

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING

"Joy to the World the Lord is Come; Let Earth Receive Her King."

This verse strikes a note which occurs again and again in the account of Christmas. Much of the emphasis of the worship of the Church at Christmas is on Christ's coming as a King, not just as a baby who would grow up to teach the world about righteousness and truth; not only as one who would give His life upon the cross for our salvation—but as a King. "Our King and Saviour draweth nigh; O come, let us adore Him." It was because He was a King that Herod was afraid of Him and tried to slay Him as a child. It was because He was a King that the other kings of the earth came to do Him homage. He was born in Bethlehem, the royal city of David. Throughout the whole Christmas story we are reminded that a new era had begun; Christ's Kingdom has been established. A sovereign has come to reign.



REV. D. M. CLARK

If this is true, Christmas is not just a looking back, not just a reminder that once God came into this world for a brief time. Christmas has a forward look also. It is a reminder that He came to change the whole course of human events and Christmas marks the beginning of a reign in which we share today and to the fullness of which we look forward. The secular history of the West has a continuity—a golden thread running through it despite dark ages and periods of regression. Christmas marks the beginning of the reign of Christ that must ultimately extend to all the people of the world and to all aspects of our human life when they are brought under His sovereignty.

When we look at Christmas that way and then look at our newspapers, we can become awfully discouraged. The modern world is not being influenced primarily by Jesus Christ. New and other forces seem to be affecting the destinies of men. It can be discouraging to think of Christ as a King. If we remember that Christ came at Christmas to reign, then the contrast between the message of Christmas and what we read in our papers is startling. It does not look much like the reign of our King!

Does this mean, then, that we should give up to discouragement, and just enjoy the private message of the Christmas stories? No, to do that would be to deny the truth that lies behind them all, for the truth is that at Bethlehem the God of history showed himself. This was not just a prophet or teacher come to bring a brief vision of love and hope. Here was the God who made the earth and ruled its history. Here He was coming to assert his sovereignty. The Kingdom which began at Bethlehem must go on to include every aspect of our human life. Hopes may be deferred, but the King must reign.

Let us look more deeply at the Christmas message. Let us remember that Christ is the revelation of that which is ultimately true, that which is supremely strong, that which is essentially real. Therefore his Kingdom has to come. Let us deepen our faith, let us recollect that here at Christmastime, despite appearances, Christ's reign really did begin. The battle may be long and there may be many reverses, yet if this Jesus Christ is the revelation of God himself then He must triumph and we can go forward in that faith. Christmas brings us, therefore, a message of faith. It reminds us that at the heart of this world, transcending its darkness, transcending its cruelty, transcending all its discouragements, is Jesus Christ. His reign has begun and we can in faith and trust carry on in confidence that ultimately it will succeed.

And if, first of all, on Christmas we are given faith to carry on despite all discouragements, we must then be moved to dedication. For faith is not just for our comfort. It is for our commitment. His Kingdom has come and



DEADLINE for church news and photos is Friday noon preceding the next Thursday publication date at the Rev. Clark's home, 1676 North 'E' St., phone 642-1560. All items submitted must be accompanied by the sender's name, address and (if available) phone number.

CHURCH of GOD in CHRIST

UPPER ROOM C. of G. in C.
Bishop C. C. Cox, 385-1541
1117 N. F St., Las Vegas

POWERHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Supt. J. W. Logan, 382-6187
1216 Adams Ave., Las Vegas

LIGHTHOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Willie Rawls, 884-5539
E. Sahara Ave., Fourmyle

MOST HIGH C. of G. in C.
Eld. J. Washington 642-5675
Henderson

PRAYER HOUSE C. of G. in C.
Eld. W. M. Shaw, 382-1743
Blankenship St., Vegas Heights

PROGRESSIVE C. of G. in C.
Eld. Jos. Prudhomme, 642-5556
1155 Lawry Ave., Vegas Heights

(All Churches of God in Christ)

Bible Band: Tuesday, 8 pm
*Young People: Wednesday, 8 pm
Consecration: Friday, 8 pm
Sunday School: Sunday, 10 am
Morning Service: Sunday, 12 noon
YPW: Sunday, 8 pm
(*Inspirational at Progressive)

METHODIST

ZION METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. M. D. Bennett, 382-9900
911 N. G St., Las Vegas

PENTECOSTAL

CHURCH of the LORD JESUS
Eld. Hosea Coleman, 642-8741
1260 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

Christmas Services Set At Local Catholic Church

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES at St. James Catholic Church have been announced by Msgr. William J. Devlin, as follows:

The midnight services on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, will begin at 12:01 a.m. with the Solemn Procession of the Divine Infant to the Crib, which will then be blessed.

Following immediately will be the High Midnight Mass of Christmas, sung by the St. James Choir, with the parish partaking of Holy Communion.

The Second Mass of Christmas will be at 11 a.m. and will be a Low Mass, accompanied by the Children's Choir. The Third Mass of Christmas will be at 5 p.m. and also will be a Low Mass. Those who receive Holy Communion at the Midnight Mass may again participate in Holy Communion at the later Masses on Christmas Day.

Thursday, Dec. 24, is a Fast Day and a Day of Abstinence from meat, but abstinence may be observed on Dec. 23 instead. Confessions will be heard on Christmas Eve from 4 to 5 p.m. and from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

"May your Christmas be a Happy and a Holy One"—Msgr. Devlin.

you who are in public life. It is you who are the doctors and the workmen. It is you who are the mothers. It is you who are Christ's members out in the world. If at Christmastime we remember that we are servants of the King, who came to set up a Kingdom which shall prevail, then at Christmastime we must rededicate ourselves to his service in the unconverted areas of life.

BAPTIST

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. I. W. Wilson, 382-2632
C & Washington Sts., Las Vegas

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Mary Carroll
712 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. B. Carr, 382-5682
1113 N. H St., Las Vegas

GRACE EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. C. L. Alexander, 384-7413
815 Bartlett St., Vegas Heights

GREATER FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. P. S. Walker, 384-1248
Balzar St., Vegas Heights

NEW JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. F. N. Addison
D & Jefferson Sts., Las Vegas

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. C. Kline, 382-7263
101 N. A St., Las Vegas

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Kemp, 642-5708
1189 Hassell St., Vegas Heights

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. V. C. L. Coleman, 384-3131
1209 N. E St., Las Vegas

ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. L. Simmons, 382-2748
311 Madison Ave., Las Vegas

ST. PETER BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Leo A. Johnson, 642-2559
C & Washington Sts., Las Vegas

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. A. J. Thompson, 642-4001
1305 N. E St., Las Vegas

CATHOLIC

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Msgr. William J. Devlin, 382-9953
704 W. McWilliams Ave., Las Vegas

Sunday Masses: 11 am and 5 pm
Weekday Masses: 7:30 am; Saturday, 9 am
Holyday Masses: 9:30 am and 7:30 pm
Confessions: Saturday, 4-4:30 and 7:30-8 pm
Adult Classes: Monday and Friday, 7:30 pm
Child Classes: Monday, 4-5 pm; Saturday, 9-10:30 am
Rosary: Daily, 7:30 pm except Sundays

yet the sovereignty of the King is incomplete. The "days are hastening on when He shall reign over all things." But that means that you and I who are His subjects must rededicate ourselves to His service, for the King who came to establish His Kingdom counts on us. He asks us, who are members of His Church, to spread His Kingdom into every aspect of human life, till nothing shall be untouched. Here is our ministry and here is your ministry; the ministry of the layman to bring all life under the sovereignty of God, for it is you who are in the factories. It is you who are in the marts of trade. It is you who are in the schools. It is