

Come to church for Christmas Services

Christmas Message

by Rev. J. N. Hepburn
Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church

It is not hard to guess the conversation in the caravans which drew near to Bethlehem that first Christmas Eve. They talked excitedly then, as men today, about the movement of troops and the clash of empires; about the ambitions of rulers, the yield of crops, and the prospects of trade. If we knew their language we could almost speak their very words. They said "camels" then, we say "autos" now; but the important things are still important. Thus it happened that a woman lowly-born was not important. There was no room for her in the inn, and her Babe was born in a stable. "But how could they know?" someone might ask; "how could the inn-keeper, the camel-drivers, the merchants, the soldiers, the elders of the church, ever have guessed the glory of God in a new-born Babe?"

Well they might at least have known that the mystery of birth is always mystery, and that the prayers of a woman like Mary are so vital that without them empires become mad, the church hollow, and trade only a dusty death. Even if they could not have guessed His glory at His birth, they might still have guessed it in His manhood. But, no. The empire distrusted Him. The traders whose tables He overturned reviled Him. The Temple leaders whose hypocrisy He unmasked plotted His death, for to them ecclesiastical pride must stand.

For you see, empires are important, and the system that makes security for the few and insecurity for the many is very important.

And the church which easily begins to live for itself, and easily forgets that it cannot find life except in losing it, is most important, so we think in error.

Do you ever find yourself really wondering just what is important? Who's who, the leading pulpits, the mass methods of spectacular evangelization, and the latest sky-scrapers, are not important.

But a mother's prayer, and a shepherd's wonder, and a Carpenter's cross are.

Remember what Hamlet had to pronounce by way of eulogy on Alexander the Great: "Alexander died, Alexander was buried, Alexander returneth into the dust; the dust is earth; of earth we make loam, and of that loam might they not stop a barrel?"

Imperious Caesar dead and turn'd to clay,
Might stop a hole to keep the wind away."

Christ abides. He alone is strong. The Wise Men knew who is mighty. They knew that the star of pure compassion will shine when all earth's candles are dark.

Christmas-Tide Thoughts

by Rev. Earl S. Bull
Richmond Hill Free Methodist Church

Was there ever a festival like this in all the history of man? It starts the whole world to giving. Stores full of gifts, trains carrying train-loads of presents, head and hands everywhere selecting and providing gifts, — arms full of them, — hearts happy to give and to receive them.

And what is it all about? St. Paul has the answer: "The Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men." (Titus 2:11) Jesus the Saviour is born. God has given His unspeakable gift — the gift Supreme — divine grace as great as God, salvation and new life for all. Wondrous giving. What happened at Bethlehem is so blessed, however, only because it involved so much that happened after Bethlehem. God there began what He has been doing ever since — giving "good and perfect" gifts unto men. They are gifts like repentance, to turn from ungodliness and worldly lusts, and lawlessness; and faith ("by grace are ye saved through faith"); and a new life, sober-minded, righteous, godly, and zealous of noble works; and a new position among God's "peculiar" (clean) people, and the gift of coming glory (as the fruit of justification and sanctification) at the Parousia (His second coming)! Such is God's giving!

Here is mystery beyond comprehension! The Son of God become Man that the sons of men might become the sons of God! The eternal Word become vocal, the divine nature become visible! God stooping down that man may step up! The Virgin Birth makes possible the virgin life! In the God-Man God and man meet! He became poor that we might become rich! He became bound that we might be made free! "He who knew no

sin became sin for us, that we who knew no righteousness might become the righteousness of God in Him." He came to the manger that He might rescue us from the grave. He was born in a stable that we might rise to the throne! He came to bear a cross that we might wear a crown! O matchless grace! O love divine! O mystery sublime! The impossible is become a fact! The incredible is true! The incomprehensible is real! The angels delight to look into it, yet all the salvation of it we are to experience!

O come all ye faithful — look down into the manger! Look up to the Cross! Look away to the last great day and cry "Glory to God in the highest!"

Christmas Message

by Rev. Arthur A. Chote
St. Mary's Anglican Church

O Little Child of Bethlehem,
Why do your young eyes grieve?
What do your outstretched arms implore
Of us this Christmas Eve?

"Look, in the darkness shineth
No everlasting Light,
Hearts, crucified by daily fears,
Watch through the silent night.

Their arms hold tight to little ones
Tear-blinded eyes turn East,
Too tired to ask for more than crumbs
Dropped from my Christmas feast."

O Little Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray,
And show our hearts how best to share
With these on Christmas Day.

What if I had one wish for you this Christmas? It could be that all of you would enjoy the good things of Christmas that millions in other countries will lack. Food, fun, and fellowship. But that's not good enough.

Perhaps I could wish that you would enjoy good health and happiness throughout the months ahead. Still that's not good enough.

That God may prosper you in everything you do in the years ahead. Still not sufficient!

I wish for you — all the blessings that come from allowing the Christ-child to be born into your hearts this Christmas. This will mean PEACE that passeth all understanding, and JOY unspeakable, not only in this life, but for all eternity. That's what I wish for you!

Christmas Greetings 1956

by Rev. Charles G. Higginson
Richmond Hill United Church

"Merry Christmas" may only be a friendly wish for a jolly holiday; but to sincerely say, "Merry Christmas", is to recall to mind the joy and gladness which God gave to men when His Son was born many years ago. God's Son began life where only the poorest begin. Yet from that lowly Birth God has worked His design to open the Kingdom of God to all believers. To say, "Merry Christmas", is to say that life has dignity, meaning and worth. God, in deigning to draw near to this earth, has stooped to our lowliness that His love might find an abiding place in human hearts.

From deep within our hearts, then, must come a prayer that our world, so tortured and torn by tensions and suffering, might know the true blessing of Christmas. This can be so, God has not changed. He is still the Giver of all good gifts — and supreme among His gifts is that of His Son, our Saviour. Having Him, we have all.

Christmas Message

by Rev. Frederick McGinn
Parish Priest, St. Mary's Catholic Church

For thousands of years before the birth of Christ, even from the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden of paradise, when a Redeemer of the human race was first promised, all faithful souls looked forward with anxious eyes, hoping that it might be their privilege to see the Saviour upon earth, or at least to have part in the glorious kingdom which He would inaugurate. Many kings and prophets and wise men yearned for the realization of this cherished hope, and yet had to pass from this lower scene before the time of its fulfillment arrived. It is our privilege as Christians to reap the blessings of that event for which so many longed in vain, for Christ has come, and by His grace we are members of His Church, the Kingdom He established here below, sharing in all its wondrous graces and blessings, and heirs to the glories of His Kingdom above. We have realized the hope of so many others, but there is for us a higher, more blessed prospect still — that of reigning hereafter with our new-born Saviour in the unending Kingdom of heaven.

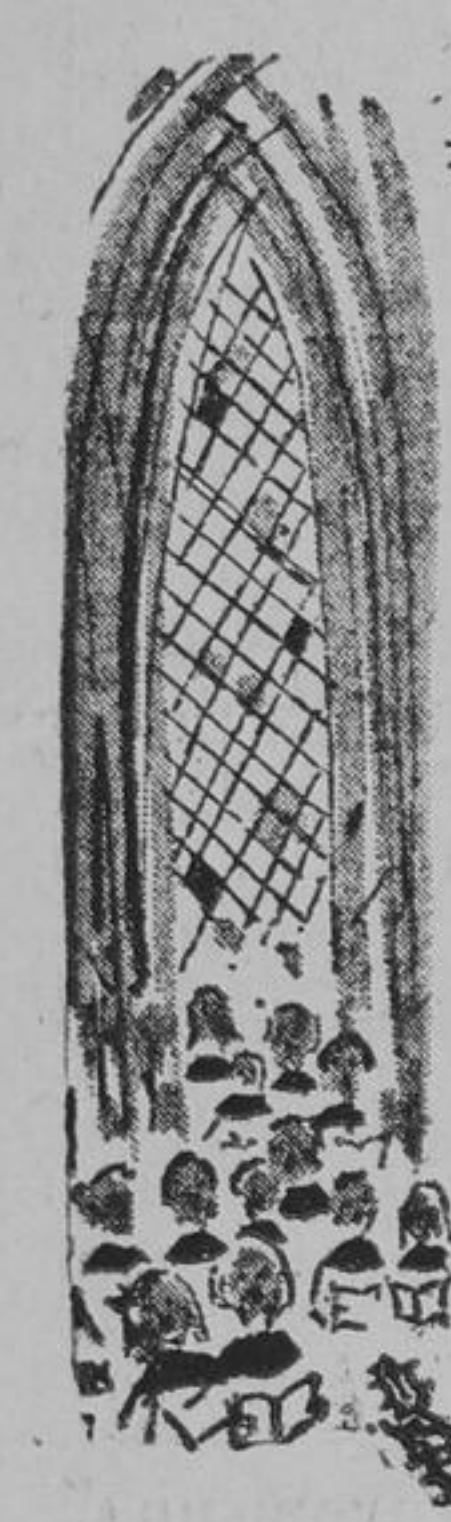
That you may achieve this glorious and eternal heritage is my sincere Christmas Wish.



Hello!

We join jolly
Santa in extending our
heartly greetings
to everybody. May your holiday be
full of joy and good fellowship.

RIDOUT
REAL ESTATE LTD.
10 Yonge St. S.
RICHMOND HILL TU. 4-1131



FOR A JOYOUS
Christmas

At this joyous time of
Christmas, may happiness
fill your heart and may the
blessings of peace, good
health and good fortune be
yours for a long time to come.


R. D. LITTLE & SON Ltd.
FORD-MONARCH
AV. 5-1105
RICHMOND HILL



Greetings to All

'Tis the season to be jolly...and happy are
we to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

FISHER 5c - \$1.00
STORES
20 Yonge St. S. Richmond Hill



A Merry Christmas

Our Yuletide best to all our friends
...for a season packed with all the
wonderful things that Christmas means!

THE RICHMOND THEATRE
Richmond Hill

To Our Friends And Customers We Extend
Our Best Wishes For
"A Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year"

Morley Williams
SUNOCO SERVICE STATION

Richmond Hill Turner 4-2133

BEVERLEY ACRES PHARMACY
Bayview Plaza
Richmond Hill
DRUGS POST OFFICE
"At Your Service"

Dennis' Snack Bar
— FISH & CHIPS —
SNACK BAR — GIFTS — CABINS
"OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND AND EVENINGS"
TOP 22A RICHVALE
Telephone AV. 5-4311

Roylan Studio

Mr. and Mrs. E. McVey

21 LORNE AVE. TU. 4-1342 RICHMOND HILL

TO ALL MY FRIENDS
AND
POLICY HOLDERS
W. T. (BILL) CHARLES

ALLEN'S MEAT MARKET
Phone Maple 19J
KEELE STREET MAPLE ELGIN MILLS TU. 4-1773

OUR GARAGE
ENGLISH CAR SPECIALISTS
TOWING — GENERAL REPAIRS
TEXACO OIL PRODUCTS
ELGIN MILLS TU. 4-1773

DON INNES
SHELL SERVICE STATION
Shell gas and oil, lubrication, washing
Yonge & Elgin Streets Thornhill
AVENUE 5-1533

James J. Wall Company Ltd.
PLUMBING—HEATING
Sheet Metal Work, Eavestroughing

OAK RIDGES
PR. 3-5201 TU. 4-3488

Remember
Your
Liberal
Carrier
Boy
at
Christmas

Jos. Rabinowitch, B.A.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY PUBLIC
65 YONGE ST. S., RICHMOND HILL

Telephone TU. 4-2084

Yongehurst Groceteria
"BILL" COSTOFF
Daily Deliveries

Stop 24 Yonge Street
Telephone TU. 4-1471