

Sunday of Epiphany

ST. MATTHEW'S MESSAGE.

"Behold I bring you Good Tidings of Great Joy."—Luke II: 10.

VOLUME I.

LONDON, ONT., APRIL, 1889.

NUMBER I.

St. Matthew's Church.

REGULAR SERVICES every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
HOLY COMMUNION at Morning Service, on the first Sunday of each month.

SUNDAY SCHOOL every Sunday at 2 p.m.

PASTOR.—Rev. W. Minter Seaborn.

WARDENS.—Thomas Clark and George F. Oxley.

SIDESMEN.—George Minhinnick, Wm. McKenna, Wm. Henshaw and Samuel Spicknell.

ORGANIST.—Mrs. Gray.

CHOIR MASTER—Edward Gardener.

SEXTON.—P. Murch.

S. S. SUPERINTENDENT.—H. Herbert.

DELEGATE TO SYNOD.—F. Coutier.

The Society of Christian Endeavor meets every Monday Evening, in the Church, and will be glad to welcome visitors or new members at any meeting.

Emmanuel Church.

REGULAR SERVICE—Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—Every Sunday at 2 p.m.

WARDENS—F. Fitzgerald and R. A. Powell.

ORGANIST—Miss McLeod.

SEXTON—Edward Turner.

S. S. SUPERINTENDENT—Henry Shoebottom.

DELEGATE TO SYNOD—Henry Shoebottom.

AN EASY LESSON.

The famous American Humourist, Robert J. Burdette, thus muses:

How quiet the house is at midnight! The people who talk and laugh and sing in it every day are asleep, and the people who fell asleep in it long ago, come silently back into it. Every house has these two classes of tenants. Do we love those best with whom we can laugh and talk and sing, or the dear silent ones who come so noiselessly to our side and whisper to us in faint, sweet, far away whispers, that have no sound, so that we only hear their very stillness?

I am not tired, but my pen is weary. It falls from my fingers and I raise my head. I start to leave the table and my eyes fall upon a little book lying on the floor. It is a little "First Reader." He left it there this afternoon. I remember now. I remember just how I was impatient because he could not read the simple little lesson—such an easy lesson—and I told him it was a waste of my time trying to teach him, and pushed him away from me. I remember now. I see the flush come into the little tired face, the brave, patient look in his eyes—his mother's brave, patient cheerfulness—struggling with his disappointment and pain. I see him lie down on the floor and the little face bend over the troublesome lesson—such a simple, easy lesson—any baby might read it. Then, after a little struggle alone, it has to be given up, and the baffled little soldier, with one

more appealing look toward me for reinforcements, sighs and goes away from the lesson he cannot read, to the play that comforts him. And there lies the little book, just as he left it. Ah me, I could kneel down and kiss it now, as though it were alive and loving.

Why, what was my time worth to me to-day? What was there in the book I wanted to read, one-half so precious to me as one cooing word from the prattling lips that quivered when I turned away? I hate the book I read. I will never look at it again. Were it the last book in the world, I think I would burn it. All its gracious words are lies. I say to you, though all men praise the book, and though an hour ago, I thought it excellent, I say to you that there is poison in its hateful pages. Why, what can I learn from books that baby lips cannot teach me? Do you know that I want to go to the door of his room and listen! The house is so still, may be he is not breathing. Why, if between my books and my boy, I chose my books, why should not God leave me with my books—my hateful books?

But I was not harsh. I was only a little impatient. Because you see, his lesson was so easy, so simple. Ah me, there were two of us trying to read this afternoon. There were two simple, easy lessons. Mine was such a very simple, easy, pleasant, loving one to learn. Just a line, just a little throb of patience, of gentleness, of love that would have made my own heart glow and laugh and sing. The letters were so large and plain, the words so easy and the sentences so short. And I? Oh, pity me. I missed every word. I did not read one line aright. See, here is my copy now, all blurred and blistered with tears and heartache, all marred and misspelled and blotted. I am ashamed to show it to the Master. And yet I know he will be patient with me; I know how loving and gentle he will be. Why, how patiently and lovingly all these years, he has been teaching me this simple lesson I failed upon to-day. But when my little pupil stumbled on a single word—is my time then so much more precious than the Master's, that I cannot teach the little lesson more than once?

Ah, friend, we do waste time when we plait scourges for ourselves. These hurrying days; these busy, anxious, shrewd, ambitious times of ours are wasted when they take our hearts away from patient gentleness, and give us fame for love and gold for kisses. Some day then, when our hungry souls will ask for bread, our selfish god will give us a stone. Life is not a deep, profound, perplexing problem. It is a simple, easy

lesson, such as any child may read. You cannot find its solution in the ponderous tomes of the old fathers, the philosophers, the investigators, the theorists. It is not on your book shelves. But in the warmest corner of the most unlettered heart, it glows in letters that the blindest may read; a sweet, plain, simple, easy loving lesson. And when you have learned it, brother of mine, the world will be better and happier.

THE YOUNG GIRLS' WORK.

On the 13th of March, at the Rectory, a number of the young girls of the congregation formed themselves into a "Girls' Aid Society" under the direction of Miss Elise Seaborn. Energy and enthusiasm in the work allotted to them, was exhibited on the part of those present, and the Society gives evidence of being of great benefit. The following members were enrolled:—Misses Carrie Beach, Ella Spearin, Alice Spearin, Flora Gray, Alice Tibbs, Edith Gray, Alice Baldick, Lillie Spicknell, Anna Cope, Mary Inwood, Mary Rogers, Lizzie Eggett, Jessie Gray, Maggie Seaborn, Lizzie Flood, Maggie Kew, Mary Scott, Colina Smith, Emma Quick, Laura Findlater, Bessie Brown, Minnie Spicknell, Katie Welch, Bertha Cope, Ada Scott, Edith Ross and Lottie Ross.

OUR SOCIETY.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, recently organized, has already secured the interest of a large portion of the congregation and will no doubt be beneficial to its members, and shed a benignant influence upon many others.

The Officers are: President, F. Lawson; Vice-Pres., Miss Childs; Recording Sec., Miss Elise Seaborn; Cor. Sec., Miss Smith; Treas., W. Welch.

LOOKOUT COMMITTEE: Misses Childs, Smith and E. Gray, Messrs. Stratford, R. Depotè, Joseph Dillway, Arthur Welch and Mrs. Seaborn.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Misses L. Childs and Elise Seaborn, Messrs. W. Welch and John Dillway, and Mrs. George Childs.

RELIGIOUS SERVICE COMMITTEE: Rev. Mr. Seaborn, Misses Dale, Symmonds, L. Standfield and Mr. F. Lawson.

The Society will meet every Monday Evening at 8 o'clock, in the Church, and it is expected that every meeting will be made interesting to all who attend. We extend a cordial invitation to any and every one who can find time to meet with us.

ST. MATTHEW'S MESSAGE.

St. Matthew's Message

Is sent out Monthly by the

Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor,

IN CONNECTION WITH

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, - LONDON, ONTARIO.

The expense of Publication will be met by the insertion of a limited number of advertisements. All subscriptions collected in the Paper's circulation, will go into the funds of the Society.

The Editorial Management is in the hands of one of the Members.

Subscription, 25c. per Year. Payable In Advance.

SALUTATORY.

We are only a little MESSAGE, but we come to you good naturely and hopefully, trusting that we may be big enough to fulfil a great and glorious mission.

We trust that the Christian Community will receive us graciously, criticise us charitably and aid us in becoming widely circulated. Kindly remember that in receiving us yourself and placing us in the hands of others, you will not only confer a favor upon the Society, from which we are sent, but you will assist in spreading abroad the "Good Tidings of Great Joy, which shall be to all people."

OUR FRIENDS.

Speaking of his social intercourse with the other members of our congregation, Mr. Edward Gardener said at a meeting of our Society recently that they seemed more like brothers and sister to him than merely members of the same congregation. Our esteemed friend, we believe, voices the experience of all of us in this regard.

There may be congregations who feel gratified because of handsomer edifices wherein to worship. There may be those who boast of wealthier supporters in their noble undertakings. But without disrespect to any others, let us glory in the manifestation of this friendliness among our people, let us encourage its growth and extend our cordial sympathy to all who shall at any time cast in their lot with us. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

ARE YOU SURE?

In the last sermon we were favored with by Bishop Baldwin, his Lordship remarked that Christ's followers were permitted to know that they were saved. It would be well if every church-goer would ponder upon this assertion, and those who have any doubt upon the matter, make it a

subject of earnest prayer. "Ask and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you."

In answer to the question, "Are you saved?" the evangelist is often met by the response: "I think so," or "I am doing my best." To those who have become as little children, wholly dependent upon a loving Saviour for salvation, that peace has been given, which passeth all understanding, and a perfect assurance of a loving Father's everlasting care.

The annual meeting of the Western Ontario Bible Society, will be held in Victoria Hall, on Tuesday evening, April 2nd, at 8 o'clock. Rev. M. S. Baldwin, D.D., Bishop of Huron, President, will occupy the chair. Rev. G. W. Henderson, of Dresden and Rev. J. Downie, of Lucan, and others, will address the meeting.

We commend the business people, advertising in our columns, to the kind consideration of our readers.

OUR PARISH PEOPLE.

We are pleased to learn that Mrs. Thos. Clark is well again.

Miss Lizzie Standfield is visiting relatives in the country, for a few weeks.

Mr. Axton, who has been indisposed for some time, we are pleased to say, is about again.

The Choir is at present holding special practice, two evenings each week, for Easter Services.

The funeral sermon of the late Mr. French was very impressively preached by the pastor, at St. Matthew's, on March 17.

Mr. Samuel Clark, who has been very ill for some time, we are happy to state, is rapidly recovering.

Mr. Boudler, formerly basso of the choir has recently removed to Brantford. We regret his departure, but wish him prosperity and happiness in his new home.

We have reason to feel gratified that his Lordship, the Bishop of Huron expressed himself as highly delighted with the music furnished by the Choir, on the occasion of our recent Missionary Meeting.

Mrs. Wm. Childs, of Hamilton, is spending a few weeks with her father-in-law, Mr. Henry Childs. We trust she will be favorably impressed with the people of St. Matthews.

The congregation of Emmanuel Church are to be congratulated on securing the Rev. S. R. Asbury of Delaware, to address them on the occasion of the Missionary Meeting, Tuesday evening, March 26th.

Mr. Coutier has been at the trouble and expense of laying a much needed stone walk across the street, at the Church entrance. Mr. Coutier's thoughtfulness and generosity will be greatly appreciated by the congregation.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON NOTES.

A very short paper is here given of the Sunday School Lessons; earnestly hoping the parents will see that their children learn the Golden Text, Collect, etc. Parents do well to read all the parallel passages with the children, or the elder brothers and sisters with the younger ones.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 1889.

TITLE:—THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY OF JESUS INTO JERUSALEM.

St. Mark xi., 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT:—*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King cometh unto thee.*—Zach. ix., 9.

The Passover is at hand and Jesus sends his disciples for a colt, the foal of an ass, that He may ride in triumph into Jerusalem as the King.

There were from two to three millions of people in and around Jerusalem at this time, come up to keep the feast. As Jesus and his disciples reach the brow of Olivet, Jerusalem appears in sight and the great mass of the people join the procession, spreading their garments in the way, some cutting branches from palm trees near at hand, and strewing them in the way. The shouts of the immense multitude in their wild excitement, were heard all through Jerusalem. What a sublime sight; but all this will be changed in a few hours, into scorn and crucifixion.

Read parallel passages in Matt. xxi. 1-11.; Luke xix. 29-40.; John xii. 1-19.

COLLECT:—Fifth Sunday in Lent.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1889.

TITLE:—THE REJECTED SON.

Mark xii. 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT:—*He came unto his own and his own received him not.*—St. John i. 11.

A certain man planted a vineyard. It seems a common way of letting out vineyards, after having planted hedges, and made all necessary improvements. One man or a company would take such a vineyard on contract, paying in fruit, the owner sending his servants for the fruit at the time of gathering. God had planted a very choice vineyard, and made the most perfect protection for it, when he chose and planted the Jewish nation in Canaan; but instead of any return, his servants had been abused and rejected by the Jews, and at this very time when the parable was uttered, the chief priests were plotting to kill God's Son that he had sent to them.

What return are we making to God for all his benefits to us? We have minds, souls, grand opportunities, and above all, his Son has loved us and redeemed us with his own life.

Read parallel passages in Matt. xxi. 33-46; Luke xx. 9-19.

COLLECT:—Sixth Sunday in Lent.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1889.

TITLE:—THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS.

St. Mark xii. 28-34.

GOLDEN TEXT:—*Love is the fulfilling of the Law.*—Romans xiii. 10.

If God is love and all things spring from his loving goodness, we ought surely to love him in return, especially when we remember that he has so loved us, as to redeem us from sin and death, and that too, when we were unkind and ungrateful. If we have this love to God, our hearts will be right, and we shall not hate our neighbor nor do him ill. What a blessed influence such love would be upon ourselves—how rich we should be in our own souls, and how great a blessing to all with whom we come in contact. Bring up the children in this love of God, if you wish them the greatest happiness, and

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ST. MATTHEW'S MESSAGE.

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there will be love in their hearts to their parents, to each other, and that same love and gentle kindness will follow them wherever they go in the world, and be a benediction to all.

Read parallel passages in Matt. xxii. 34; Luke xx. 39, and on to the end of the subject.

COLLECT:—Easter Sunday.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1889.

TITLE:—THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE FORETOLD.

St. Mark xiii. 1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT:—*But I say unto you, that in this place is one greater than the Temple.*—St. Matt. xii. 6.

As Jesus Christ and his disciples were leaving the temple, the latter pointed out to him the beautiful stones and the building marble, covered, in many places, with plates of gold, and over the door there was a vine, with bunches of grapes, as tall as a man, all of pure gold. Jesus Christ informed his disciples that all this should be destroyed, because of the sins of the people. So with sin always and everywhere. Sin destroys what is most beautiful: the most beautiful forms and faces, the most beautiful characters, hopes and prospects. What is most lovely and amiable? Beautiful souls. Sin is the undoing of our dear children, the ruin of their success and happiness for time and eternity.

How responsible are we for all our privileges and advantages, and if unimproved, we may depend they will be taken from us and given to others.

Rejecting Christ was the outcasting of the Jews, and our rejection of him in like manner, will be the rejection of our own safety and eternal life.

The true servants of God, on the contrary, have nothing to fear. In persecution, in the fall of nations, or in the convulsions and dissolutions of the world, they shall be perfectly safe.

Read parallel passages in Matt. xxiv. 1-28; Luke xxi. 5-34.

COLLECT:—First Sunday after Easter.

CHARITY SUFFERETH LONG AND IS KIND.

To-day, a lady in social chat with a friend, expressed regret that Mrs. B, a neighbor, should "have so little spirit as to tolerate the habits of her husband." Mrs. B might, with as much propriety, have lamented that she, who criticised her, should so freely utter sympathy for unfortunates, and yet heartily assist in that society gossip, often indulged in, without a knowledge of the conduct discussed, much less of the motives prompting it.

To the charitable, all are better than the world pictures them.

The villains (?) we are only partially acquainted with, we may consider very vicious. Those of our own kindred who have done the same deeds, for which we have judged others so harshly, have been surrounded with known mitigating circumstances, because of which we can freely forgive them.

Because we love our own, we have excuses ever ready for their weaknesses, and under the influence of large, all-forgiving love, the outcome of Christianity, the Creator has ordained that reformation in society as in the family, can alone be looked for. Oh that we could realize that we are all members one of another—all children of one ever merciful Father, "who so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

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