

PRAYER BEFORE SERMON.

OUR FATHER GOD Each of us here today is a child of
THINE. Give us understanding hearts, open our eyes to
thy promises and the gifts so richly endowed upon us.
Gifts of families, friends, neighbors, without whom this
world would indeed be a desolate place. Teach us to use
thy great gift of MIND to see good in the adversities that
happen to us and to search thy will in all our daily
living. AMEN.

AN EVERLASTING PROMISE
yet
ALL THINGS NEW.

GREETING

It is with some hesitation that I wish you all a Happy New Year this afternoon. I am sure that there must be advertising agencies that are fervently wishing that for 1976 their customers could come up with some other word that is newer than New, at least for 1976. But I do wish you all the very best for 1976 . It is a real pleasure to be with you and take part, for a few minutes, in your service of worship. this afternoon, and to Reverend Bob Burton many thanks for the opportunity to share ^{this} the pulpit.

TEXTS; Isaiah 42 5-9 Revelation 21 1-5

TEXTS

v9. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.

v5. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write; for these words are true and faithful.

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ORIGIN

My wife and I sometimes take a walk in the afternoon. It is usually not very far, just down the lane from the house and back. Quite often we see something we had not seen before even in that short distance. Last Friday as we walked I suggested that perhaps she could help me out with a topic for my talk this afternoon. Suddenly she pointed out a drifted snow formation. It had not been there a day or two previously. It was quite new and fresh, no soil or dirt, just beautifully white in the sun, etched with ^{afternoon} shadows. ~~thrown from the the afternoon sun.~~ We talked about the beauty of winter and the

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ever changing landscape. When we came in, the text for this talk came to mind, verse 9 from the 42nd Chapter of Isaiah: "Behold the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare."

Perhaps for a few minutes this afternoon we could think about this Promise. Each second, minute, hour and day are given to us. Each and every one new if we but look for the newness. We can no more hold back the steady march of the days any more than we can stop the Universe in the course God has set. But each day, is new laid out before us to do with what we will. That snow we saw on Friday was the same snow as the day before but the winds of the previous afternoon and evening had sculptured it as no living artist could have done. So with life, the winds of adversity have changed the lines on many a human face. "Why did this have to happen to me?" "Why is this always my luck?" "One day is just the same as any other!" Is it? Is it really? Or are we prone to think that we are the only ones that adversity is touching. In the early twenties, and those were also my early twenties, something happened to me that at the time I thought should not have happened to a dog. Day dragged after day and all days seemed the same. Then a friend, who was a friend, took me in hand and in no mistakeable terms told me where I was heading. I was left to think things over. I'll admit I was mad at my friend yet still more vexed at myself. When I admitted the latter, which was not immediately, I found a new day dawning and realized that all days were not the same,

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Philosophy
SCULPTURE
NATURAL
HUMAN.

↓

PERSONAL
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CONQUERING
SELF.

To face the whipping winds of life,

To change ^{WE} I can't, to can

We may not think we pray thro' strife

But strife is prayer and builds the man.

How many of us can remember when as children we used to wish for some new toy. If there was a chance of Santa Claus bringing it we just could'nt wait for Christmas to come. We planned for weeks ahead as to the pleasure we would have if we got it. I am afraid I was more interested in the gift than the giver. Sometimes Christmas arrived and the much desired toy did not. I suppose dismay was proportionate to the anticipation. I do recall wishing for something very much and dissapointing both my parents and myself by discovering it before Christmas hidden away where they thought I could not possibly find it. I did not then understand the term "rushing things." I am sure too that many of us can recall getting something we wanted very much, right now, and getting it, soon tired of it and returned to the old and familiar things.

SOME OF
OUR
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Is not this perhaps the reason for the malaise that has been sweeping the world for the past three quarters of a century until now we find society turning back to the old things, to the old and proven. Generations before us have trod the same path in search of self satisfaction, material wealth, prestige, , power and dominion. Nations are no different than the individuals which comprise them and in the past seventy six years we have seen convulsive upheavals among nations that stagger the historians who try to describe them. Fully one half the holocaust has resulted ~~in~~ by ~~the~~ Christian facing Christian on the battlefields of Europe . Wars and destruction are only effects of a much deeper cause the seat of which lies deep within man himself. His insensate greed for prestige, power and dominion and the recognition and flattery of his peers. History has proven that from such conquests no one emerges victor. Only another page has been added to the story of man's inhabitation of the earth, and his destruction of his fellow man.

Where then does our text fit in ? "Behold the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare." The Prophet Isaiah tells us here that the old days are gone, things can never be the same but we are to look forward to a new and as yet untried way. Not immediately but in future times. We are to have faith that what he prophesied was true. To strengthen that faith each individual ^w has to search for God and the truth that comes from God." IN THE SPIRIT OF FAITH," are no idle words. They are the bulwark against
madness

MALAISE
OF
WORLD.

NATIONS PUT
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IN
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Q.N.P. ?

FAITH IN
GODS
PROMISE

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3.

AN EVERLASTING PROMISE .

madness in a seemingly insane world. We are all too familiar of the phrase "This crazy world." The world is O.K. Just the people in it. The point is that if we are to believe and act THE CHRISTIAN ETHIC as taught by Jesus, we are as stewards in the world and responsible to God in our care of it. When it comes to the eleventh Commandment "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," each day in Canada we waste enough food that would feed another twenty million people. That is what we overconsume for our own health needs and what we throw out and waste. Then we glibly talk about keeping the population down, cut down on immigration and so on the while we have helped deplete the accumulation of a million years of power in the form of oil to the point, at present rate of consumption, ^{where?} there will be no oil for heat or power for those of the twenty first century. In our quest and drive to become a nation among other nations in the world we should as stewards on this earth be in the vanguard to assure that all of earth's peoples shared in the natural resources with which God has so richly endowed the world and which we are so extravagantly despoiling. If we did that, in faith, we would find that the 5th verse of the 21st Chapter of Revelation, "Behold, I make all things new," was no idle prophetic promise .

For a while perhaps we shall have to wait to discover what New Thing God is going to give us. Of this we may be sure if we are going to have any part in it we must prepare ourselves to be a part of it. We must accept the Giver along with the gift. We are not islands unto

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If we can believe some of the most reliable sources, our Church papers, and one or two of the big newspapers of the world there is a general unrest in both the religious and secular portions of society. Increasingly questions are being asked that demand answers. Those answers can only come from the deep well springs of faith in the promises of God. A generation is looking to us for the answers and not finding them in our articulation or our actions. Have we abrogated our faith in God to trust in material things? As in the individual when faith dies or becomes dormant, fear takes the place of faith, so in a nation or nations. Other idealisms rise to dispel national fear and are fostered in their support by the growth of armies and armaments and society tries once again to enter the womb of the past only to once more hear the Prophet, "Behold the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them." And Saint John in the Book of Revelation writes in summation, "And he that sat upon the throne said, "Behold I make all things new." And he said unto me, "Write; for these words are true and faithful."

PRAYER: Our Heavenly Father, God we beseech you to renew Thy Holy Spirit within us. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be ~~in~~ always acceptable in Thy sight. In the name of Him who came that we might have new and more abundant life in Thee.

Amen.

GUIDANCE OF
HOLY SPIRIT

F.D.R.
Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
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BUT
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