



A SERVICE

COMMEMORATING THE 179TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DISPLAYING OF THE LANTERNS
FROM THE STEEPLE OF CHRIST CHURCH, BOSTON
[THE OLD NORTH CHURCH]
SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 1954, AT 8.00 P.M.



" THE OLD NORTH CHURCH "

(Christ Church Parish)

193 Salem Street

Parish organized 1722

Church built in 1723

The Corporation

Rector Ex-Officio: RT. REV. NORMAN B. NASH, D.D.

Vicar: REV. CHARLES RUSSELL PECK

Chancellor: MR. ALFRED P. LOWELL

Clerk: MRS. N. RUSSELL CAZMAY

Treasurer: MR. MORTON S. CREHORE

DR. HORACE BINNEY

MR. FREDERICK DEANE

MR. WILLIAM L. BURTON

MISS MARGUERITE KIMBALL

MR. CHARLES W. CHENEY

MR. ROBERT M. WINN

MR. CHESTER A. HUTCHINS, Organist and Director of the Choir

MRS. RAYMOND V. KINSMAN

MR. C. EDWIN NOEG

MISS MARY JAMGOCHIAN

MR. KENNETH D. TUCKER

Bell Ringer: MR. WILBUR H. BIGELOW

Acting Custodian: MR. ROBERT M. WINN

Assistant: MR. L. ORLANDO FOWLE

"The Signal Lanterns of Paul Revere, displayed in the steeple of this Church, April 18, 1775, warned the Country of the march of the British Troops to Lexington and Concord." (Tablet erected by City of Boston in 1876.)

This Church, oldest Church building in Boston, built in 1723, is open every day in the year. The usual visiting hours are from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. In 1954, as on each Sunday since 1723 (except for interruptions during the Revolution), the Sunday morning service is held here at 10.45 A.M. Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month, Morning Prayer on other Sundays.

After this Service, as the congregation finds its way in our narrow streets, the peal of bells in the tower will be rung. Cast in Gloucester, England, in 1744, this is "the first ring of bells cast for the British Empire in North America." Just after their installation a group of young men headed by Paul Revere sought and received the privilege of ringing the bells: this association with the tower without doubt inspired Revere to use it as a signal station on the fateful evening of April 18, 1775 — just 179 years ago.

Order of Service



Singing by the Choir 7.40 to 8.00 P.M.

HYMN 468: Glorious Things of Thee

(1779)

(Rev. John Newton, friend of William Cowper, was Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, London, 1780-1807. Franz Haydn composed the tune in 1797)

SENTENCES, LORD'S PRAYER AND VERSICLES

PSALM 146

THE LESSON: James 1: 16-26

HYMN 226: Love Divine

(1747)

(Charles Wesley assisted the Rector of this Church in September and October, 1736)

THE CREED AND PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN 434: Battle Hymn (omit v. 3)

(1862)

(Julia Ward Howe lived her long life in Boston)

SERMON: Dr. Charles H. Buck, Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston

HYMN 427: America

(1831)

During this hymn, the lanterns will be carried into the tower by REVERE LITTLE, 6th in direct descent from Paul Revere.

(Dr. Samuel F. Smith, who wrote "America," lived within a stone's throw from this Church. It was first sung in the Park Street Church, Boston)

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

HYMN 432: Judge Eternal

(1902)

(Dr. Holland, Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, in London, wrote the words in the 20th century; a cousin of J. S. Bach harmonized the tune in the 17th century)

An interesting bit of history developed within a few months. The tablets on the east wall of the chancel were placed there in 1812. Given by a warden, Shubael Bell, the picture of the Last Supper and the four tablets were probably all painted by John R. Penniman of Roxbury. In the clerk's records of the time, we find that the original Creed, Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments were painted on three large boards, in the form of a triptych. These are reputed to go back to the 1723 period. They were presented to St. James Church, Greenfield, and are still preserved there.

A note in the report of the Vestry Meeting of April 5, 1812, states that Joseph Warren Revere is a Vestryman. He was a son of Paul Revere and bought the box pew still owned by his descendants.

A note in the clerk's book for Vestry Meeting of April 26, 1812, reports a vote to select one of the tombs for the interment of Strangers, and that a fee of ten dollars, and not less, be exacted for every interment. Not long ago, we were reminded anew of the Strangers Tomb. In the spring of 1896, while she was in college, a young lady visited this "Old North Church." She was shown the tombs, and presented with a rusty padlock which had fallen from this very tomb. Recently there came a gracious letter from this visitor of six decades ago. It was her wish to return the padlock to this church. It is now in the exhibit case in the Museum Room. In these days, few there are who see the tombs beneath the church, where more than a thousand persons are buried. But visitors to the church are many—in the year 1953, more than 125,000 went through the doors.

The 1790 marble bust of George Washington—the first memorial in a public place, in New England, to our first President, is at last properly lighted, "when the shadows lengthen." An admirer of the beauty of its skillful craftsmanship offered to finance this, and those who worship here are grateful. How often we wonder just when he visited this Christ Church. To date there is no written record—but as Washington visited Boston more than three times, and as he was a devoted Anglican, he must have visited and/or worshipped here at some time.

Work on the re-pointing of our 18th century tower is still postponed. Insufficient funds do not make it possible to begin this urgent and necessary work.

It is quiet now where the river winds beneath the Concord bridge. The rifle smoke has long since cleared from the Green at Lexington. The routes that Paul Revere and William Dawes travelled that early morning, in response to the lights "of the North Church tower," have changed from country lanes to paved highways. Most material things have altered in the years that have intervened. The spiritual needs, however, are just the same. The rights of man are challenged in this country and eclipsed in others.

"Let me go where'er I will,
I hear a sky-born music still."