

A UNITED CHURCH SERVICE.

Convocation.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. *Praise God.*

Prayer.

Hymn 378 *171*

Responsive reading 715 *19*

Scripture Isaiah 26 1-9
Math. 24 1-13

Prayer (389) *293*

Hymn 380 *168*

Announcements

Offering. Response 374

Hymn (Childrens) *589* ~~582~~. *413*

Children's story

Address.

Prayer.

Hymn 416 *109*

Benediction.

Convocat

Hymn 378. Rise up O men of
God.

Responsive reading 715.

Our scripture

Isiah 26 1³₉

Math. 24 1-13

Prayer Hymn 389 in unison

HYMN 380 Where cross the
crowded ways of life.

Announcements.

*No service next Sunday. Service
on Sunday 24th at 7.30 P.M. Rev
Smith & Birtle will be pastors.*

Offering : So let thy
light shine before
men that they may see
thy good works and
Glorify thy Father
which art in heaven.

RESPONSE 374 We give

thee but thine own e to

589

HYMN 592 for Children

CHILDRENS Story.

ADDRESS.

ADDRESS.

"For when Thy judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."

The judgements of men in the light of Gods truth and judgement

We have often heard it said that so and so is a man of sound judgement. It may be that he is a good judge of business and can come to a conclusion as to what is a good deal and whether it is profitable or not. I may be that a person is a good judge of things in general. of political strategy, of business trends, of art, of agriculture and so on. Judgement follows every field of man's endeavour.

Is he a good judge of the times we live in. Is his judgement related to the service he can give his fellow man or is it related to an entirely personal and selfish end?

Our community &
nation

Disciples

Peter

Sanhedrin

Perhaps the question we ^{should}~~shall~~ most often ask ourselves is how our judgements and conclusions affect others, our community and our nation.

All history records that God works through the individual. That is the message I would ~~xx~~ like to impress upon us all. He worked through each of Christ's disciples. Each of ~~xx~~ them in turn accepted Christ as God's well beloved Son and each of them had a different contribution to give to his fellows in the service of our Lord.. Peter, has ty and ipetuous of judgement but in the end sound a nd firm in his stand against the Sanhedrin. Each one of the disciples can be described thus and each is recorded as becoming a completely changed individual capable of keen judgement in the service of his fellow man.

Reluctance

Living face

Doers of the word

Is that one of our sins of the present day. Are we so reluctant to alter our judgement that we keep on doing the same sins and making the same errors day after day and year after year?

Are we frightened or ashamed of losing face, of being ridiculed by our fellow man? Are we afraid to alter our judgement and our actions for fear we may not conform to the crowd? It is becoming daily more clear that somewhere, sometime individuals will have to look deeply within themselves and change their attitude entirely as to the justice and mercy of God.

We are not required to hear the word of God only. As Christians we are required to be doers of the word. We have had a noble heritage passed down to us. From Christ who shed His Blood for us on Calvary we have recieved the

Perseverant thinking

Spirit and sword

priceless gift of the Christian heritage. We are now having the accusation hurled at us that Christianity is just a name we don't do anything about it. That is the kind of thinking that is prevalent today. It has no basis of judgement in it. Not even sound thinking it is at it's best a n insult to Christ and all that He stands for. There are those of our present world who are astute enough to grasp the power of the Spirit over the sword. Their judgement is keen enough to realize that to make the sword supreme the spirit must first be killed or subdued

The negative attitude on the part of many Christians leads others to believe that we can be easily conquered, by propaganda first, and failing that ultimately by the sword. It is nothing new in the world. Only the means of communication have been accentuated.

For When thy judgements are in the earth the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. There is not the slightest hesitation on the part of the prophet Isaiah in proclaiming his implicit belief in the righteousness of God's judgement. On ~~that~~ that rock the prophet based all his own judgements, held them up in comparison to the judgements of God as voiced within the prophet's own conscience and he spoke to the people of that time in the voice of God's prophetic judgement.

To a world torn with strife, struggle for material gain, twisted in the grip of power politics of which we understand so little, we as individuals are prone to let our judgement be tempered by the impact of the world upon our lives. The prophet asks us to look up and beyond

the world to the God of gods and the King of kings and there discern through prayer and meditation that the Judgements of God really are.

But that is impractical in this day and age '!'. The christian hears that assertion on every side. One cannot carry on business these years without bowing to business convention. When business convention is governed by an outworn economic system that starves half the world while the other half is grossly overfed one can expect that the individual will always look at his own interest in the light of selfish judgement.

What then can the individual who earnestly wished to be a christian do. He can turn his wish into action by relating all that he does to the service of God. We can safely leave all the answers to God if we learn

to work and walk in the light of His judgement.

What can I , one individual do? That has been the cry down through~~x~~ the ages ? What must I do to obtain eternal life ~~x~~

God does not require us to perform miracles. He just asks us to relate all our effort ~~we~~ to his glory. No longwords with ambiguous meanings, just a simple statement through our conscience that if we relate our work to God we in time will share in His judgements and the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Relating our work to God may require sacrifices. It may mean that we will attempt to do our work a little better than we ever did it before. That we will cease to do certain things for personal gain or achievement~~x~~ and do them instead to the honour of God. That~~x~~ we will cease to count the cost in dollars and cents and begin

to count the rewards of service instead. We so often hear it said 'you get no thanks for serving the public.' 'The most thankless job on earth etc ect'. Well how about trying to relate that service to God for a change? How about forgetting all about the public and searching for God's judgement in the matter.

Once we relate our service to God our whole attitude changes toward, our fellow man. Our neighbor takes on an entirely different value. We see each other in a new light. Take a common bit of granite from any field. It is/as common as any other stone in that field. Look at it in daylight or under a plain electric bulb and it still looks just ordinary.

Take time to pick it up and put it in a dark corner under an ultra violet ray lamp and a mirical takes

place. Not immediately but very gradually as we watch it the common stone takes on the colors of the spectrum and glows with a beauty that is scarcely of this earth.

That is what happens to the little fellow, the common man. Just an individual until viewed in the light of God's judgement and then a being slightly lower than the angels. The gross is washed away has become invisible and only the light of beauty is seen. All our previous judgements have been in error. By the action of that Certain Light on the stone we have been forced to form an entirely new judgement. A righteous judgement in that it is related to what really dwells in man.

This is what Isaiah meant when he said When the Judgements of God are in the earth, the people of the world will learn righteousness.

As we return to our homes may
we find strength for the tasks
of this coming week. May we learn
to seek thy judgement rather
than our own and to be unafraid
to stand up for what our conscience
tells us to be right and just.

Above all let us have mercy
deal justly and walk humbly in
Thy sight

Amen.

HYMN 416 Creations Lord
we give thee thanks.

BENEDICTION.

The Lord Bless you and k
keep you, The Lord make his ~~face~~
face to shine upon you and
give you peace , now and forever
more.

Amen.