

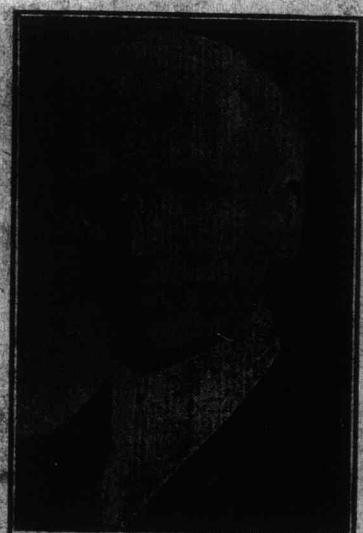
Christmas Sermon

TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

By Rev. W. Harris Wallace, of Victoria Avenue Baptist Church.

"And the angel said unto them, be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2: 10, 11.

We think of Christmas as the great festival of the Christian Church, but it was not so from the beginning. On the contrary, the great festival of the early church was Easter, the day of the resurrection of Jesus. It was not till the XIII. century that the infant Christ and the manger came to have the place now held in the thoughts and affections of Christians. This



REV. W. H. WALLACE

was largely due to the great influence of Francis Assisi, who visited Bethlehem and wept with joy over the lowly birth of Our Saviour. St. Francis, on his return to Italy, diffused his own devotion among all classes of people and great artists found in the stable and the manger, the ox and the ass, (borrowed from Isa. 1:3), the Mother and the Child, the shepherds and the angels, the highest inspiration of their genius. Many centuries have rolled by since the shepherds near Bethlehem, beheld the glory of the Lord in the eastern sky, and heard the voice of the angel proclaiming, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people; for there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." What majesty and power resound from that first Christmas message its grand chorus sweeps round the world, telling all nations of joy and hope and faith and love, "Peace on earth."

The Occasion and Cause of Christmas.

It was a time when religion was formed and even dead people were restless and longing, as we find them today, hoping the Messiah would soon appear. The God-appointed time had come when the Desire of all the Nations would fulfill the law and the law and the prophets.

Earth was waiting, spent and restless.

With a mingled hope and fear; And the faithful few were sighing, Surely God the day is near; The Desire of all the Nations, It is time He should appear.

Still the gods were in their temples But the ancient faith had fled; And the priests stood by their altars Only for a piece of bread; And the oracles were silent, And the prophets all were dead.

The scriptures must be fulfilled in God's time and way. There were men of learning and wealth in Palestine and men who left all to go away to pray and fast in desert places, but to none of these did the Christmas message come. The greatest news the world has ever heard was sent from heaven to a group of humble shepherds. They were not vexed by any ambition to be famous. They passed their days amidst the silence of nature and to them nature was the will of God. They were men of a devout and reverent spirit, touched with a sense of the mystery of things, as shepherds are so often to this day. It is to such simple and reverent spirits that God still reveals Himself, in full measure. It was fitting that shepherds be chosen on this great occasion when we reflect that the Babe of Bethlehem was to be the Good Shepherd, giving His life for the sheep.

It is significant that the place where Jesus was born was also according to scripture, "But thou, Bethlehem, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." What historic memorial do we recall as we think of Bethlehem and its sheep folds? It was here that David was called from shepherding sheep to be king over Israel. We remember also that it was in these pastoral scenes that Ruth the Moabitess met Boaz and became the

mother of Obed, the father of Jesse, who was the father of David. The exact spot where Jesus was born cannot now be fixed with any certainty. The place that tradition points out is only a guess and leaves us in doubt. It would almost seem as if God Himself had wiped out these memories, hiding them away as He hid the grave of Moses, lest men should pay them too great a homage, and lest we might think that one place lay nearer to Heaven than another, when all places are equally distant or rather equally near.

The Christmas Message

The message of that first Christmas came with suddenness to those humble shepherd folk. There was an element of sunshine in it, as we find in so many of the Divine communications to earth. This is true in our human experience. We are not always ready and prepared for good news when it comes to us. We are so surprised, we can hardly believe the truth when it is reached. We find the first Christmas message is prefaced with a word of assurance, "Be not afraid." In order to arrest any fear that might take hold of these devout men, Jesus had to repeat, "Fear not," all through His ministry. We hear Him in the midst of the storm, "Be not afraid." When Jesus' followers are fearful because of fear without and within, "Fear not, little flock." When everything seems to be against them, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world, and cast out the prince of the world." And when shadows are darkening all about them, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." That is the first note in the Christmas message, "Fear not." Then it is a universal message of joy to all people. The Jews said, "There is a gospel to the Jews." When the gospel went out beyond the Jews the Roman Catholic Church said, "There is a gospel to the baptized" and they collected them by the thousand in India, and sprinkled water on them, so as to give them a chance to be saved. Calvin, by his doctrine of election made the idea of salvation broader. He meant that anyone can be saved. The glad tidings of Christmas is a message for all people—Jews and gentiles, baptized and unbaptized, elect and non-elect, (if there be any such), for those old enough to accept the gospel, and for little children not old enough to accept the gospel. "All that the Father giveth Me," said Our Lord, "shall come to Me, and him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." And when God is known better and when the gospel understood better, we read, "God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to Him and live." Salvation for all people is the Christmas message.

It is also a personal message, from a personal God, about a personal Saviour—the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what makes Christmas wonderful and grand and great, God stoops down to reveal Himself to sinful men in the person of His Son. We repeat the well-known text to tell of God's love and God's gift at Christmas—"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." This is both universal and personal in its application. It means that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. And applying the great fact of the "good tidings," as Paul did, each one of us can say truly, if we have accepted the message, "He loved me and gave Himself for me."

Jesus Christ, the Lord, the Son of God, became the "Son of man" that we might become the sons of God. This is the mystery of glory of the Incarnation. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" and we

SELLING OUT

Christmas Goods

DAINTY BLOUSES
CAMISOLES
GLOVES, HOSIERY
NECKWEAR
HANDKERCHIEFS
NIGHT GOWNS
TABLE LINENS
MEN'S WEAR
SHIRTS, TIES
SOXES, BRACES
COLLARS
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WOOL MUFFLERS
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You can save money on every purchase.

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behold His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father." It is related of a celebrated musician that when asked to compose a National Anthem for the people of another country, he went and lived among them and studied them from within, shared their poverty, became one with them and by doing this he was enabled to express their feelings in his music. This is what God did by sending Jesus to dwell with men. But Christ must be born anew in each of our hearts that we may have a happy Christmas. And now the day draws nigh when Christ was born; the day that showed how like to God Himself man had been made, since God could be revealed by One that was a man with men, and still was One with God the Father; that men might, by drawing nigh to Him, draw nigh to God, who had come near to them in tenderness.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is peerless in His birth, His life, His work and His death. He stands alone in His matchless revelation of character. He not only reveals God, but He is God and the only One who can save man from his sin and transform him into the Divine likeness. Jesus is God's unspeakable gift to man. And we must receive Him by faith as our Saviour and Master and live for Him daily as living sacrifices to do His Will. This is the purpose and meaning of Christmas and only thus can its message to us be tidings of great joy.

Xmas Market Was Not Large

Poultry Prices Have Not Changed Much.

Today was the last market day before Christmas. After Saturday's immense joint today's market seemed small. Business was not very brisk.

Turkeys were a little easier, if anything, selling at from \$8. to \$11. per bird or at 60c to 70c per pound. Geese brought, \$3.50 to \$4.50 each. Ducks sold up to \$2.50 each. Chickens sold for \$1.00 per pair to \$2.00.

Butter was down to 60c and eggs sold at 90c.

THE W. C. A.

We wish to acknowledge with sincerest thanks 11 pairs of socks from the Quins Chapter, I.O.D.E., also the following articles sent by Mrs. Robert Sparrow from the Melrose Women's Institute: Herring, 4; butter, 2 lbs.; pickles 1 quart; plums, 1 quart; maple syrup, 1 quart; pickled pork, 2 1/2 lbs.; smoked pork, 2 1/2 lbs.; tea, 1 lb.; eggs, 1 1/2 dozen; hickory nuts, 4 quarts; 1 bag of potatoes and turnips.

By adding to the above some staple goods, such as oats, flour, beans, sugar, some vegetables and fresh meats, five splendid boxes were filled and sent to bring good cheer to five most deserving families.

Mary Yeomans, Chairman City Indigent Committee

CARD OF THANKS

Mr. John McAvoy and family wish to thank their many kind friends for their kind acts during the illness and death of a loving wife and mother, also for the many beautiful flowers.

EARTH ONLY AN ATOM IN THE UNIVERSE

Written for The Ontario by

Chas. M. Blee, Lawyer, Denver, Colorado.

Scientists have recently discovered that each atom of each molecule in a drop of water constitutes in itself a complete solar system, analogous to the one in which our earth follows its annual orbit around the sun.

This marvelous fact recently proved by the researches of Thomson and Rutherford, both Englishmen, was corroborated fully by the experiments of the Danish physicist Nils Bohr.

This means that we, our earth, our sun and stars are but infinitesimal particles in the formation of a greater drop of liquid suspended in the depths of a boundless ocean whose infinite magnitude defies all the powers of conception in the human brain. And, again, the awesome ocean is doubtless but a penny detail in the great mass of matter which makes up the still vaster universe, and so on ad infinitum.

Why not, when we consider that in every drop of water, in every slightest grain of matter making up the dust of a city, there actually are other universes, as infinitely minute by comparison, as the ones just mentioned are infinitely vast?

And without doubt there are in those tiny universes billions and trillions of worlds as beautiful and complex as ours, where, in the twinkling of an eye, civilizations are born, rise, wane and are totally extinguished.

Of the existence of these there is no longer room for doubt. Whether organic life similar to ours exists in them, or not, cannot be determined by any means known to man, but to say the least there is as much reason to believe that it does exist as to presume the contrary.

Such meager facts as we do know about the drop of water are still so wonderful that their consideration excites and sanctions almost any length of imagination excursions into the realm of the unknown.

These scientists have calculated that in each drop of water there are two thousand billion billions of molecules, each a distinct and physically separable particle. Translated into figures, two thousand billion billions is represented by the character followed by 21 ciphers or zeros. This number alone is beyond the compass of human visualization. But it has been exactly calculated, and is no figure of speech but a scientific fact.

The Milky Way itself contains little more than a billion and a half of stars. It follows, therefore, that a single drop of water contains over a thousand billion times more molecules than the Milky Way holds stars, or than there are men in the world—for, strangely enough, there are about as many humans on the earth as stars in the sky.

All the rivers of the earth pour into the sea each year something like 25,000 cubic miles of water. This being so it is possible to calculate by way of further illustration, that it would require a three year flow of all the rivers in the world to bear to the sea as many drops of water as there are molecules in a single one of these drops.

Each molecule in the drop of water is itself divided into the three infinitesimal particles, known as atoms—two atoms of hydrogen and one of oxygen. But this is nothing

new. But what is new, is the astonishing discovery of Thomson and Rutherford, supported by the researches of Nils Bohr, that each of the three atoms composing the molecules of water contains in itself a complete planetary system revolving about a central planet inconceivable rates of speed. It has been further demonstrated that the central suns in the atomic planetary system attended to, are charged with positive electricity, and that the minute planets, called "electrons," racing at a dizzy pace through their atomic orbits are charged with negative electricity.

Nils Bohr has even pushed his researches so far as to count the number of electrons found in certain atoms. In the case of the atom of hydrogen there is but one electron turning about the central sun. The atom of oxygen consists of a planetary system numbering eight electrons. In the atom of iron there are twenty-six minute planets.

These astonishing discoveries suggest the small importance of our earth and even of our entire solar system in the great scheme of the universe. And the still more diminutive importance of man in the infinite cosmic design. They moreover suggest problems for the clergy to demonstrate how the Infinite Creator of the universe could be concerned about man's doings on this speck of a planet, and how it is probable He gave His only begotten Son to die for man's redemption.

Daniel Webster regarded by many as the greatest orator and logician the world has produced said on his death bed, "Philosophical argument especially that drawn from the vastness of the universe as compared with the apparent insignificance of this globe, has often shaken my reason for the faith that is in me, etc., while the known vastness of the universe has been enlarged a thousand times since his day."

DEATH NOTICE
NAPHAN—Died in Toronto, December 21st, 1919, Ellen Naphan, aged 84 years.

The funeral will take place from the residence of her brother-in-law, Mr. D. J. Culhane, 78 Motra St. E., at 3.30 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 24th, 1919, at St. Michael's church at 9 o'clock.

FUNERAL NOTICE

The funeral of our late Bro. Geo. Ormond, will take place from the family residence, 277 Albert St., under the auspices of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, on Wednesday, Dec. 24th, at 2 p.m. Sister organizations cordially invited to attend.

Signed—
T. H. Marshall, Chief Engineer
H. LaVoie, Secretary.

CITY LEAGUE HOCKEY

A meeting is called this evening at eight o'clock in the Y.M.C.A. parlors to discuss matters and conditions for teams entering for the Y.M.C.A. Hockey Trophy. All managers and representatives of teams are cordially invited to attend.

The Good Judge's Decision is:

That for Pastry "Economy" is the Best Flour—for Bread "Pinnacle of Wales" and "Cartier" are the best Flours, and by using these you will be delighted with the results. These brands of Flour as well as all Cereals bearing the Judge's Picture are the Products of—

The Judge-Jones Milling Co.
Belleville, Ont.

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Many displays throughout the Store show Practical and Serviceable Gifts, of a most acceptable nature. Large assortments make for easy choice.

Gift Blouses

Dozens of styles and a wide range of prices, make it possible to choose a Blouse for every taste and every purse. There are Blouses in Plain or Striped Silks, Crepe de Chine, and Georgette. Some are elaborately embroidered and others are in simple styles. Prices range from \$2.65 to \$22.50.

Fine Linens

No Gift, probably, is more appreciated than one of Good Linens. Whether it is to be a Linen Cloth, or Set, Table Linen in a Cloth Length, or Fancy Linens, you can depend on the quality of the Pure Linens you will obtain here. Our display window is full of suggestions in Pure Linen.



Gloves

Success is assured the Gift of Gloves, when they are as smart and well made as these Silk and Chamollette Gloves which are ready for Christmas. Prices from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per pair.

Silk Hosiery

One never has too many pairs of Silk Stockings, and the Gift of a pair or more from this group will be very acceptable. In Plain, Lace Striped or Clocked styles, from \$1.25 to \$3.50 pair.

Colorful Camisoles

are shown in bright colorings for use with dark Blouses, and others are in delicate shades, daintily embroidered for wear with light Blouses. You are sure to be complimented if you choose one of these for a Gift. The prices are moderate.

From One Woman

to another, no Gift is more suitable than that of dainty, tasteful Neckwear. And here you will find unusually smart styles in Collars, Vesteers, and Collar and Cuff Sets. From 50c up.

French Ivory

The immaculate appearance of French Ivory makes it most popular for Toilet Articles. Help complete a set, or start one for a friend. Articles are all solid and are stamped "French Ivory."

Boudoir Caps

There are many pretty styles in these collections of dainty Boudoir Caps. Some are plain styles, while others are more elaborate in design. Prices from 50c to \$3.50.



Handkerchiefs

Hundreds and hundreds of Handkerchiefs are ready for the rush of the last Christmas shopping. Handkerchiefs of Pure Linen, Crepe de Chine, and Cambric, in white or colors, with dainty bits of embroidery or lace, may be had singly or in boxes of one to six.

Children's Handkerchiefs are shown singly or boxed, in plain or colored. Men's Handkerchiefs are obtainable in Linen or Cambric.

You will be pleased with the moderate prices.

Umbrellas

are obtainable with the very newest of handles, in styles for Ladies and Gentlemen. Always acceptable Gift. Priced from \$1.25 to \$8.50.

Bags

The smartest styles in Purse and Bags are ready in great variety for last-minute shoppers. Purse may be had from 85c, and Bags up to \$8.50.

This Store Remains Open Xmas Eve.

SINCLAIR'S

A SERM

For the Informa

of Eugenes or in stock of humanity to know the facts. Renaul in his Can, Pract., & Rev. rization," "One o population in Eng described as a lum five of criminals of every three in a feeble minded. The a fingertop po minds to a ghastly cal inspection—not spection—of sch bringing a sad stag surface. The menta ren — about 150,0 will beget an army or doctor, a residen says: In the Unit safely make the tion: Every time a doubled, the insas by three and the children are multi of these may be as directly or indire and to Syphylis—the Little Fox is Fox. In a great U die Europe, some its world-wide k when lecturing to dents said; "So phylis that not one free by inheritance personally from its the source of the brain, liver, heart disorders and dis scourge—existing from time immem ing, with alcoholis or acquirement, ly are blended)— or she is not an victim—at large nity and as a walk has been said that the operations in wherein the operati disorders — were Pex or to infection hoes. Sterility is al such is a fact well doctors. In a north this country in 19 of some twenty children. Who are well known citizen, are known as the mily. They are idio homes. They are w so mixed in their hardly any one kn or relations, Each from the outside gang and the bl among them. Yes, rabbits." Dr. Hastings said feeble-minded are