

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## THE GREAT GUEST COMES

BY EDWIN MARKHAM

While the cobbler mused there passed  
his pane  
A beggar drenched by the driving rain,  
He called him in from the stony street  
And gave him shoes for his bruised  
feet.  
The beggar went and there came a  
crone,  
Her face with wrinkles of sorrow sown.  
A bundle of faggots bowed her back,  
And she was spent with the wrench  
and rack.  
He gave her his loaf and steadied her  
load  
As she took her way on the weary road.  
Then to his door came a little child,  
Lost and afraid in the world so wild,  
In the big, dark world. Catching it up,  
He gave it the milk in the waiting cup,

And led it home to its mother's arms,  
Out of the reach of the world's alarms.  
The day went down in the crimson west  
And with it the hops of the blessed  
Guest.  
And Conrad sighed as the world turned  
gray:  
"Why is it, Lord, that Your feet delay?  
Did You forget that this was the day?"  
Then soft in the silence a Voice he  
heard:  
"Lift up your heart, for I kept my word.  
Three times I came to your friendly  
door;  
Three times my shadow was on your  
floor.  
I was the beggar with bruised feet;  
I was the woman you gave to eat;  
I was the child on the homeless street."

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