

The Church Times.

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Calendar.

CALENDAR WITH LESSONS

Day & Date	MORNING	EVENING
June 30	Send of the Holy Spirit	John 14:26
July 1	First of July	1st John 1:1
July 2	Second of July	2nd John 1:1
July 3	Third of July	3rd John 1:1
July 4	Fourth of July	4th John 1:1
July 5	Fifth of July	5th John 1:1
July 6	Sixth of July	6th John 1:1
July 7	Seventh of July	7th John 1:1
July 8	Eighth of July	8th John 1:1
July 9	Ninth of July	9th John 1:1
July 10	Tenth of July	10th John 1:1
July 11	Eleventh of July	11th John 1:1
July 12	Twelfth of July	12th John 1:1
July 13	Thirteenth of July	13th John 1:1
July 14	Fourteenth of July	14th John 1:1
July 15	Fifteenth of July	15th John 1:1
July 16	Sixteenth of July	16th John 1:1
July 17	Seventeenth of July	17th John 1:1
July 18	Eighteenth of July	18th John 1:1
July 19	Nineteenth of July	19th John 1:1
July 20	Twentieth of July	20th John 1:1
July 21	Twenty-first of July	21st John 1:1
July 22	Twenty-second of July	22nd John 1:1
July 23	Twenty-third of July	23rd John 1:1
July 24	Twenty-fourth of July	24th John 1:1
July 25	Twenty-fifth of July	25th John 1:1
July 26	Twenty-sixth of July	26th John 1:1
July 27	Twenty-seventh of July	27th John 1:1
July 28	Twenty-eighth of July	28th John 1:1
July 29	Twenty-ninth of July	29th John 1:1
July 30	Thirtieth of July	30th John 1:1

Portry.

THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM

High is your realm of light,
Far above these lower skies.
Fair and exquisitely bright,
Heaven's unfolding mansions rise—
Built of pure and massy gold.
Strong and durable are they;
Deck'd with gems of wondrous kind,
Subjected to no decay!

Glad within these blissful abodes,
Dwell the raptur'd saints above,
Where no anxious care corrodes,
Happy in Immanuel's love!
Oce, indeed, like us below,
Pilgrims in this vale of tears,
Torturing pain and heavy woe,
Gloomy doubts, distressing fears:

These, alas! full well they knew,
Sad companions of their way;
Oh on them the tempest blew,
Through the long and cheerless day!
Oh their violence they deplored,
Wills perverse and hearts untried,
Grieved they could not love their Lord,
Love him as they wished to do.

Oh the big unbidden tear,
Stealing down the furrow'd cheek,
Told, in eloquence sincere,
Tales of woe they could not speak:
But these days of weeping o'er,
Past this scene of toil and pain,
They shall feel distress no more,
Never, never more complain.

Religious Miscellany.

HINTS ON CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

Corresp. of Christian Guardian.

THOSE churches which I have found most exhausting to voice, strength, &c., have had one or more of the following defects.—

1. POSITION OF THE CHURCH.—Painfully close to low houses, and noisy children, mechanic's shops—too near the streets, especially if rough and much travelled—so that every passing carriage duly announced itself,—and even the passing seegar-smoker. No flush upon the side-walk as to allow no fence,—exposing the prayer-meetings in basement to outside gazers, if windows open, if shut, ruining the meeting for want of ventilation.

From such defects as these your good sense, I trust, will preserve you,—aye, even though the site should be offered as a gift!

2. CHURCH-PROPORTIONS.—Want of internal symmetry—either out of proportion in length or width.—The wall of galleries too wide, placing the audience at a painful distance from the preacher—tempting him, perhaps, to pitch his voice too high to begin with, and to speak louder than he need to. Ceiling too lofty—allowing the voice to ascend too high before receiving a returning impulse, such as a properly-constructed ceiling always affords. Concave ceiling—always bad; but more on this by-and-by.

3. THE PULPIT.—Its Position and Fixtures.—Position:—At the entrance, where winds and noises may annoy the preacher the readiest, whether administering in the pulpit or altar. Too low, if ceiling lofty; too high, if ceiling improperly low. Fixtures:—Lamps too near for safety or comfort, leaving the preacher no choice but submit, recess behind:—Too deep, always bad; or if shallow, so abundantly supplied with white-wash, as to leave the preacher no alternative, but sit “bolt upright,” like a boarding-school miss, or lean back for a moment, to rise like a powdered bean, or liveried servant of other days! Drapery behind the pulpit:—A nuisance evermore—it absorbs sound, with-

out separating them,—detrains and deadens the voice. Floor-board:—Too high, or too low for the desk, or habit of the preacher, without means of lowering or raising his standing to suit; and so uneven and shaky withal, as to “creek time,” with his motions.—Times, not a few, I have to fold my coat, and stand upon it, to avoid one or other of these disadvantages. Kneeling-board, or stool:—Too low,—so as to bury him to the shoulders when at prayer. Times without number, have I been forced to press cloak or Bible under knees as a remedy, or have prayed standing!

These are small matters to some, Sir, but they are often very annoying and vexatious to a preacher.

4. WINDOWS.—In particular, two or three facing the pulpit, dazzling the preacher's eyes on a bright and sunny day, without remedy. Windows, in general,—uncovered, or but one here or there so honoured, and so large as to require two men to lower or to raise them for ventilation; or so tight, that but one or two out of a half-a-dozen could be opened at all upon an emergency; or so loose, as when winds were on parade, to remind the boys of drum-beat on training-day; and so open as to give them lessons in the whistling science!

5. DOORS.—Perhaps I should have spoken of these first—but so wakeful as to announce arrivals and departures by creak or slam, with great faithfulness!

6. PEWS.—Dark, capped with a projecting ridge, or slender protuberance; and so upright and so narrow-seated withal, as to force wearied bearers to sit side-wise to the preacher at length,—and with that worried and displeas'd expression by no means inspiring to the preacher. And, besides, so inconvenient for kneeling, as to induce a general habit of sitting or standing at prayer-time.

7. LIGHTS.—Dim, or badly arranged, twinkling here and there, like a stray star in a gloomy sky!

8. TEMPERATURE.—In extremes of heat and cold; owing to want of judgement in the season, or absence of that invaluable appendage to our American churches, a good thermometer.

9. VENTILATION.—Neglected, or mismanaged. Neglected.—Air left unchanged after the congregation has retired,—to be re-inhaled by the next audience,—perhaps on a Sabbath morning, after having been imprisoned through the week,—exhausted and poisoned on the previous Sabbath, and now to be breathed over again,—voice making its way heavy through a loaded and leaden atmosphere, into the ears of yawning or sleepy hearers! Ah me! what sorrowful times have been my portion from this cause! Not one sexton in twenty has any rule against this evil. Mismanaged ventilation:—windows kept closed till the atmosphere becomes insufferable, then opened without judgment—wide and to windward—spreading discomfort and uneasiness in the vicinities. I have not found one sexton in ten who makes it a rule in such emergencies to open the windows on the sheltered side of the church; keeping those to windward shut, or but very slightly open. What next? Windows reclosed,—“better bear the ills we have,” than suffer others to fly to us, “that we know not of!” Thus the pure air, a friend indeed if properly managed, has made “cowards of us all.”

10. A few words about CHURCH CEILINGS.—A ceiling immoderately high may have some advantages. It may, in the eyes of some, perhaps look imposing. In hot weather, or when a large audience is present, may be somewhat refreshing, enclosing as it does a larger body of air for the brethren beneath. But depend upon it, the preacher pays the tax upon such slight advantages; in an increased outlay of both voice and strength; besides a sensible diminution of his ordinary power, enjoyed under a ceiling of medium height. He feels it; sinks by degrees, or loses heart, and closes under the impression of “a hard time.” Let him realize the same difficulty again and again in the same pulpit, and the apprehension will go far to weaken his faith in his usual preparation.

If the ceiling be concave or arched, the difficulty would be increased tenfold.

There is a singular sympathy, if I may use the word, between the voice and the ceiling. At least the voice is singularly aided or retarded by the character of the

ceiling. If it has to ascend high in space before it meets a substance to arrest, steady, and react upon it by a returning impulse, the preacher will sensibly feel the loss. It will force him to unusual exertion, risking the unnatural both in tone and manner. And this will exhaust! Remember this, my dear Sir, every foot you raise your ceiling above an ordinary and reasonable height, you are preparing a proportionate tax upon the strength of your excessive pastors.

Above all, Sir, let me caution you and your colleagues of the “Building Committee,” to reject, once for all, any plan which contemplates a sloped or concave or arched ceiling. I may not be using the proper architectural phrases, but you comprehend me. Either of these is almost ruinous to easy and effective speaking. I have tried them to my sorrow, and would warn you against them. Whatever advantages they might afford to orators, they are the bane of oratory—that, especially, that moves the soul or melts the heart. He is a rare preacher that succeeds in hewing down sinners under such a ceiling. If it does not create an echo, and it is sure to do so, if the congregation be small, it will attract the voice away from the audience assuredly.

It goes far to rob the voice of its reaction and power,—returning an empty sound to the ears of the people. Vacant locks will tell the labouring preacher there is something wrong or wanting. Solomon says: “If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then he must put to more strength.” Just so! And he who preaches under such a ceiling, will soon find voice and sentences blunt enough. If he love souls,—if he desire to constrain sinners to feel that they have need of every thing that Jesus has purchased for them on Calvary, he will “put to more strength.” But “there's the rub!” This is just the extra tax he is paying to the ignorance or caprice of the architect, or his advisers.

I was holding a series of meetings some time since in a church of this sort,—contending with these difficulties, till my heart ached. And to add to them, a recess behind pulpit,—not deep, but wide and lofty, in the form of a gothic window,—of “dead wall,”—large as the eastern window of some Roman Catholic Cathedral, and, abundance of dead wall, on either side of it,—never better ally to the slopes above. I advised drapery, though opposed to it in general, hoping thus to interfere with the alliance! One evening, noticing the Architect present, I consulted him. He doubted whether drapery would help the matter much,—said, he was aware such ceilings did attract the voice from the audience, and recommended a sounding-board over the pulpit as the best remedy.

A couple of years ago, when travelling in the States, I preached in a small church of this sort,—seemed as if one was standing between two battlements of a bridge, underneath a high arch. It required the greatest manoeuvring to coax the voice down to its office in the ears of the audience! I happened upon two others in the States, somewhat similar,—both bad,—one has since been demolished.

Happily churches cursed with such ceilings, are not numerous; but they are increasing both in the United States and Canada. The gothic has become quite popular, of late years. A style which offers the architect strong temptations to pitch his ceiling not only unduly high, but somewhat in conformity with the window tops.

Methodism has lately come into the possession of several specimens. Windows, well enough for the gothic; but the architect, not contented to extend his ceiling at the height which their extraordinary altitude demanded, slope'd it parallel with the rafters, clear up to the vicinity of a roof-top, by no means humble in its aspirations! Others I have noticed,—windows semi-gothic, lofty, of extraordinary width and height,—all well enough if made to raise and lower easy, which was not the case, for they required the strength of two men and frequently in vain! But, the architect, instead of spreading a plain ceiling at a reasonable height above the windows, sprang an arch a considerable height, carried it all around the edifice,—as if contriving how best to tempt the voice to vagrancy,—and suspended there on a stripe of common ceiling, affording “a pretty playground” for the voice to excursionize before doing its work in the ears and consciences of the hearers!