

SERMON OF THE WEEK

Real Christmas Spirit Defies Commercialism

By Henry J. Moreau
Christian Science
Assistant Committee
on Publication

When, in the fall, we observe such elaborate preparations being made for the Christmas season, it is very easy to become cynical about the whole activity and charge it all off to crass commercialism. Actually, that phase is not any part of Christmas.

Perhaps we must strive a bit to find the real meaning of

Christmas. What is to be gained by striving? In nature, it is necessary to transform the rather unbecoming caterpillar in order for the graceful butterfly to be revealed. As we strive, we will discard the unbecoming material aspects associated with Christmas and find the true spiritual meaning.

Jesus showed the world that peace, joy, satisfaction, and good will to men were not idle words, but actualities. He exemplified the real meaning of

Christ in Christmas. Because Jesus and his disciples were able to demonstrate God's law and left this spiritual heritage for generations to come, we today can do likewise as the sons and daughters of God.

As we apply the rules of spiritual healing, we are successful in meeting each day's demands. This law of God is not complex. Jesus said, "... if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." (Matt. 19:17) The first commandment tells us, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Ex. 20:3) All other commandments are subservient to this one, for as Jesus taught, and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." "... hang all the law and the prophets." (Matt. 22: 39-40.)

It is sometimes argued that Biblical experiences occurred well over 2,000 years ago when things were different and that these healing truths are not applicable now. Were things really so different? To the unenlightened thought, want existed then and does now. Strife, sin, disease and death still seem to plague mankind now as they have in the past. However, the solution to these human problems remains the same — the understanding and application of divine law.

Jesus declared that he was not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it. Where lack seemed to prevail, Jesus proved the availability of spiritual good to meet the human need. His overcoming of all sin, disease and death was the fulfillment of God's law of infinite good.

The same solution exists today. Right where we are, our human needs can be met. As stated by Mary Baker Eddy in a beautiful Christmas message: "The star that looked lovingly down on the manger of our Lord, lends its resplendent light to this hour the light of Truth, to cheer, guide, and bless man as he reaches forth for the infant idea of divine perfection dawning upon human imperfection — that calms man's fears, bears his burdens, beckons him on to Truth and Love and the sweet immunity these bring from sin, sickness and death."

Unfolding of this understanding, even to a small degree, enlightens our consciousness and is evident in our daily activity. Peace on earth and good will to man become part of us and the bright promise of the Star of Bethlehem is fulfilled today and every day.

Church of God To Poll Pastors

ANDERSON, Ind. — The Church of God has revealed plans for an intensive self-analysis with announcement of a General Consultation for February, 1970.

Already underway across the church, whose general offices were established here in 1906, is an inquiry program "to check its pulse beat," according to Dr. Charles V. Weber.

A nation-wide questionnaire to many pastors is designed to determine "the present stance of the movement, its leadership and outreach," according to Dr. Weber.

"Development of the questionnaire," Dr. Weber points out, "is not to get a consensus but a picture of trends across the church."

First part of the study seeks trends in such areas as civic and social work, racial issues and relationships to inter-church councils. Also considered are trends in theological position, interpretation of Scripture and liturgical practices.

The second area of testing deals with leadership and polls interest in theology, Old Testament, New Testament, and psychology, sociology, practical methods, and counseling.

Dr. Weber explained other questions note leadership training in the local church, type and character of planning, nature of pastoral ministry as indicated by visitation, teaching, administration patterns, and involvement of laymen in work of the church.

'Rejoice' Is Yule Theme

The sermon topic for Christmas Sunday at Waleria United Methodist Church is "Rejoice and Be Glad." Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be highlighted by Christmas music by the church choir.

The Rev. Charles Neigh stated that the church's senior youth group, the senior I.M.Y.F., will be assisting at county USC Medical Center chapel services that morning, followed by a fellowship dinner at the church and acroling in the evening.

A family Christmas Eve carol service will be held in the candle-lit sanctuary.

At present, the church school is decorating a Christmas tree for the whole church in the fellowship hall, and collecting White Christmas gifts of food for the needy.

Rev. Neigh also reports that on the last Sunday of the year returned college students will share in a service at Student Recognition, with reports on campus activities.

'Christmas Beginning' To Be Topic

Dr. Frank E. Richelieu, pastor of the Torrance-Redondo Church of Religious Science, will deliver a message entitled "Christmas is a Beginning" Sunday at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services.

On Christmas Eve a candle-light service will begin at 8 p.m. Dr. Richelieu's topic will be "A Star in the Night." Christmas music will be featured.



YULETIDE PAGEANT — Mrs. Denise Cote (right), director of the Sunday School's Family Christmas Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, discusses final plans for the event with Mrs. Dorothy Tarazi, musical director. The program, entitled "Come Let Us Adore Him," will begin at 7 p.m. Sunday in the church, 706 Knob Hill, Redondo Beach. Featuring narrations and recitations based on the Christmas Gospel, the service will include traditional Christmas carols sung by the children and the congregation. A Christmas Eve candlelight service is set for 7:30 p.m., with Christmas day services scheduled for 10 a.m. The youth of the congregation will stage a live outdoor nativity scene each evening Dec. 21 through 24.

'Scientists' Discuss Yuletide The Creation of Man Service Planned

"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; and thou art exalted as head above all."

These words from the first

Adventists Will Aid Orphans

Torrance Seventh-day Adventist will help build a new orphanage in Amman, Jordan, with funds to be received in a special offering Saturday. Land for the project has already been purchased, Pastor David H. Pillor announced.

Large numbers of children have been left homeless due to political upheavals and changing boundaries. "Educating and caring for this young generation may help to prevent political problems in the future," said Pillor. The new orphanage will be similar to one Adventists presently operate in Cairo, Egypt.

The offering will also boost plans to build a new gymnasium-aditorium for Middle East College in Beirut, Lebanon. Affiliated with Loma Linda University, California, the school is a liberal arts college drawing students from throughout the Middle East. Since 1939, when the institution was established, the students have never had a place for inside recreation and no place large enough to hold graduation exercises. The proposed new building will meet these needs, Pillor explained.

book of Chronicles are part of the Bible Lesson-Sermon titled "Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?" to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday. At First Church of Christ, Scientist, 218th and Manvoe Avenue, services will begin at 11 a.m. The community is invited to attend.

The following passage is from those to be read from the denominational textbook: "In the material world, thought has brought to light with great rapidity many useful wonders. With like activity have thought's swift pinions been rising towards the realm of the real, to the spiritual cause of those lower things which give impulse to inquiry. Belief in a material basis, from which may be deduced all rationality, is slowly yielding to the idea of a metaphysical basis, looking away from matter to Mind as the cause of every effect."

Lutherans' Progressive Dinner Set

The Couples' Club of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection will hold its annual Christmas progressive dinner at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

The event will begin with appetizers at the home of Owen and Mary Dick, 400 Via la Selva, Redondo Beach. The group will then progress to the chapel of the church for the main dishes. Dessert will be served at the home of Don and Flo Hansen, 26364 Fairview Ave., Lomita. Reservations should be made by calling Ellen Christiansen or Betty Reese.



MUSICAL WORSHIP—Participating in a Christ-Mass on Christmas Eve at Ascension Lutheran Church will be (from left) Terry Hind, Debbie Miller, and Tom Tuttle. Terry and Tom will provide guitar accompaniment for a Christmas Lullaby and the Communion Prayer. Debbie will be organist for the service. Slated to begin at 11 p.m. the service will be conducted to a great extent by Ascension's Walther League, a young people's service organization. More than 25 Leaguers will serve as readers, acolytes, ushers and choir members. They will also aid with the preparation of the bread and wine for Communion. Vicar Stephan Theil will serve as liturgist for the service.

Central Methodist Choir To Sing Yuletide Cantata

The Cantata, "Joy to the World" by John Petersen, will be presented by the choir of Central Evangelical United Methodist Church Sunday at 11 a.m.

Mrs. Irene Hoy will direct the choir and Mrs. Hilda Findley will accompany the group at the organ assisted by Mrs. Charlie Thomas at the piano, with narration by Rev. Walter M. Stanton, pastor of the church.

Soloists will be Winifred Ruppel, Joan Huber and Irene Hoy, sopranos; Stanley Stanton, tenor; and Mary Ellen Bowen, alto.

Proceeding the cantata, the Sunday School will present its annual Christmas program at the 9:30 a.m. assembly.

Members of the choir will assist groups of carolers as they leave the church to visit the homes of shut-ins and Convalescent Hospitals. Carolers will leave the church beginning at 5 p.m. returning later for refreshments to be served in the Guild Hall.

At 7 p.m. Christmas Eve, the service of Holy Communion will be held commemorating the Savior's birth.

Advertisement for 'WELCOME WAGON' featuring a woman and text: 'If you know of a family who has just arrived in your community, be sure to tell them about Welcome Wagon. They will be delighted with the basket of gifts and helpful information they will receive from our hostess, a symbol of the community's traditional hospitality. Or you may call Welcome Wagon. Phone 323-0882 for a visit from welcome wagon to you or a new neighbor. 323-0882'

CHURCH CALENDAR



Attend Church This Week

YOUR CHURCH LISTING IN THIS CALENDAR COSTS JUST \$3.50 PER WEEK. CALL 325-6060

NARBONNE AVENUE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

24730 Narbonne Ave., Lomita Phone DA 6-6029
Worship Service 7 P.M.
Church 9:30 and 10:50 A.M.
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Training Union 6 P.M.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF TORRANCE

(Disciples of Christ) 2936 El Dorado—FA 5-2820
Rev. H. Milton Sippel, Minister Res. Phone FA 5-4553
Rev. Joseph Yong Minister of Education
Two Sessions of Church School and Morning Worship 9:30 and 11:00 A.M.
Nursery provided at both sessions.
CHI RHO Fellowship 5:30 P.M.
Christian Youth Fellowship 7:00 P.M.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Torrance Carson and 22 Prado Phone FA 8-3242
Rev. Arthur Nagel, Pastor Res. Phone FA 8-6231
SUNDAYS:
Two Worship Services 9:30 and 11 A.M.
Two Complete Church Schools 9:30 and 11 A.M.
All ages—nursery thru adults Fellowship Meeting 6:30 P.M.

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1900 Prospect Ave. Redondo Beach
Monsignor Daniel P. Collins
Mass 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:15, 12:15
Phone 378-9329

SOUTH BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

4565 Sharynne Lane Torrance, Calif. Frontiers 8-3453
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Church Services at 10:50 A.M.
Junior and Primary Church 10 A.M.
Baptist Training Union 6:00 P.M.
Evening Worship 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 P.M.
Nursery and toddler care—All Services. Bus transportation service.

CENTRAL EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Marcelina & Arlington
Rev. Walter M. Stanton FA 8-3010
9:30—Sunday School
11:00—Morning Worship
6:30—Youth Fellowship
Midweek Worship Service 7:30 Wednesday Evening service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

218th St. and Manuel Ave. Torrance, Calif. Church Services—11 A.M.
Wednesday Eve Meetings 10 P.M.
Sunday School 9:15 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.
Children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by parent or guardian for enrollment.
Reading Room—1406 Cravens
Open 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily except Sunday & Holidays.
Also 7 to 9 Monday and Friday evenings.
All are welcome to attend our services and use our Reading Room.

TORRANCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

700 Maple Ave. R. Wallis Kornegay, Pastor Ph. 323-9090
9:45 Sunday School
10:50 Morning Worship
7:00 P.M. Evening Service

ST. CATHERINE LABOURE CHURCH

3846 Redondo Beach Blvd. Torrance, Calif. Tel. 328-4115
Phone DAVIS 8-8900
Sunday Masses: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Weekday Masses: 6:30 A.M. and 8:15 A.M.
Confessions Saturday 4:00 to 5:30, 7:30 to 9:00

PACIFIC VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Member Baptist General Conference
Temporarily located in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Sonoma St. at Acadia Church, Torrance, Calif. Tel. 328-4115
Times of Worship:
Sunday School for all ages 9:15 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30-11:30 A.M.
Sunday Eve Services 7:00 P.M.
Thursday Prayer Fellowship 7:30 P.M.
—Nursery Available at All Services—

ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1432 Engracia—FA 8-3781
Rev. Hugh R. Percy R.A. B.D. Rector
7:30 A.M. Holy Communion
9:15 A.M. Family Worship Service followed by Church School and Coffee Hour
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship (Choral Eucharist on 1st and 3rd Sundays)
Child care and Nursery provided at 9:15 A.M. and 11 A.M. services.
Weekdays Holy Communion at 11 A.M. Thursdays and 6:30 A.M. on All Saint's Days.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GARDENA

1857 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. Phone DA 4-1094
Rev. John Boller, Minister 1492 W. 132nd St. Gardena DA 3-1215
Worship Service 11:00 A.M. (Nursery Care Provided)
Sunday Church School Classes All Ages 9:30 A.M.
Senior Hi Fellowship and Junior High Fellowship Sundays at 7:00 P.M.
Presbyterian Pre-school, Week Day Mornings

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1725 Flower Street Phone 228-4181
William J. Rolander, Pastor Phone FA 8-3249
Steven A. Myers, Assoc. Pastor
Worship Services 8:00 A.M., 9:15 A.M., 10:45 A.M.
Sunday School 9:15 A.M., 10:45 A.M.
Nursery services for 9:15 A.M. and 10:45 A.M.
Holy Communion—First Sunday Luther League—2nd and 4th Sundays
Christian Elementary School—Kindergarten thru 8th Grade

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

1447 Engracia Ave., Torrance Phone FA 8-2778
Rev. John P. Crenins, Pastor
MASS SCHEDULE
Sundays 7, 8, 9, 10:15, 11:15, 12:15 and 5 P.M.
St. Joseph's at 9:30 A.M.
SATURDAY CONFESSIONS 10:30 to 11:30 A.M.; 3:30 to 5:30 7:30 to 9 P.M.
St. Joseph's at 7:15 P.M.
BAPTISM
Every Sunday at 1:45 P.M.

TORRANCE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving Christ and the Needs of Men 2118 Carson Street Phone 325-5039
Rev. Lanny H. Newlin
SUNDAY
Worship Services 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study Classes 9:30 a.m.
Youth Activities 5:45 p.m.
Evening Gospel Hour 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Youth & Adult Study, Prayer & Fellowship 7:15 p.m.
Nursery Facilities

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod 706 Knob Hill, Redondo Beach 375-8555
Rev. E.M. Schoppa, Pastor
Worship Services 9 and 11 A.M.
Nursery Care Provided
Sunday School and Bible Classes 9:30 A.M. (2 Years and Up)
Friday School of Religion 4 to 5 P.M.
Free transportation available for 11:00 a.m. service on Dec. 15, and 22, by calling Blue and White cab. FR 8-1254 by 6:00 p.m. Sat.
Dial Inspiration—378-8293 (24 Hours)

YOUR CHURCH LISTING IN THIS CALENDAR COSTS JUST \$3.50 PER WEEK

A permanent listing advertising your times of services and church affairs. CALL 325-6060

CALVARY BAPTIST TABERNACLE

A Church of the Old Gospel L. George Hunt, Pastor 18701 Denker Avenue, Gardena 327-2040
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Youth Meetings 6:00 p.m.
Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING 7:15 p.m.
Nursery Available All Services