

## Dawn of Tomorrow

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### TO CELEBRATE EMANCIPATION

Program to be Staged at Old  
Court House, January 1st

The Cooperative Civic Association of St. Louis Miss., is arranging a program of addressess and music for the celebration of the seventy-sixth

Anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln for New Years Day. The rotunda of the historic old court house at Broadway and Market Streets and the adjoining court rooms will be utilized for the meeting.

### Building 100 Years Old

The Court House on whose east front steps slaves were sold as late as 77 years ago, is one of the historic landmarks west of the Mississippi River. It was built in 1839 and is now 100 years old. In the basement may be seen the old slave dungeon where slaves were kept in chains until they were brought to the auction block for sale. The iron bars, though rusted are still at the windows. In this building the famous Dred Scott case was tried, it is said, in the very room where Justice of the Peace Frank S. Bledsoe now hold his court. No fact in history more clearly proves the rapid march of time and the changes which it brings about than this court of justice, manned entirely by Negro officials who serve people of all races, being held in the same room where it was declared less than 100 years ago that "Negroes had no rights which a white man was bound to respect."

## And the Light Shineth in Darkness

In all great music there is the element of timelessness. We cannot think of Bach or Handel or Wagner as belonging only to the period in which they lived and composed. Their music belongs to the ages. So the Christmas story which is a song of joy out of the heart of the world, comes to us each year just as fresh and new as when we first listened to it with the starry-eyed wonder of little children. It never grows old. It never loses its appeal. Where in all the world is there any story like that coming to us as it does on the wings of music, with angel faces in the background, all wrapped in the glamour and haze of ineffable beauty. Something deep within us recognizes that here is truth so profound that we can hope to understand it only as we lay aside our towering pride and look out again through the wondering, appreciative eyes of childhood. That is why the old familiar hymns and carols are so dear to us—they are a permanent part of the world's spiritual treasure. They defy the barriers of race and nationality. "Holy Night," whether it be sung in English or Chinese, still gives expression to the reverence we feel as we stand in the presence of Divine mystery with the light of another world shining in our faces.

Vast changes have come over this world since that humble birth in Bethlehem. But the voice of Christ still speaks with timeless and universal appeal. We sense the reality of his prophecy, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away." The Gospel which means literally "Good News" is still the most urgent and important news the world has ever heard. For at the heart of it is the assurance that this is God's world. A thousand ugly facts may seem to deny it—the throb of pain in our own experience often makes us wonder if there be any God. But Christmas comes and reveals to us divine possibilities both for ourselves and for this weary world. If suspicion and fear and intolerance seem to dominate the world situation, there is no occasion to despair when we remember that with God, "A thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday." When we get panicky at the trend of events it is comforting to stop and take a long look at things. Time is always fighting on behalf of what is true and beautiful and good. There are temporary set backs—like the trough of the ocean waves, but the current sweeps on. This does not suggest that progress is automatic—that we can stand still as if we were on an escalator, and let time carry us up to the next floor. On the contrary, there can be no progress without determined, persistent effort. God uses this poor humanity of ours to get His work done. This is not a fool proof world. The price of our freedom is that we can misuse it. We can blow ourselves to bits if we are silly enough to think that war can settle our problems. No, progress is not automatic. Nevertheless, this is God's world. The Christian religion stakes its life on that. And because it is God's world, even in our darkest hours we can dare to believe that the final chapter will record a victory for truth and right. Little men drunk with power can strut up and down the earth, rattling swords and threatening all who stand in their way, but in the long run, good will is more powerful than hatred and right will outlast wrong.



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