in Massachusetts Bay Colony for his positions. He fled to what is now Rhode Island where he founded the Providence Plantations, which became the Colony of Rhode Island. In his 1655, "A Letter to the Town of Providence," he compares a commonwealth to a ship on which many people of differing beliefs sail toward a common destiny.

July 11, 1943⁴⁷

"The Mind that was in Christ Jesus"

1. --Compassionate--
2. Free in thought
3. Steadfast in purpose
4. Stayed on Thee

--Compassionate--

Service 2, Page 8. Lit. P. 10.

Readings: Mark 12:13-17; 38-44

Hymns: 14, 136, 280

What has Christianity to offer? Not a magic ritual. Not a magic wisdom. What are its surviving qualities?

Mind-haunted by the phrase, "The mind that was in Christ Jesus."

Are there marked qualities there that we can recognize, and, even in most imperfect forms, discover in ourselves, and develop to the...

Compassionate	
Sympathetic	Insight
Understanding	

With individuals.

With institutions.

With the "times."

⁴⁷ The notes say, "June 11, 1943," but clearly "July" is intended, given both placement in the booklet and the fact that July 11, 1943, falls on a Sunday and June 11 does not.

July 18, 1943

"The Mind that was in Christ Jesus"

1. Compassionate
2. --Free in thought--
3. Steadfast in purpose
4. Stayed on Thee

--Free in Thought--

Service 3, Page 12.

Readings: Matthew 7:13-23; Luke 18:9-14; Prophecy, Diana Powell⁴⁸; Madame Curie's Credo⁴⁹

Hymns: 28, 74, 294

"Lord be merciful to me a Sinner" well expresses one's attitude when he comes to measure and judge his performance from the point of view of the words, "Free in Thought."

A very important aspect of life.

Was Jesus completely free in thought?

No. He was a child of his time, as we all are.

But he had a field in which he was confident in his own mind that his judgement was his own.

Squash vine—Compost pile—the past.

History, human experience, the thoughts and aspirations of mankind, operate for us like the compost pile. There they are, libraries, cultural monuments, and all the vast store of knowledge, but in an unused pile they make no contribution.

Only as we reach down into their midst and draw sustia..

⁴⁸ 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.

⁴⁹ Marie Salomea Sklodowska-Curie (1867-1934) Polish-French physicist and chemist, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics for 1903. I am unsure what her "credo" is, but she is known to have state, "Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood."

July 25, 1943

"The Mind that was in Christ Jesus"

1. Compassionate
2. Free in thought
3. --Steadfast in purpose--
4. Stayed on Thee

-- Steadfast in purpose --

Service 4, Page 17. Litany Page 19.

Readings: Mark 4:21-29; From Josiah Royce⁵⁰

Hymns: 88, 362, 315

The four characteristic qualities of the mind that was in Christ Jesus operate in unison. Cannot be separated. If you follow their lead, they move like the steps in a problem of geometry, each to the next, and with resistless logic.

Compassionate: Awareness. First the blade, coming through the soil of human experience.

Free in thought: Drawing from the soil and from the air nourishment for full and healthy growth.

Then the Ear: The suggestion of end or purpose.

Whether the world or the universe has purpose, perhaps you may not know, but at least it is a world in which we do have, and of necessity must have, purposes.

Steadfast.

- a. Immediate-impulsive.
- b. Steadfast, but self-centered: the dope fiend from Bennington.
- c. The purpose of Christ: An inclusive disinterested purpose.

⁵⁰ Josiah Royce (1855-1916) American philosopher, pragmatist, founder of American Idealism, wrote multiple books on religious topics.

August 1, 1943

"The Mind that was in Christ Jesus"

1. Compassionate
2. Free in thought
3. Steadfast in purpose
4. --Stayed on Thee--

-- Stayed on Thee --

Fifth Order of Service, Page 22. Litany Page 24.

Readings: Matthew 7:7-12; John 4:19-26; 5:30-36; High Flight

Hymns: 63, 77, 145

John 1:18: "No man hath seen God at any time."

The kingdom of God like the growing plant—but "Man knoweth not how."⁵¹

John is trying to interpret Jesus to those who were destined to be the builders of the age to come.

Thee = Personality.

Not less than we know as personality, but the source of personality.

⁵¹ 1 Timothy 3:5.

August 8, 1943

"To the West"

Service 2, Page 8. Litany Page 10.

Readings: Psalm 19; (Isaiah 55:6-13); Sunset. Conckling.⁵²

Hymns: 16, 311, 245

Had we the mind that was in Christ Jesus, Compassionate, free in thought, steadfast in purpose, and stayed in thee, how far might we go?

What must there be behind the moment when a pilot can return from a flight and scribble a poem that lifts one off the ground.

Ahes [sic, perhaps "Years"] of preparation; drudgery, toil, ground troops who care for the plane, make it, test it.

An understanding with the hills. The heavens declare the glory of God. Truth to be discovered. Vicarious insight. Beyond the Western Hills, how far does it go?

⁵² Likely, Grace Walcott Hazard Conckling (1878-1958) American author, poet and English Professor at Smith College. Her poem, "After Sunset," was published in *The Century*, Vol. 95, No. 4, February 1918, p. 528.

August 15, 1943

No Title

Service 3, Page 12. Litany Page 14.

Readings: Matthew 25:14-30; John 18:38; Justice Holmes⁵³

Hymns: 27, 7, 272

"Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice."⁵⁴

John was trying to interpret Jesus to the Greek world, the gentile world.

Here in this scene before Pilate, one may see clearly the meaning of the parable of the talents.

Not just an event, but an operating force of life.

Poor Pilate did not know that so far as world history is concerned, he was being judged because he had buried his talent of power and justice. The real authority of leadership was passing from him. Poor ignorant Pilate.

When we come face to face with such situations in life, we are quite over-powered by the implications. We come to see the majestic strength of Jesus' moral character.

Holmes.

⁵³ Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. (1841-1935) American jurist and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1902 until 1932.

⁵⁴ John 18:37.

August 22, 1943⁵⁵

Service conducted by Dr. Frederick R. Griffin⁵⁶

⁵⁵ On the reverse side of the page with the sermon notes for August 22, 1943: "Musical + Mrs. Wheeler + Mrs. Brown. Next Sunday Evening, 8 O'clock. All are cordially invited."

⁵⁶ Frederick R. Griffin (1877-1966) long a leader in the Unitarian Universalist Association. In 1933 he recommended the merger of and the Unitarian and Universalist denominations, which was completed in 1961. Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia from 1917 to 1947.

August 29, 1943

Service 5, Page 22. Litany Page 24.

Readings: Proverbs 3:3

Hymns: 23, 208, 206

"Let not kindness and truth forsake thee. Bind them about thy neck. Write them upon the tablet of thy heart; So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man."⁵⁷

The beauty of something that has an emotional depth.

Story of the man carrying some roses to his wife in the hospital. The oldest rosebush in Petersham. It had associations that are of import. Something about it for that purpose that made it surpasses the best that could be bought from a florist.

Wedding gift of *A Certain Rich Man* in William Allen White's novel by that name.⁵⁸

There are moments when we see the commonplace events of life in terms of their timeless meaning. Legend of the Monk and the Lark. Barrie, May 3, 1922. (See Barrie's *Courage*, Page 33)⁵⁹

Fifth University. Home.

⁵⁷ Proverbs 3:3-4.

⁵⁸ William Allen White (1868-1944) American newspaper editor, politician, leader of the progressive movement. His novel, *A Certain Rich Man*, was published in 1909.

⁵⁹ James Matthew Barrie (1860-1937) Scottish novelist and playwright, best remembered as the creator of *Peter Pan*. The Rectorial Address that he delivered to St. Andrews University on May 3, 1922, was published as *Courage*. He writes on page 33-34: "...the legend of a monk who had wandered into the fields and a lark began to sing. He had never heard a lark before, and he stood there entranced until the bird and its song had become part of the heavens. Then he went back to the monastery and found there a door-keeper whom he did not know and who did not know him. Other monks came, and they were all strangers to him. He told them he was Father Anselm, but that was not help. Finally they looked through the books of the monastery, and these revealed that there had been a Father Anselm there a hundred or more years before. Time had been blotted out while he listened to the lark."

September 5, 1943

"The King's Highway"

Service 1, Page 3. Litany.

Readings: Hosea 6:1ff; G.P. Page 93⁶⁰

Hymns: 88, 360, 312

Asleep in a doubting castle.

Giant despair.

Great Heart

Old Honest.

Four young men.

They found Mr. Despondency and his daughter Much afraid.

Floyd Dell's *Intellectual Vagabondage*⁶¹

⁶⁰ Davis clearly meant to write, "G.C." referring to *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 93-97 there is an excerpt of "The Doubting Castle" by John Bunyan (1628-1688) English writer and Puritan preacher.

⁶¹ Floyd Dell (1887-1969) American newspaper and magazine editor, literary critic, novelist, playwright, poet. His 1926 book, *Intellectual Vagabondage*, was a critique of modern trends in literary and social rebellion.

September 12, 1943

"The Return from a Spiritual Vagabondage"⁶²

Service 2, Page

Readings: Hosea 14; Song of Man 4; Word "God"

Hymns: 6, 297, 311

The apprehension about the destruction of products of the past.

That is not the great thing to be worried about.

The real danger of our time is the destruction of the spirit, the power and the purpose that created and supported monuments of history.

The spirit of the vagabond is the spirit of irresponsible freedom, negative in character.

To withdraw all essential loyalty, belief, and consent to the maintenance of standards and institutions that make civilized life possible.

What to do?

Belief; consent. Loyalty

But not of some far-off place, or far off time. But here and now.

⁶² See the last line of the sermon notes for September 5, 1943.

September 19, 1943

"To Love Thine Enemy"

Service 3, Page 12. Litany page 14.

Readings: Matthew 5; Matthew 12; M.R.U.+P. page 265

Hymns: 69, 256, 308

AGAPAO: **TO REGARD THE WELFARE OF.

PHILIO: **TO HAVE AN AFFECTIONATE emotional attitude towards.

EKTHROS: **TO WHOM ONE IS HOSTILE, OPPOSED.

Smith College incident.

1. To understand thine enemy,
2. Wish well for thine enemy.
3. Thus to come to an understanding with thine enemy, to come to peace.

Our limitation of using the word, "Love" in two distinct ways, and getting them mixed up.

Equals.

September 26, 1943

"A Reasonable Service"

Service 4, Page 17. Litany 19.

Readings: Mark 2ff

Hymns: 54, 351, 408

Brave men and True in daily life.

The question is constantly before us. A harvest question.

"In 1511, Andreas Ammonius, the Latin Secretary to Henry VIII, writing to Erasmus, says that wood has grown scarce and dear because so much was needed to burn heretics." (Page 316, Lindsay's *History of the Reformation*)⁶³

One hundred years before the King James version of the Bible. What were the heresies?

Translation of the Bible into English. Lollards—seeds of what we now call democracy.⁶⁴

Persecution by Church and state drove our forebears to this New World. Among other things, they founded Harvard College. In 1943 Harvard College confers a degree on Winston Churchill because of his faithful and tenacious support of democratic order of society.

This is a great change.

Now the point that I want to make is that while each age has had its leaders more or less expressing the growth products of that age, the transformation has been accomplished by faithful thought and practice of common man.

What are you actually thinking about? The seeds for tomorrow's harvest, etc.

⁶³ Thomas M. Lindsay (1843-1914) Scottish historian, principle and professor of the Free Church College in Glasgow. His book, *A History of the Reformation* in two volumes, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1925, first published in 1907. The quote here is from volume 2, page 316.

⁶⁴ Lollards were followers of 14th century religious reformer, John Wyclif (c. 1328-1384) who, among other things provided an English translation of the Bible. Davis has written about Wyclif in his history notes, "Lecture Two: Late Medieval Period, Frederick II, John Wyclif. See <https://wordpress.clarku.edu/dbaird/lecture-two-late-medieval-period-frederick-ii-john-wyclif/>.

October 3, 1943

"Communion, Real and Formal"

Service 5, Page 22. Litany 24.

Readings: Amos 5:16-24; Luke 22:14-24; Micah 6:6-8; Emerson, "Be
of Good Cheer," Page 381, Poems⁶⁵

Hymns: 25, 76, 280

Ways of dividing men into classes.

Communion one with another.

Requires:

Understanding,
Purpose, and
Destiny.

⁶⁵ 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.

October 10, 1943⁶⁶

"The Age to Come: The Spirit of Adventure in Human Life, the
Push of Life"

Service 2, Page 8. Litany 10.

Readings: Revelations 21:22-22:9; Bjornson⁶⁷

Hymns: 9, 75, 313

Current events that fire the imagination. What you find in the
attic.

144 signatures of Peace program. 7 points. U.S. Protestant,
Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox Greek, Jews, 56,000,000
members. Etc.⁶⁸

15th Century. Fall of Constantinople, 1433; Printing, 1458.

Discovery of America.

Renaissance

Vlamace family

Dignity of Man.

Common necessity and interest.

⁶⁶ The date written is October 12, but very likely this is a
mistake and October 10—on which Sunday falls—was intended.

⁶⁷ Likely Bjonstjern Martinius Bjornson (1832-1910) Norwegian
writer received the Nobel Prize in literature in 1903.

⁶⁸ Davis refers here to a peace plan proposed by Pope Benedict XV
in August, 1917 to end World War I. The plan had 7 points, the
first being "Relations between nations should be governed by
justice rather than the 'material force of arms'—warfare." The
response to the plan by the United States and Britain was
negative.

October 17, 1943

"Wisdom at its Best: The Path of Life"

Service 3, Page 12. Psalm 92:1-5. Litany 14.

Readings: Isaiah 61; Matthew 5:13-20

Hymns: 16, 327, 329

Substance of the Bible:

Courage,
Understanding,
Faith.

Willard Gibbs

Four great men of the period. Lincoln, Herman Melville,
Whitman, Gibbs.⁶⁹

Scripture.⁷⁰

The best in written record.

Reading such: to lift us to moments when we are at our
best, when we have:

Courage,
Understanding,
Faith.

When life is full and rich, even in the midst of
difficulty.

⁶⁹ Josiah Willard Gibbs (1839-1903) American scientist. With J. C. Maxwell and L. Boltzmann, he created statistical mechanics. The others in Davis' list: Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) 16th President of the United States; Herman Melville (1819-1891) American author; Walt Whitman (1819-1892) American poet.

⁷⁰ Attached to this sermon was an October 9, 1943 news clipping: "Eisenhower Lauds Bible: Tells How His Men Seek Help of God in Fight for Right." Eisenhower's statement recognized of National Bible Week, October 11-18, 1943. Eisenhower is quoted: "While the utterances of God as recorded in the Bible are ever the need of mankind, it is in war, and particularly in the present war, with its issues of humanity and morality, that their essential presence is felt. On this front, I am happy to report, this thought is foremost among our men. Our objective is total victory, not only victory by arms, but victory also for America's ideals. And, with the help of God in this fight for right, which help our men are ever and devotedly seeking, this victory is assured." Dwight David Eisenhower (1890-1969) 34th President of the United States. At the time of this sermon, he was the Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force of the North Africa Theater of Operations.

October 24, 1943

"Scape Goat"

Service 4, Page 17. Litany 19.

Readings: Leviticus 16:1-10; Luke 18:9-14

Hymns: 63, 206, 236

Excuses.

Prayers and answers.

Ragweed plants.

"How are things back home?" Gen. Eisenhower⁷¹

⁷¹ Dwight David Eisenhower (1890-1969) 34th President of the United States. At the time of this sermon, Eisenhower was the Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force of the North Africa Theater of Operations. In December 1943, President Roosevelt appointed Eisenhower Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, from which post he planned Operation Overload leading to the D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944.

October 31, 1943

"Mr. Smedley's Guest. Cited in *Marks of an Educated Man* by A.E. Wiggam,⁷² Page 281."

Service 5, Page 22. Litany 24.

Readings: *Soul of Bible*, P. 373;⁷³ *M.R.L.V.+P.*, 129, Browning⁷⁴

Hymns: 28, 229, 442

All Saints: Those who have survived in the years as persons who have met the high tests of life. Some are recorded in the annals of history; many or most have not.

Jesus' thought, according to John:

1. The son can do nothing of himself.⁷⁵
2. Not mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.⁷⁶
3. Judge by my works, not my intentions. Pragmatism.

⁷² Albert. E. Wiggam (1871-1957) American psychologist and eugenicist. Davis is citing his 1940 book, *The Marks of an Educated Man*.

⁷³ *The Soul of the Bible: Being Selections from the Old and the New Testaments and the Apocrypha Arranged as Synthetic Readings*, Ulysses G. B. Peirce, ed., Boston: The Beacon Press, 1908. On page 373 is a version of John 5, 10.

⁷⁴ Robert Browning (1812-1889) English poet.

⁷⁵ John 5:19.

⁷⁶ John 6:38.

November 7, 1943⁷⁷

"Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

Service 16, Page 64.

Readings: Soul of the Bible, Page 101;⁷⁸ *Great Companions*, Page 247⁷⁹

Hymns: 54, 384

"Men in every country who talked glibly about 'Freedom' and 'Democracy' prepared for fascism by their selfish and lazy interpretation of those words. I cannot do better than quote a sentence by Philip Gribble: 'Today is yesterday's effect and tomorrow's cause, and not merely yesterday's future and tomorrow's history.'" Vernon Bartlett in *Nation* for October 30, 1943, page 490.⁸⁰

Morning of Armistice Day, 1918.
Sending men to Camp Devens.

"Civilization can get along without the operation which O'Shaughnessy taught you. It is doomed without O'Shaughnessy's spirit."⁸¹ Page 3.

⁷⁷ 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.

⁷⁸ *The Soul of the Bible: Being Selections from the Old and the New Testaments and the Apocrypha Arranged as Synthetic Readings*, Ulysses G. B. Peirce, ed., Boston: The Beacon Press, 1908. On pages 101-2 is a version of Nehemiah 5.

⁷⁹ *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 page 247 there is brief quote from Epictetus (c.50-c.135) Greek philosopher and stoic:

"Difficulties are what show men's character. Therefore, when a difficult crisis meets you, remember that you are as the raw youth with whom God the trainer is wrestling. To what end? That you may win at Olympia; and that cannot be done without sweating for it." *Discourses and Manual of Epictetus*.

⁸⁰ Vernon Bartlett (1894-1983) English journalist. This passage from the *Nation* was folded into his book, *Tomorrow Always Comes*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1944, p. 37.

⁸¹ John Thompson Whitaker (1906-1946) American writer and journalist. His book, *We Cannot Escape History*, New York: Macmillan, 1943, concerns the events leading up to the second World War. This quote from page 3.

November 14, 1943

"The Undercurrents. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

Service 16, Page 64.

Readings: Isaiah 32:1-8; 41:1-7; Hound of Heaven⁸²

Hymns: 54, 384, 346(?)

Armistice Day.

Boys to the train.

Petersham, byproduct of the French and Indian Wars.

John Whitaker's *We Cannot Escape History*⁸³

"Civilization can get along without the operation which
O'Shaughnessy taught you. It is doomed without
O'Shaughnessy's spirit."

⁸² Francis Thompson (1859-1907) English poet and Catholic mystic. His poem, "The Hound of Heaven," can be found in Francis Thompson, *The Hound of Heaven*, Portland, Maine: Thomas B. Mosher, 1911.

⁸³ John Thompson Whitaker (1906-1946) American writer and journalist. His book, *We Cannot Escape History*, New York: Macmillan, 1943, concerns the events leading up to the second World War. This quote page 3.

November 21, 1943

Union Thanksgiving Service

Prelude

Call to Worship - Doxology
Invocation - Lord's Prayer

Hymn 599, Come ye thankful people

Responsive Reading 8
Gloria Patri

Scripture Reading, Rev. Earl C. Davis

Anthem "O be Joyful"
Pastoral Prayer

Announcements, Reading of Proclamation

Offertory

Hymn 592, Praise to God.

Sermon, Rev. Earl C. Davis

Hymn 598, We plough the fields

Benediction.

November 28, 1943⁸⁴

"Surveying for a New Day"

Service 4, Page 17. Litany Page 19.

Readings: Mark 1:1-13; Matthew 6:5-15

Hymns: 308, 281, 296

Whether in our personal life, or in our community life, whether we be saints or sinners, we are constantly occupied with what is ahead of us.

Some face it by the process of worrying, letting the mind run wild in imagining what may come.

Some by the process of plunging ahead into the regardless [sic] of facts and conditions.

Some face tomorrow and all life by a careful survey.

⁸⁴ On the back side of the page with the sermon notes for November 28, 1943: "Christmas. Alliance, Thursday 2:30."

December 5, 1943

"The Bibles"

Service 1. Litany.

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-9; Matthew 7:7-12

Hymns: 73, 75, 131, 224

The Mennonite choosing minister.

Translation of Bible.

The chained Bible.

Tyndale burned somewhat after 1530.⁸⁵

People listened as we listen to the radio for the latest news.

Symbol of knowledge and wisdom.

⁸⁵ William Tyndale (c.1494-1536) English Biblical scholar and leader of the Protestant Reformation provided an English translation of the Bible. Tyndale was arrested in 1535 and interrogated for a year and a half. Ultimately, he was found guilty of heresy and burned at the stake in 1536.

December 19, 1943

Sunday before Christmas

Service 12, page 45.

Readings: Matthew 2:1-11

Hymns: 165, 166, 163

The Manger of the unknown Christ.

Meaning of "The Chosen one."

Christening Service. Hymn 438.

December 26, 1943

"The World: As is, as we think it"

Service 4, P 17.

Readings: Luke 2:38-52; Ruskin⁸⁶

Hymns: 148, 169, 154

Christmas:

Its meaning.

Human life.

Christ: Anointed.

Mission.

Assignment.

⁸⁶ John Ruskin (1819-1900) English writer, philosopher, art critic.