

WHEN LIFE BECOMES DIVINE IN QUALITY

Christ Church  
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## INTRODUCTION

If we want to discover the presence of God in our lives  
we can begin almost anywhere — ~~for that is well~~

~~life-which is the presence of God as being~~  
~~often the people think~~ the Creator of the Universe — ~~No doubt a good~~  
~~place to start in our~~

^ But is it not true that CREATION IS A CONSTANT,  
CONTINUING FACT.....

\*\*\*\*\*

Every day of our lives -- WE STAND IN THE PRESENCE  
OF THIS AMAZING PROCESS -- THE PROCESS OF  
CREATION. ~~smaller new -~~

We see it in nature about us ---

We see it in the constructive work of people;

~~We see it in human lives which are growing -~~

~~WE CAN GO VERY FAR WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING~~

~~THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN OUR MIDST.~~

WE CAN'T GO VERY FAR WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING

~~the presence of~~  
~~the presence of GOD IN OUR MIDST.~~

\*\*\*\*\*

standing in the  
divine presence

~~No~~ God becomes increasingly real to us ----

as we ~~learn~~ learn to recognize God  
---- in the natural processes about us of life  
and

certain influences -- in our immediate experience.

which lead to fullness of life

\*\*\*\*\*

Sometimes we miss God --- by overlooking him ----

By Looking to some distant realm

"the ground where we stand  
when ~~as a whole~~ is it a Holy Ground."

\*\*\*\*\*

God is present, for example ----

*from any  
source*

✓ IN ALL THOSE INFLUENCES WHICH COME INTO OUR LIVES

in terms of which the quality of our living  
is lifted -----

✓ IN TERMS OF WHICH -- WE ARE SOMEHOW CREATED  
INTO SOMEWHAT BETTER PERSONS.

*more adequate for living meaningful  
in an unreal*

→ God is in all of life's  
... uplifting influences.

And when we think of God in this way ---- IS IT NOT  
TRUE THAT GOD HAS ENTERED INTO THE EXPERIENCE OF  
EVERYONE OF US -- not once, but many times....?



I Person

When we <sup>he makes perfect</sup> try to understand what these uplifting influences are -----

we soon recognize that they are many -----

But of these many influences <sup>this which life is created & re-creates</sup> --- I SHOULD LIKE TO  
SPEAK OF JUST ONE THIS MORNING

THE INFLUENCE OF OTHER PERSONS.

Real Persons Whom We meet  
along The way

One of the most awe-inspiring facts of life  
is the impact one life can have upon another

We are strengthened;

" " directed;

" " inspired;

" " GIVEN NEW FAITH AND COURAGE

~~this influence of by other persons.....~~

Thro' touch of one life upon  
another

\*\*\*\*\*

A principle abstractly stated --- may be helpful to us;

BUT A PERSON WHO EMBODIES THAT PRINCIPLE

and lives that principle day after day .....

IS FAR MORE HELPFUL .....

\*\*\*\*\*

~~Persons are the saviours of the world...~~

~~PERSONS~~

PERSONS OF THE RIGHT KIND -----

are instruments of the divine life in our midst.

As we look into our personal experience ----

IS IT NOT TRUE THAT SOME OF THE BEST INFLUENCES  
WHICH HAVE COME TO US ----

have come through persons

*whom we had the  
good fortune to meet*

~~In fact they said --- but more important  
still in that they were~~

→ *Persons who did something for us  
Simple in what they were*

\*\*\*\*\*

Maybe a friend ----- maybe a parent ----

someone with whom we have worked

Maybe a teacher ---- maybe a ~~business associate~~ ----

Maybe someone whom we met quite casually along the way....

Some of the best influences we have known ---- have  
been in and through persons.....

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To see someone else's faith --- oftentimes deepens  
our faith;

To see someone else facing his problem courageously ---  
increases our courage;

To see someone else standing for an ideal  
gives us new confidence in idealism;

---- AND SO IT GOES ----

SO MANY OF THE BEST INFLUENCES ARE MEDIATED  
TO US THROUGH PERSONS...

*The same influence*



And sometimes ---- in the midst of uncertainty

When the way isn't quite clear ----  
and things seem quite confused -----

----- IT'S A SOURCE OF GREAT HELP ---- TO KNOW SOME  
PERSON OR PERSONS in whom we can still believe or  
trust -----

\*\*\*\*\*

Sherlock Holmes once said: "Watson, you are the one  
fixed point in my life."

----- Well, there aren't many fixed points in life -----

X but there are great values IN KNOWING AND POSSESSING  
SOMETHING WHICH ARE RELATIVELY STABLE -----

And sometimes A REAL PERSON ---- WHO STANDS FOR  
SOMETHING IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON

becomes a kind of fixed point ----- a source  
of stability in our own experience.

Fortunate is that individual who  
knows such a person or persons.....

Something that comes from living in the  
presence of a person of Character & Quality  
- STANDARDS -

Josephine Burr has expressed -- in some rather interesting lines -----

this tendency to find STABILITY -- THROUGH PERSONS WHO REALLY STAND FOR SOMETHING...

I am not sure that the earth is round

Nor that the sky is really blue,

The tale of why the apples fall

May or may not be true.

I do not know what makes the tides,

Nor what tomorrow's world may do ----

But I have certainty enough ----

For I am sure of you....."

\*\*\*\*\*

Let's hope that the poet was a little more sure of some of those things than she indicated

but she has suggested a sound point -----

DEPENDABLE PEOPLE -- WHO STAND FOR SOMETHING -----

BRING STABILITY TO US -----

Henri Bergson (The French philosopher):

" We all, at those momentous hours, when our usual maxims of conduct strike us as inadequate, have wondered what such or such a one would have expected of us under the circumstances." *Steady Power & the Person in whom We Can Believe*

← BENECA (Stoic philosopher): "We ought to choose some good man and always have him before our eyes - that we may live as if he watched us, and everything as if he saw



If, then, we really want to find God in our experience

Let us consider those GOOD INFLUENCES which come to  
is --- through persons ---

INFLUENCES WHICH LIFT THE LEVEL OF OUR LIVING

AND MAKE OF LIFE A FINER THING..

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Pause

Repeat

On the human level --- DIVINITY IS A QUALITY OF LIFE

Once we accept that definition -----

we shall find God --in our very midst  
almost every day of our lives....

~~in the influence~~

And like Moses of old, we shall  
learn that

"the ground wherea we  
stand is holy ground"



## II. CHRIST

One of the explanations for the enduring power <sup>of that</sup>  
the transforming power  
of THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION ---

is that at its very center --- THERE IS A PERSON.

+ That person is Jesus of Nazareth. --- <sup>some of whose teachings</sup>

<sup>and around whom there is a drama of personal death</sup>

+ Christianity began with the devotion of a small group of people to this Person --- <sup>they found something in his life</sup>  
Ever since this Person has been at center of the Christian movement

X Across the centuries the Church has taught some principles

But it has gone on to say ---

HERE IS A LIFE IN WHICH THOSE THOSE PRINCIPLES ARE EMBODIED

X In the life & drama of Christ we have embodied some of the noblest of Principles ---

A devotion to ~~God~~ <sup>Something greater than self</sup>

A Respect For the Worth of ~~Personality~~ <sup>Human Life</sup>

The Motive Of Service, --- <sup>unselfish</sup>

A Willingness To Sacrifice For One's Ideals ---

and FROM THAT VERY SACRIFICE --- THE EMERGENCE OF

A LARGER AND FULLER LIFE ---

----- All this the Church has taught across the centuries -----

pointing to one --- in whose life those principles were so wonderfully exemplified.....

*The Man of Galilee*

And as individuals have stood in the presence of ~~that~~ per

Learned to know him better;

EXPOSED THEMSELVES TO HIS ATTITUDES AND SPIRIT

SO THAT HIS SPIRIT BECAME A PART OF THEM

something tremendously important ~~it~~ has happened -----

X THIS PROCESS OF CREATION -- and RECREATION -- and GROWTH  
has taken place in them -----

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*In knowing him*

~~through the spirit of his~~

*many*

~~people~~ have found new faith in living;

new respect for/ their fellowmen; *themselves*

new hope for rebuilding broken lives;

NEW CONFIDENCE IN LONG-RANGE IDEALS -----

*Geo.*

MATHESON: "Son of Man, whenever I doubt of life -- I think of thee..."

*This amazing*  
----- AT THE CENTER OF XI-ANITY IS A PERSON -----

A PERSON WHO BY THE VERY QUALITY OF HIS LIFE

BRINGS THE LIVING GOD INTO OUR MIDST.

*Some people tell that our world is that of  
then new faith & came*

*In a world of treachery*

*of man's inhumanity to man*

*the influence of such a man as Christ  
is a saving influence* *That we don't live  
like the world*



Emerson: On god + god-like men we kneel outwards

In this season of the year --- the Lenten season  
culminating in Easter

OUR CHURCH INVITES US TO GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION  
TO THE LIFE OF HIM -- who for 1900 years has held  
a central position in our religious movement....

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In just one week we shall move into that  
period of the Christian calendar which is known  
as Holy Week -----

The various stories associated with that week

SYMBOLIZE AND DRAMATIZE <sup>not</sup> some of the central

ideas and ideals. The Church would keep alive:

→ But some of the Personal Consideration  
Involved in Living This Life,

✓ THE ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY -- FOR WORK

✓ The Willingness To Be In a Minority  
Where Truth & Right Is

✓ THE NECESSITY OF INNER STRUGGLE and <sup>Conflict</sup> ~~sublimation~~  
~~of life~~ ----- (Gethsemane)

✓ The Willingness To Sacrifice - if need be  
~~THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION~~ -----

for an ideal ----- in the

confidence that somehow THAT WHICH IS DEEPEST IN THE  
NATURE OF THINGS -- VINDICATES THAT KIND OF DEVOTION

\*\*\*\*\*  
XX XX These are some of the meanings  
~~the meaning of these days~~ --- in the church of

DRAMA of Holy Week -

And across the centuries the church has been saying:  
It's that kind of life which is of  
enduring significance?

X To keep this season in a  
religious sense -- means to STAND in Jesus  
thought to the Relevance of such events  
to our lives -

In this season of the year -- when we celebrate  
the fact of growth in all of nature about us....

-----IT IS WELL FOR US TO REMEMBER THAT PEOPLE <sup>need to</sup> GROW  
TOO - and Groups + Nations

Toward a Fullness of Life  
And we grow in ~~the direction~~ of

~~THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE DEDICATED TO~~

~~AND WHOSE VISION IS OF THE FOLLOWING....~~

To the end that the  
Dignity of Human life might be increasing <sup>repeatedly</sup>  
And a deeper quality of life  
made possible

One of the finest things about human nature  
is this capacity to respond to PERSONALITY AT  
ITS BEST -----

And in this season our church asks us to  
COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF HIM WHO FOR SO LONG HAS  
BEEN AT THE CENTER OF OUR RELIGION ----

XX X and to consider anew what his life may  
have to say for our life.

We grow in truth  
as we grow in love  
and in the

In him there is a Kind of  
Long-Range Faith

a Recognition of Human Values

An idealism  
Human Trust of which our  
world was deep  
in need -  
will in turn to live our



In this season of the year -----  
when we celebrate the fact of growth in all  
the world about us -----

THE CHURCH WOULD REMIND US AGAIN -----

~~THAT HUMAN GROWTH NEEDS TO BE IN THE~~

~~DIRECTION OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH~~

*We need not be lulled back by old hymns  
who lived a great many years ago*

~~BUT WHO IN HIS TIME AND PLACE~~

~~EMBODIED SPIRITUAL TRUTH AND SPIRITUAL FREEDOM~~

*→ we can grow & be good & be Christ 2  
the page of growth*

One of the best things about human nature

Is its capacity to respond to personality at its best  
when the right conditions are created;

----- In this season, ~~the~~ Church reminds us  
again OF OUR CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO THE SPIRIT OF  
~~CHRIST~~ CHRIST.

*What is the*  
THE DEGREE OF CHRIST'S DIVINITY FOR US

IS THE DEGREE THAT ~~THE~~ *the* QUALITY OF HIS LIVING  
FINDS ITS WAY INTO THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVING.

*To keep his memory  
alive & young  
will be to grow*

*and ask us to  
grow & change  
ourselves*

## CONCLUSION

There is a story that there was once an old painter  
who lived in a European village;

*He really wasn't a very good painter - few  
admirers*  
~~For years he had worked at his painting~~  
~~loving it~~ — an artist in spirit —  
~~but with no great ability in technique.....~~

----- BUT HE LOVED TO PAINT --- AND HE TOOK PRIDE IN  
DOING THE BEST HE KNEW....

\*\*\*\*\*

For years he saved his money --- that some day he might  
go to Florence -----  
and see some of the great masterpieces.....

At last the day came, and he went -----

\*\*\*\*\*

And as the story goes -- THEY FOUND HIM ONE DAY ----  
STANDING IN REVERENCE --- BEFORE ONE OF THE  
SUPREME PAINTINGS OF THE WORLD -----

Humble ~~and yet~~ his face aglow -----

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And he was heard to say --- in humility - and yet in pride:

"I too, am a painter...."

~~None of his work would ever be called~~  
~~a masterpiece~~  
~~For to stand in the Presence~~  
~~of a masterpiece~~  
Best to stand in the Presence of  
a masterpiece - Gave him a new sense of the Dignity of his art 8



Life itself is an art -----

Across the years there have been those  
WHO HAVE MADE A SPLENDID THING OF IT -----

*D. g. m. [unclear]*

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To stand in the presence of such persons

Perhaps to walk with them ----

IS ONE OF LIFE'S HIGHEST PRIVILEGES....

The worth of our own lives is enhanced -----

*God enters Our Experience in this*  
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~~"Through such souls, God stooping shows sufficient  
of his light for us in the dark  
To rise by -- and I rise...."~~

And in this season we would turn our thoughts  
especially to HIM - who is at the center of our faith -

~~standing~~ and standing in his presence ----  
~~UNDERSTANDING THE DEEPER MEANING OF HIS LIFE~~

we shall find new faith and courage <sup>idealism</sup> -- for the  
living of these days.