

A SERMON

PREACHED BY THE

Rev. F. Harding, Incumbent of Trinity Church, Mitchell,

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1879.

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"Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness." — Psalm XXIX, v. 2.

You all notice cards in your pews this morning, containing this text. These cards meet a want which has been for a long time apparent to me, and has been to some extent, I know not how widely, or how deeply, felt among you. These cards call attention to a reverent, a Godly, and, I believe, a profitable custom which many of us either forget or habitually neglect. They call attention to the time-honored and, I believe, God-honored custom of kneeling when you come into church for the blessing of Him who seeth in secret and rewardeth openly. They also call attention to the equally Godly, equally churchly, equally reverent, and equally profitable custom of remaining a moment on our knees after the apostolic benediction has been pronounced. I trust and hope that those cards may be the means of helping us to establish this good old custom amongst ourselves. I have no wish to bind you down to the use of those prayers, though I am sure they are very appropriate and besides have this to recommend them to us that they are taken from that book which next to the Bible is dearest to our hearts. I only ask that they at least may be taken as a guide by all, and as a help by all who need it. This good custom once established we can leave the result with God, relying on the promise of his Son, which is a promise to all his people "whatsoever ye shall ask of God in prayer, believing ye shall receive." But those cards aim at something more than the establishment of the good old custom of offering up a private prayer at the opening and close of public worship. They aim at making the whole service of prayer and praise more like what it ought to be, and more like what in itself it is so admirably fitted to be. They aim at leading us all to give more earnest heed that in our whole conduct when assembled together in God's house the apostolic precept "Let all things be done decently and in order," may find its complete fulfillment. They aim at leading us to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." In our prayer Books there are directions given as to the changes of posture on the part of the people as well as on the part of the minister. The general principle which runs through all these directions is brought before us in the cards in the words "Let us all kneel in prayer and stand in praise." In these directions the prayer book has reason and scripture on her side, these being at once the