

P·L·Y·M·O·U·T·H



Congregational Church

This church is affiliated with the Iowa Council of Churches, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and the World Council of Churches.

Des Moines, Iowa

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20 - 90 Anniversaries

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A Prayer For All Worshippers Upon Entering The Church

O God, Who hast taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand; grant that we may ever be found watching for the coming of Thy Son; save us from undue love of the world, that we may wait with patient hope for the day of the Lord, and so abide in Him that, when He shall appear, we may not be ashamed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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December Seventh - Nineteen Hundred Forty-seven

Order of Worship

Second Sunday in Advent

11:00 A. M.

December 7, 1947

Organ Preludes — Where Wild Judea Stretches Far
Joy to the World

Stoughton
Lemare

The Processional Hymn, No. 111 — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Call to Worship

(People standing)

A Collect

(Minister and people seated and bowing)

Almighty God, who in thy providence hath made all ages a preparation for the kingdom of thy Son; we beseech thee to make ready our hearts for the brightness of thy glory, and the fullness of thy blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Invitation to Prayer

The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who didst cause light to shine out of darkness in the advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to take away the sins of the world; we humbly confess our transgressions and implore thy forgiveness. We beseech thee that the spirit of Christ may be born anew within us, and that we may glorify his nativity with hearts of compassion, deeds of kindly service, and the spirit of good will toward all mankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Call to Praise

Minister: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Response: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

The Gloria Patri

An Old Testament Lesson — Isaiah 55

The Anthem — Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee
Chancel Choir

Bach

A New Testament Lesson — Luke 1:18-35

The Pastoral Prayer

A Hymn — No. 113 — Watchman, Tell us of the Night

The Sermon — "He Is Called Counsellor"

Dr. Hoskins

A Service of Consecration

Offertory Sentences

Offertory Anthem — The Lord's Prayer

Chancel Choir

Malotte

Choral Dedication

The Recessional Hymn, No. 442 — The Church's One Foundation

The Benediction

An Organ Postlude — Festival March in C

Grey

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This Church is open daily for prayer and meditation.

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Plymouth Congregational Church, Week of December 7, 1947

TODAY

Service of Worship at 11:00 o'clock.

Dr. Hoskins will be at the East Aisle, Mr. Bollman at the Center Aisle at the close of the service.

Deacons assisting in the service today are: C. W. Kammeier, Edwin Kingery, Edwin Brock, Charles Brockett, Raymond Dalbey, Charles Dutt, Lorin Graaff, Dr. H. B. Henry, Curtis Lamb, Ellsworth Lory, Oscar Norling, A. T. Schwaegler, Dr. H. H. Smead, Merle Trickey, Carl Williams.

Deaconesses serving as hostesses in December are Mrs. Heinrich Weitz and Mrs. Paul Kinsey.

Pilgrim Fellowship in the Community House at 7:00 o'clock.

Speaker: John Robling on "Catholicism".

Stoddard Lane Club at 7:30 o'clock.

Speaker: Dr. Hoskins on "The Living Religions of the World"

MONDAY

Plymouth Men at Grace Ransoms at twelve noon. The Reverend Walter M. Briggs, D.D., minister of Grace Methodist Church, will discuss "The Ecumenical Council".

ANNOUNCEMENTS—(Continued on page 6)

Plymouth Through 90 Years

PLYMOUTH: A MIRROR OF U. S. EXPANSION

The story of Plymouth Congregational Church of Des Moines began December 6, 1857. On that day, eleven men and women met in a small room on 4th and Court Avenue and signed the "Articles of Government and Faith of the Congregational Churches." From that small beginning has grown the influential 1,850 member Plymouth Church of today.

In terms of Young America, 90 years is a long time. Plymouth's development coincides with the greatest physical, economic and spiritual expansion of our country. Since 1857, four wars and five great depressions have taken their toll and moulded our character. Mass power production has brought an industrial factor into a traditionally agricultural economy. It has given to the American people a standard of living unequalled anywhere.

STRONG IN PURPOSE, INSECURE IN ORGANIZATION, WE BEGAN

To organize Plymouth required courage. There were only a few people of Congregational faith among the 3,500 residents of Des Moines. They received little encouragement and had relatively little capital. In fact, Congregational ministers elsewhere in Iowa severely criticized plans for Des Moines church as being "premature" and "unfriendly."

However, the organizers went ahead. Why? Because no other church offered them the rightful heritage of their Puritan forefathers. They yearned for freedom — freedom in thought, in worship, in church organization.

Plymouth's first pastor was J. T. Cook, the new principal of the public schools. An ordained minister, he volunteered his part-time services without pay. Later Mr. Cook became so interested in Plymouth that he resigned his teaching duties to devote full time to the church. His term of service was about a year and a half.

In 1859, the Reverend J. M. Chamberlain arrived by stagecoach to become Plymouth's second minister. A young man just out of Andover Seminary, he had planned originally to live the life of a scholar in a quiet New England town.

Almost immediately he was called upon to take a stand on a highly controversial issue — slavery. Plymouth had already gained the unenviable reputation of being an "abolition" church. However, many of the congregation felt, as did the Southerners, that Negroes were better off under slavery than as free men.

In a strong sermon, Mr. Chamberlain denounced slavery as morally wrong. This uncompromising stand highly offended some of the "more important" people of the congregation. As one parishioner told his wife, "It's all over with Plymouth Church. He has killed it, and we might as well give up."

However, before Fort Sumter was fired upon, April 12, 1861, the offended people saw the wisdom of Mr. Chamberlain's words, and those who had left the church returned. Thus Plymouth was given added strength, and harmony prevailed through the trying days of the Civil War.

Plymouth's third minister, the Reverend H. S. DeForest, served the church well for four years. Then, in 1870, he was called from Plymouth to become President of the Negro institution at Talledega, Alabama. It is for this work — pioneering in behalf of the Negro — that he is best remembered. To appreciate his contribution, one must recall that the time was shortly after the Civil War, when hatred of the Negroes and of Northerners was boiling in the South. President DeForest once remarked that he would rather have the applause and approval of the "blacks" than of the world. To-day, Talledega is one of the country's leading colleges.

Dr. DeForest's departure presaged a "dark period" for Plymouth. For a year and a half the congregation was alone, unable to secure leadership. The deacons had to take the place of the pastor; the members the work of the deacons. The church became depressed and discouraged.

Thus, it is hard to imagine a happier group than the 150 Plymouth members who greeted the Reverend A. L. Frisbie as their new pastor in 1871.

THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

Dr. Frisbie came to Plymouth from Danbury, Connecticut. Through the force of his personality, he soon restored the waning confidence of the members in Plymouth. Membership began to increase. As one of the members remarked, "It's certain he's not very orthodox, but I like it!"

In 1877, a new church was built at the Northeast corner of 7th and Locust, where the Chamberlain Hotel now stands — this was Plymouth's first real church. The finest in the state, it was completely paid for on schedule — and that was when money was scarce! Dr. Frisbie's comment: "When anything is to be done, take hold and do it!" During his ministry, too, in the spirit of Evangelism, three groups went out from the mother church to form Pilgrim, North Park and Greenwood churches.

Two years after he assumed the pastorate of Plymouth, Mrs. Frisbie having died shortly after their arrival in Des Moines, Dr. Frisbie returned to the East to bring his second wife to this community. "I'm afraid you won't like Des Moines," he told his new bride, "It's very rough and unfinished; the houses are small, and you never saw such mud as you will see there! Our church building is small, dingy and shabby. It's all very unlike an Eastern city, but I think you'll like the people, and I'm proud of the women of my church."

Mrs. Frisbie did like the people of Plymouth and became a leader in the women's group. "We used to think in the East," she once remarked, "that of all the unsocial places, a church social, so-called, is the most **unsocial**. This isn't true at Plymouth — here all strangers are made to feel welcome."

In those days when women's suffrage was only a controversial issue, it was unusual for women to be interested in financial matters. Not so with Plymouth women: They wanted to do their part to support the meager church budget. A typical money-making project was their cook book, to which every Plymouth woman who could cook contributed a favorite recipe. Although at first Mrs. Frisbie was a little dubious as to its outcome, it was copyrighted for sale and became a thumping success; nine or ten successive editions were printed. With its proceeds the church was provided with a \$3,000 organ, carpets and pew cushions. (Also the sexton's daily fee of 50¢ for heating the church was taken care of by these ladies.)

After 28 years of service, Dr. Frisbie resigned and was made Pastor Emeritus for life. The church then called to its pulpit the Reverend Francis VanHorn, whose youth, courage, and enthusiasm gave Old Plymouth a new birth. It was he who initiated the move to build the church at 8th and Pleasant.

PLYMOUTH FACES FRUSTRATIONS OF HATE AND WAR

Through the ministry of Plymouth's next two ministers, the Reverend Frank W. Hodgdon and the Reverend J. Edward Kirbye, Plymouth continued to grow. The later was pastor during the trying days of the First World War. Shortly after the Lusitania was sunk and just before we entered hostilities, Mr. Kirbye, in a plea for brotherhood, reasoned with his congregation: "We need to remember that there are thousands of people in Germany who are not sympathetic with the war machine, and whose voices are silent only because the power of the sword has made them so We do not hate Germany and we are not going to hate Germany."

It was in this atmosphere of feverish emotion that Plymouth's fourth child, the neighborhood church, Waveland, was born.

PLYMOUTH BECOMES COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dr. Burtis MacHatton came from Great Falls, Montana to serve as Plymouth's minister on January 16, 1921. When he arrived, he found that the church at 8th and Pleasant Street was literally "bursting at the seams." Plymouth's membership had once again outgrown its physical facilities. The members began to discuss the building of a new church, and when the City of Des Moines announced plans to run a street through the church property, immediate action was taken.

The building committee decided to erect a new church at the western outskirts of Des Moines — 41st and Ingersoll. North Park, Pilgrim, Greenwood and Waveland neighborhood churches joined with Old Plymouth in the plan. The building was dedicated on November 20, 1927 at a cost of \$475,000.

When the members entered the church to worship for the first time, they found that several of the treasures of the old church had been carefully removed and incorporated into the new structure, thanks to the Building Committee and especially to its consecrated chairman Mr. Harry G. Wallace. For example, the window portraying Christ with hands uplifted, occupied the same familiar position in the new church as it had in the old — at the east of the Sanctuary.

Thus, Plymouth ceased to be a downtown church and became "a community church". It became the largest Congregational church in Iowa and one of the leading churches of its denomination; it was one of the most complete and adequate church plants in the Midwest.

STODDARD LANE: WE AGREE TO DIFFER, RESOLVE TO LOVE, UNITE TO SERVE

Dr. Stoddard Lane came to Plymouth from New Hampshire in 1929. He was the minister who was to carry the congregation through the difficult days of the depression and the first years of World War II.

Shortly after he arrived, the stock market crashed. In the following depression years, our building debt looked stupendous, and everyone had the hidden fear that we would loose our church. It was necessary to cut the church staff. Mrs. Lane showed her devotion to Plymouth by taking over the tremendous job of directing the Religious Education of our church.

Dr. Lane had a real genius for making friends. He valued the friendship of the learned and uneducaed, the good and the evil, the old and all the little children. He had a selfless quality, and found his life by losing it in great causes. Again and again he exhibited fine moral courage in speaking out for unpopular groups, "Who am I to say that I with my white skin am worth more to God than the other man with his black skin?" He did as much as any one man could do to further cooperation among those of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths.

Dr. Lane hated war. In the First World War he served as an ambulance driver in France. He had seen "kindly men go brutal, sane men go mad, and clean men sink into ditches of immorality." And so in the years preceding the Second World War, he fought tirelessly for peace. "War does not work," he insisted. "It destroys the very things you fight for." When the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor, Dr. Lane grieved that people had not yet mastered the art of living together. However, his love for the brotherhood of man remained unshaken. "Fundamentally, people are the same the world over . . . they are all the children of God."

On May 17, 1943, Plymouth's inspiring and loving shepherd passed away. Today, Plymouth people are continually reminded of him by the two stained glass windows on the east of the Nave, erected in loving and grateful memory of his epochal ministry..

THE TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE

While the war was still raging, Dr. Frederick Meek began his pastorate here. While the big guns were still booming across the seas, he urged the people to take full advantage of the peace which was to come, "We are buying our military victory at great cost of human life." (Plymouth lost five men in the service.) "That victory will only provide an opportunity to be used."

Christian living to Dr. Meek was a challenge . . . a difficult and daring adventure. Although he served only three years, he is especially remembered for three major contributions. First, he convinced members that Plymouth was one of the most important churches in the denomination. He pointed out that it was strategically located in the city, state and nation — that other Congregationalists looked to Plymouth for leadership.

Second, he stimulated the congregation to do something definite about eliminating the debt. Today Plymouth's Debt Retirement Program is progressing admirably.

Third, he sought to awaken the people to their world-wide responsibility. Under his guidance, Plymouth planned to assume a more proportionate share in the benevolences of the larger church. Dr. Meek left in 1946 to become minister of the Old South Church in Boston.

TODAY . . . AND THE FUTURE

Now, as Plymouth looks toward its Centennial Anniversary, team work is the keynote. Led by Dr. Hoskins, it is a seven-day-a-week church with a four-fold purpose — worship, education, fellowship, service. Fred Hoskins, an adept in organization, is bringing a tremendous amount of latent strength to light. He is no "arm chair" minister.

Our challenge now . . . and in the future is clear. Together we must see that "Plymouth Church shall stand in our community as a witness to the gospel; as a beacon of light to the perplexed; as a conscience to the sinful; as a friend to the needy; as a refuge to the despairing; and as a servant of God's purpose to the ends of the earth."

Elizabeth Camp
Don R. Wessling, Sr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS— (Continued from page 2)

Des Moines Council of Church Women will meet at 1:30 o'clock in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Devotions by the Reverend Gordon W. Smith and organ selections by Mr. Dudley Warner Fitch. Mesdames N. W. McBeath and E. B. Zeller give a "Review of United Nations and United Council Women in Action".

Plymouth Rocks meet at the Community House for six o'clock dinner.

Boy Scouts in the Scout Room at 7:30 o'clock.

TUESDAY

Board of Deaconesses meet in the Community House at 7:30 o'clock.

Girl Scouts at 4:00 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY

Junior Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Program 4:00 — 7:45 o'clock. Supper 40¢.

Play Period for girls of the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grades, in the gymnasium under supervision of Aleda Olmsted

Dr. Riley H. Pittman, Professor of Religion at Drake University, concludes his series of lectures on the Old Testament at 7:45 o'clock.

THURSDAY

Youth Choir Rehearsal at 6:45 P. M.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:45 P. M.

20-90 Celebration in connection with **December Church Dinner** at 6:15 o'clock, Groups VI and VII serving. Price \$1.25 for adults, 75¢ for children up to 12.

Adeline Club meets with Mrs. A. B. Thompson, 532 46th Street. Assisting hostesses are Mesdames Cogswell and Espe.

FRIDAY

Membership Committee meets in Mr. Bollman's study at 7:30 o'clock.

NEXT SUNDAY

Church School at 9:45 A. M. with classes in all Departments.

Congregators meet in the Dining Room.

Adult Bible Class in the East Parlor of the Community House. Dr. Burling, teacher.

College Group meets in the parlor of the Community House.

There will be a discussion of the proposed merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Worship Service at 11:00 o'clock. Sermon: "He Is Called Mighty God".

Expanded Session of the Sunday School at 11:00 o'clock.

Literature Committee meets at 12:15 o'clock in Dr. Hoskins' study

Pilgrim Fellowship at 7:00 o'clock. Christmas Program (Foreign Christmases).

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20 - 90 Party

It will be a gala occasion on Thursday evening, December 11, when members of Plymouth Church come together to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the first use of the present Church building and the 90th Anniversary of the gathering of Old Plymouth. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Wood, assisted by an able committee, will be in charge of the party planned for all.

The Annual Christmas Dinner will be served at 6:15 o'clock. Adults \$1.25, children to 12, 75¢. Reservations will be closed at noon on Wednesday, December 10th. This will be a party you will not forget and you are urged to make your reservations early enough to be inside the limitation required by our facilities.

Historical Exhibit

Under the general direction of the Deacons Committee, Messers. Charles Dutt and Raymond Dalbey, the Stoddard Lane Club have done much work in preparation for the historical exhibit in the Narthex. All are invited to study it before leaving the Church today.

Altar Flowers

today are presented by the Frisbie Club.

Deaths

Infant son of Dr. and Mrs. William M. Sproul, November 25, 1947. Death at birth.

CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Fred Hoskins, D. D.
Pastor

The Reverend Oscar Bollman, M. S. T.
Assistant Pastor

H. Telfer Mook,
Director of Religious Education

Genevieve Wheat Baal
Director of Music

Olive Arthur Wilson, Glen Ward, L. Tom Weatherwax
Soloists

Lenore Mudge Stull
Organist

Marie Wilkinson
Church Secretary
Pastor's Secretary
Kathryn Barnhart

Jean Cate
Office Secretary
Martin Zylstra
Building Superintendent