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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON by Rev. R. C. Todd

THE COMING OF CHRIST

livery, and the text for this lesson of Christ already begun. from Issish is probably part of will send aid in the person of a divdom, goodness and power is descri deed delivered from Assyria, had a come until many centuries had pas- built. sed. When he did come, men of faith, who remembered and cheri- | CELEBRATES THIRD BIRTHDAY shed the prophecies of old, recognized his likeness in the descriptions of Isaiah. Indeed, there are passages in the book, particularly in the

Take, for instance, the well-known chapter 53. The coming of the Messiah, says Isaiah, is a time of great joy. The King James translation of 9:3 is unfortunate, for it should read: "Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased their joy." It is a time of joy because the people that formerly "lived" in the darkness of oppression, misery and poverty, have had a great light brought into that darkness, a light that means deliverance. Compare this with the description of , what the

most seem, Jesus of Nazareth went

coming of Jesus into the world meant, in the Gospel of John Chap. 1. "The light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehended (overcame) it not." Oppressors and tryants will be destroyed and all their implements of war burned in fire (9:4,5).

In succeeding verses, the prophet describes the character of the Messiah by giving him descriptive titles. Wonderful Counsellor" indicates that he is possessed of the practical knowledge which makes for a wise ruler. "Mighty God", implies that his power is far more than an earthly power, and that he has a peculiar relation to God. "Everlasting Father" suggests the same; also that his reign and his concern for the people is not limited to the ordinary life-span. He is not to die and relinquish his authority as mortal rulers do. Finally, he is "Prince of Peace", for peace shall come with his reign and last as long as the

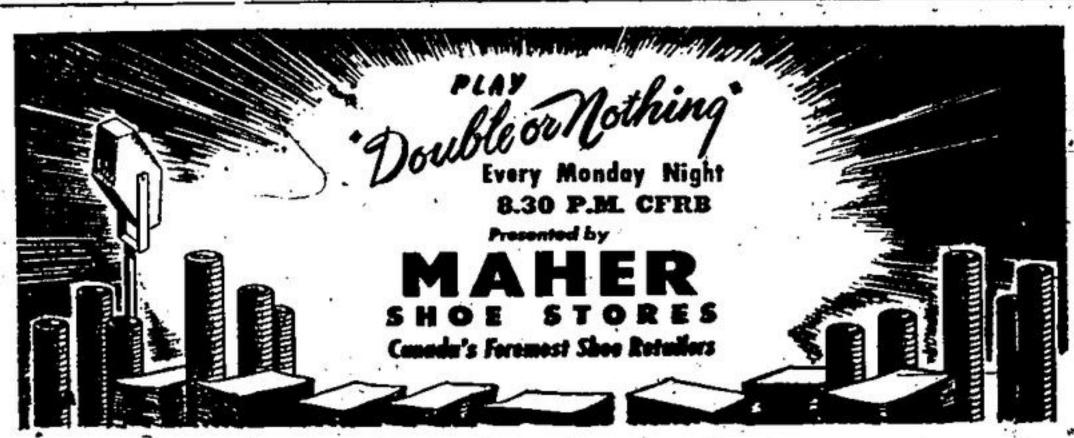
The Book of Revelation from which the other passages of this week's lesson are taken, pictures as does the whole New Testament, the fact that the Messiah has come; he has begun his reign, and is even now waging war on his enemies and extending his empire. But it is a reign of love and brotherhood, and his weapons are love and brotherhood - heavenly weapons, not earthly, for his Kingdom is not of this world. Christians are suffering terrible persecution, but they are meeting it bravely in the spirit of the Christ and under his leadership. It is significant that in Rev. 11:15 the writer uses the present tense - the kingdoms of this world have already become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ." He speaks as though it were already accomplished. Faith believes that there is no more doubt about the future than about the past because God has determined it. John believed God had made the promise, and that was all that was needed for faith and assurance, Faith is built upon the promises of God.

In chap. 15 John's vision concerns a beast, his image, and his mark. a card or letter will bring [(vs. 2) The beast stood for the power of Rome, possibly the emperor himself. The image stands for those statues of the emperor before which subjects of the empire were ordered to make a sacrifice on pain of death. As we said last week, this the Christians refused to do. They would give loyalty to their earthly

ruler, but not blind worship. The mark probably refers to the seal bearing the likeness of the emperor which appeared on official documents, possibly on the decrees commanding the worship of the emperor, on those commanding the des-LESSON: 1sa, 9:2-7, Rev. 11:15; truction of the hated Christian sect What is "the number of his name?" In the Old Testament we find ex- John gives his number as 666. Since pressed the hope of a coming Mes- letters of the alphabet were used siah. "Messiah" is a Hebrew word, for numerals by both the Greeks designating the Representative, the and the Hebrews, every name has Agent, the Revealer of God. The its numerical equivalent. If the let-Greek translation of the world is ters used in the name of Nero are "Christ". The Old Testament pro- regarded as numerals, the sum of phets looked forward to his coming 666 is obtained. Nero was the first and tried to depict what he would of the persecuting emperors, so it be like. The New Testament is the is probably him to which the numstory of how he actually came. It ber refere, for he did become a is his coming that Christmas cele- symbol of the pagan power of Rome. Those that have gotten the The Book of Isaiah was written victory over the beast," and sing about 790 years before Christ, at a "the song of Moses and the song of time when the little country of Ju; the Lamb" are the Christians he dah and its capital fortress Jerusa- has martyred and slain and who lem was besieged by Assyria. Des are as he pictures them, forever in pair reigned among the inhabitants the presence of God. Caesar's at the sight of the mighty army of throne might seem strong, and his Assyrians, and even the King gave reign powerful, but to the way to it, Isaiah the prophet, how- Christians it was only transient ever, was confident of national de compared to the everlasting reign

That is the message of Christmas. speech which he delivered during The Messiah is come; his work is the siege. In it he declares that God done; he has trampled underfoot the power of evil and darkness; his inely-endowed leader whose wis reign has begun. Hallelujah, the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth! bed. God vindicated the faith of And His Church is called upon to this prophet, although not in the witness to the power of His Love, way he anticipated. Judah was in in spite of dungeon, fire and sword. "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun few years of independence, but la. doth his successive journey's run." ter fell prey to the Babylonian, In that day, and in that day only, Persian, Macedonian and Roman shall there be justice and peace on Empires in succession. The divine earth. Upon this mighty work and leader pictured by Isaiah did not promise of God, Christian faith is

Stephen Saxe, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Saxe, Edith Street, entertained a number of his friends at a party last Thursday to celebrate latter part of it, which it would alhis third birthday. His little guests included Barbara and John Finlay out of his way to fulfil literally. David McNally, Christine Sargent, Carolyn and Ellen Biehn, Judy Bonathan, Donald Maveal, Lynn, Monty and Pat Hyde, Paulene Wat son, Jocelyn Bell and her sister Catharine.



Our Georgetown Store is located on Main Street, next to Carroll's

Christmas at St. George's



Sunday, December 21st:

CHILDREN'S EUCHARIST 11.00 a.m.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE 7.00 p.m.

Christmas:

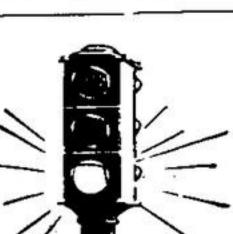
MIDNIGHT EUCHARIST, beginning at 11.45 on-Christmas Eve

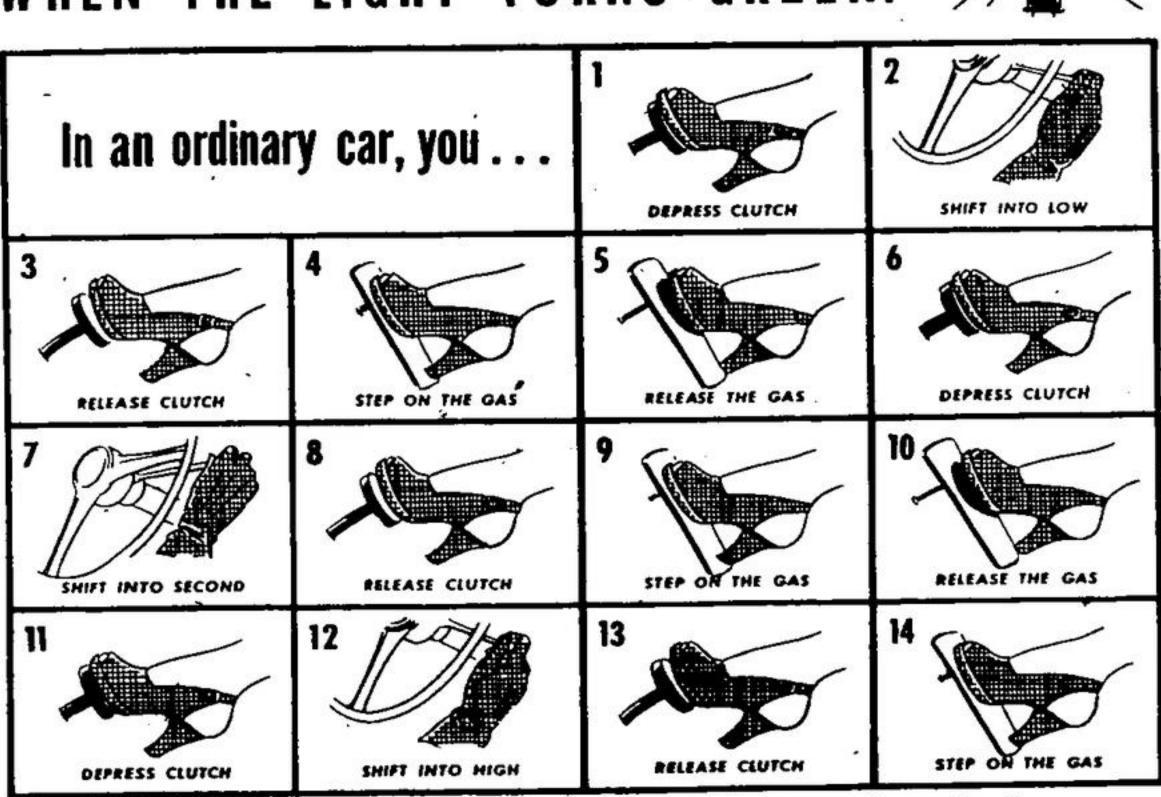
> Early Communion at 8.00 on Christmas morning

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men

Come and Worship the new born King

Ompare what happens WHEN THE LIGHT TURNS GREEN!





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