



## A SERVICE

COMMEMORATING THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE DISPLAYING OF THE LANTERNS  
FROM THE STEEPLE OF CHRIST CHURCH, BOSTON  
[THE OLD NORTH CHURCH]

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1955, 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, B.D.

Chancellor: MR. ENDICOTT PEABODY

Clerk: MRS. N. RUSSELL CAZMAY

Treasurer: MR. MORTON S. CREHORE

MR. EDWARD L. BIGELOW

MR. FREDERICK DEANE

MR. WILLIAM L. BURTON

MISS MARGARET A. REVERE

MR. CHARLES W. CHENEY

MR. ROBERT M. WINN

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

MISS MARGUERITE PORTER

MR. C. EDWIN HOEG

MISS MARY JAMGOCHIAN

MR. KENNETH D. TUCKER

Church Secretary: MRS. RALPH E. KAYE

Parish Historian: MRS. MORTON S. CREHORE

"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 1955, 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 180 years ago.

# Order of Service



Singing by the Choir 7.40 to 8.00 P.M.

HYMN 255: O Worship the King

(Tune: 1708)

(William Croft was organist of Westminster Abbey)

SENTENCES, LORD'S PRAYER AND VERSICLES

PSALM 148

THE LESSON: Ecclesiasticus 44: 1-14

HYMN 100: Light of Those

(1744)

(Tune: from Beethoven, 1770-1827)

(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)

ADDRESS: Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes, the Coadjutor Bishop of Massachusetts

HYMN 427: America

(1831)

During this hymn, the lanterns will be carried into the tower by MR. PAUL REVERE, 5TH 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 464: The Church's One Foundation

(1866)

(Samuel J. Stone was Curate of Windsor)



The Hurricane of August 31, 1954, made many changes here. Not only did it remove a landmark dear to neighbors, and even to office workers on State Street, but to people in Texas and Florida. On September 1st, pictures of the falling steeple appeared in the *London Times*, *Paris Herald* and German and Austrian newspapers. Almost immediately offers arose across the country, and, as all know, a large sum has come from all sorts and conditions of men, women, and children. The goal is not yet reached, however, as costs are so large in 18th century work for repairs to the brick tower, the creation of the steeple and spire. There are also considerations for a church other than bricks and mortar. The date of the restoration is not yet fixed. But thanks to the outstanding help of many near and far the steeple will rise again.

Four colored prints now in the Museum Room have been given the "Old North." Made about the year 1800, they were given Dr. Asa Eaton, Rector here 1803-1829, by his congregation as a wedding present. They show the four rites of the church — Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage and Holy Communion. They are much-travelled pictures, having recently returned from New Zealand.

Cambridge-Columbia-Harvard-Oxford-Yale. Strange that these five seats of learning should have a link with this church. Dr. Timothy Cutler (First Rector, 1723-1765), graduated from Harvard in 1701, was First President of Yale in 1719, Doctor of Divinity of Oxford and Cambridge, 1723. When this church offered to pay the expenses of his sojourn in London, preparing for orders in the Anglican Church, Samuel Johnson, Yale 1714, was also financed for those months in England. In 1754 Dr. Johnson became the First President of King's College, now Columbia. In the January number of the *New York Historical Society Quarterly* is an article by Mr. Milton H. Thomas. Interesting facts about Dr. Samuel Johnson are revealed, such as: his "short congratulatory speech in Latin, at the laying of the cornerstone of the first college building" (August 23, 1756). A sketch made for Columbia's Bicentennial shows Dr. Johnson and his eight students as they might have looked on the morning of their first class meeting (July 17, 1754), with the original Trinity Church (1698) in the picture. How interested Dr. Cutler, here, must have been in the progress of his Yale and London companion twelve years his junior. Dr. Cutler had nearly died of smallpox in London. His dread is reflected in the Thomas article, as follows: "Dr. Johnson lived in great fear of the smallpox, and was driven away from the city in October, 1759, and remained at Stratford until May, 1760." He was back in the new building of King's College, and on June 26th, in the morning, "the College Hall was opened with a short and elegant Latin speech by the Reverend President." Such are some of the connections with a cleric-scholar who walked the aisles of this "Old North" with his friend Timothy Cutler. Dr. Johnson left letters and writings of much interest. Not least interesting are those with Dr. George Berkeley, the Irish Philosopher-Bishop.

In the same *Quarterly* (listed above) is an article about William Johnston, a forgotten portrait painter of New England. In it is mention of his father, Thomas Johnston, whose tablet is on the north wall of this church. The article refers thus to Thomas: "In 1752 he contracted to build an organ for Christ Church (the Old North) to replace one which had been imported sixteen years earlier; and it was specified that the new organ 'was to have an echo equal to that of Trinity Church.' Although Thomas took six years to complete the organ (having meanwhile built a smaller one for St. Peter's in Salem) it was worth waiting for, remaining in use until 1886." His organ case of 1759 is still in use in the choir loft of this church.