

Birth Of Christ Made Hope Flesh

By CARDINAL McGUIGAN

Many commentators are highlighting the great tragedies and deaths which shocked so many of us during this past year.

Certainly at this time of the year, no one can begin contemplating the awesome mystery of the birth of Christ until he runs flush into the realities of human life. Compared with the promise, hope, innocence and simplicity of Christ's entrance into the world, life today often seems to be jagged and tragic.

To be sure, it would be false to say that the world presents an untended picture of suffering

and travail; joy, purely human joy, can be found as peace and progress.

Yet, it may well be asked whether it is proper for Christians to adopt the stance of the world-wise. If, for the unbeliever, a course of stoic wariness is the only sensible one, is it equally proper for the Christian? The question has an immediate answer: No.

If the birth of Christ has any fundamental meaning, it is precisely that optimism and hope have been grounded in the very deepest realities of human existence. For the Christian, hope cannot be looked upon as a li-

2 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Sat. Jan. 4, 1964.

ry for the weak but rather as a simple duty grounded in the will of God and verified for all by the sending of His only begotten Son as a sign of His love in the birth of Christ, hope was made flesh.

WE LOOK

Yet, even if we have not allowed ourselves to forget these things we still look for signs that the promise remains good. We believe, but we are constantly struck with our unbelief. Like Thomas, we want to see for ourselves.

But where should we look? Where can we see some hint that the apparently endless cycle of human birth, death and anguish-ed groping is in fact a straight line leading to a glorious consummation? One place where we may look profitably is toward those recent events which give promise of a breaking through the long established patterns of a falling-latest past.

For the Christian world, the ecumenical movement is little less than a very real miracle. After 400 years Christians have begun talking with one another, repenting for their sins of division and schism. For the Catholic, the second Vatican Council seems on the verge of bringing into being that vivified, re-animated church which Pope John

in his great wisdom saw as the burning need of our times. The council is not yet over, but already enough has been accomplished to put the pessimist and the cynic on the defensive. The church, it has been said, cannot be changed. Yet, before our very eyes, it is changing. The Holy Spirit is at work.

WE WAIT

We do not have to look only towards the church to see progress. We can look also into that large arena of human affairs where ordinarily, men and nations have pitched against one another for the sake of false patriotism, national self-interest and the survival of the fittest.

Everywhere one can see men and governments, better than any other generation, realizing the utter stupidity of war, the utter madness of defending life and principle by means of weapons which wreck indiscriminate death and destruction.

Of course the stoic or the cynic can always respond that these are illusions. Undoubtedly, we can wait with fatalism for the future if we wish. Or we can wait with Christian hope. What is the difference? If we wait with fatalism, we become victims of time and history. If we wait with Christian hope, we become co-operators with the Lord of history.

The God who became Man did not promise us an earthly paradise. He Himself was born in a manger. But He did promise that God would guide and illuminate those who believed in Him. He did promise that those who work for His aims and with His charity would not find their work in vain.

We wait, but as those who wait for life and death.

Mary, The Mother of Jesus

ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Alfred J. Buescher



Like many parents, Mary didn't fully understand her Son. But she kept questioning Him a great deal during normal childhood.—Luke 2:19, 40; Matthew 13:55-56.



At the temple, Jesus sits with the teachers, to learn, to ask and answer questions. When found; He is surprised His parents didn't know where to look for Him.—Luke 2:42-52.



Throughout His life, Jesus was deeply concerned for His mother. From the Cross, He selects His "disciple" John, to replace Himself as her son.—John 19:27.

MEMORY VERSE:—"And Mary said, 'My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.'" Luke 1:46-47.

Throughout His life, Jesus was deeply concerned for His mother. From the Cross, He selects His "disciple" John, to replace Himself as her son.—John 19:27.

Before the Ascension, Mary joins the upper room company, taking a place as one Christian among the others united in prayer to God.—Acts 1:14.

THE UNIVERSAL WEEK OF PRAYER SERVICES

JANUARY 6th - 10th, 1964

- Monday, 9 p.m.—The Baptist Church
Preacher: Rev. C. K. Benn
- Tuesday, 8 p.m.—The Kirk of St. James
Preacher: Rev. M. F. Harlow
- Wednesday, 8 p.m.—St. Paul's Church
Preacher: Rev. T. H. B. Somers
- Thursday, 8 p.m.—Trinity Church
Preacher: Rev. A. E. Piorrey
- Friday, 8 p.m.—Zion Church
Preacher: Rev. C. C. Lewis

THE CHARLOTTETOWN MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

IMPORTANT WOMAN

Mary is Most Misunderstood

(Editor's note: The following material relating to tomorrow's Sunday School lesson is based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches in the U.S. and is used by permission.)

By R.H. RAMSEY

Certainly the most important woman of Scripture is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Next to her Son, she is the dominating figure in the Gospels. Yet, in fact, she is one of three persons to whom Christ spoke directly from the Cross and the only woman mentioned by name in the upper room gathering immediately preceding Pentecost. Yet, in the intervening years, this noblest of mothers and women has become the most misunderstood, being either coldly neglected or adoringly worshipped.

We catch glimpses into her character throughout the first chapters of Luke. Her spiritual receptiveness and faith are obvious in her reply to the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:38). Her inner wonderment and joy over the events which followed seem almost miraculous, too sacred to her. But she holds them close to her heart. (Luke 2:19). She was calm and deep, spiritually strong, steady and persevering in grace.

The years of Jesus' childhood are summarized in Luke 2:40, 52. Physically, He grew up in the most normal way. Mentally, His mind and soul grew in strength, wisdom, perfection in love and power far beyond other mortals.

So it was that when Jesus was 12 and went with his parents to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, He was able to sit with the temple teachers as a disciple. They talked to Him, taught Him and asked Him questions. He answered and listened in amazement. Then, as every disciple had the right to do, He asked them questions arising out of His religious teachings at home. The teachers were amazed at the clarity and insight of His simple, artless answers. In His questions and answers, Truly, they had never seen or heard a child like Him before.

In spite of this, He reveals a submissiveness to His parents in His answer to their worried questioning following His discovery at the temple. But He is also amazed that they did not know he would be there. (Luke 2:48-50).

We see the contemplative character of Mary again in the concluding verse of this chapter. Like most parents, she didn't fully understand her Son, but she treasured the mysteries concerning Him, seeing not so much to understand them, but to draw the blessedness from them. In Matthew 12:46-50, a third time again in 13:55-56, and in the most detailed statements concerning the family of Jesus, that we find anywhere in the Gospels. We learn that Jesus was a carpenter, that Joseph was apparently trained as a carpenter, as a young man. These verses also refer to actual brothers and sisters of Jesus, naming four of them. Those insisting on the perpetual virginity of Mary say these are half-brothers of Jesus, sons of Joseph by a previous marriage. But there is nothing in

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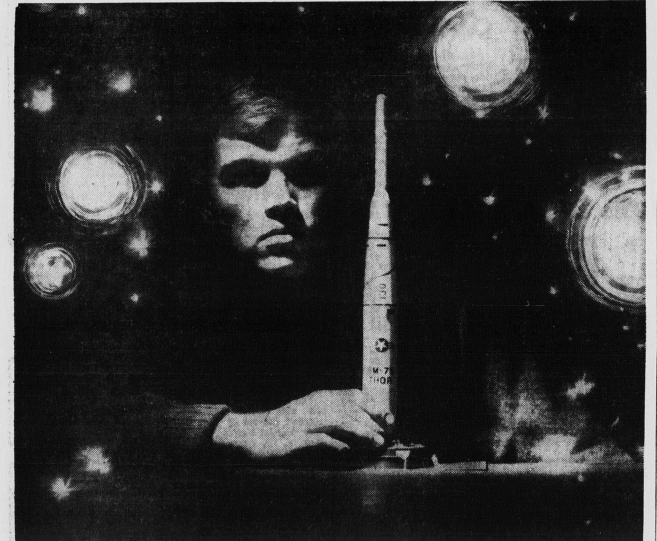
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NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

THE CHURCH FOR ALL - ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest force we need for the building of a better world. It is the only force that can bring about a new era of peace and justice. Without a strong Church, we have no hope for the future. This is the message of the Bible. Let us all join together in prayer and service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Never has the future seemed more exciting... or more disturbing! Today we dream of fights to far stars; about intelligent life on other planets. We look at our own earth with clear eyes, and discuss the possibility of world brotherhood, world government, world peace.

Are these things going to happen? We don't know. But we do know that nothing is impossible. In fact, Jesus tells us that all things are possible with God. He wants us to understand that God is infinite power, as well as infinite love. The foolishness of man cannot affect God's plans for the universe, or His love for each one of us.

Faith is what we need... faith in the certainties upon which the Christian Church is founded. When we put our lives in God's hands, there is no need to view the future with doubt or dread. All will be well.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Psalm	Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	Matthew
24:1-10	55:5-13	6:25-33	19:23-30	9:20-29	2:22-28	1:30-29
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ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE
READ THE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THIS PAGE FOR TIMES OF SERVICES

WEEK OF PRAYER SERVICES - JAN. 6-10

Arranged by the Kings County Ministerial Association
All services begin at 7:30 p.m.

- MONDAY, JANUARY 6—**
 - Montague United (Mr. E. MacDougall)
 - Murray River Baptist (Lic. Myrtle Ingersoll)
 - Dundas United (Rev. B. C. Lowery)
 - Caledonia Presbyterian (Rev. G. Fraser)
 - Little Sands United (Mr. W. Walls)
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 7—**
 - Montague Presbyterian (Rev. D. E. Adams)
 - Murray River United (Mr. W. Walls)
 - Wood Islands Presbyterian (Rev. R. F. Burns)
 - Annandale Baptist (Mr. E. MacDougall)
 - Valleyfield United (Rev. A. G. J. Steeves)
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8—**
 - Montague Baptist (Rev. D. Nicholson)
 - Murray Harbour United (Rev. H. R. Pecklington)
 - Sturgeon United (Rev. M. C. Currie)
 - South Lake Church of Christ (Lic. M. Ingersoll)
 - Seneca United (Rev. B. C. Lowery)
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 9—**
 - Montague Church of Christ (Rev. D. Fraser)
 - Peter's Road Presbyterian (Rev. G. Fraser)
 - Murray Harbour Baptist (Rev. R. F. Burns)
 - Valleyfield Presbyterian (Rev. H. R. Pecklington)
 - Fortune United (Rev. M. O. Smith)
- FRIDAY, JANUARY 10—**
 - Montague United (Rev. M. O. Smith)
 - Orwell Head United (Rev. M. C. Currie)
 - Caledonia Presbyterian (Rev. G. Fraser)
 - Georgetown United (Rev. D. Barville)

PARK ROYAL UNITED CHURCH

13 Christie Drive, Parkdale
Rev. J. H. Tye, B.A., B.D., Minister
Mr. Leslie Hiscott,
Organist and Director of Choirs

- 9:45 a.m.—Young Adult Bible Class
- 9:45 a.m.—Junior, Intermediate, Senior Church School
- 11:00 a.m.—Nursery and Kindergarten Classes
- 11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP
Sermon: "I AM SO RESOLVED!"
—Farrant
- 11:15 a.m.—Primary Church School
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 7:00 a.m.—EVENING WORSHIP
Sermon: CHURCH OF THE FULL GOSPEL
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Charlottetown Bible Chapel

233 Cumberland St. at Longworth Ave.
11:00 a.m.—"BETHEL, THE HOUSE OF GOD"
7:30 p.m.—"THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS"
Speaker: JAMES A. STARR, B.S., M.Th.

First Baptist Church

Corner of Prince and Filroy Streets
Rev. Malcolm F. Harlow, B.A., B.D., Minister
Mrs. V. L. Dingwell, Organist and Choir Director
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—"FELLOWSHIP COMMUNION"
Solo: "The Gate of the Year"
—Mrs. Douglas MacGowan
Ordinance of the Lord's Supper
7:00 p.m.—"THE MOST ESSENTIAL WORD"
Solo: Selections—Mrs. Arlene MacDonald
Anthem: "In The Bleak Mid-Winter"

The Salvation Army

"Home of Evangelism Since 1885"
Great George Street
35 Villa Avenue
Sunday: Director Class—9:30 a.m.
Sunday School—10 a.m.
Holiness Meeting—11 a.m.
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School
Friday: Young People's Hobby Class—4:15 p.m.
"A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT THE ALMAY"

Zion Presbyterian Church

Corner Prince and Grafton Streets
The Rev. Donald A. Campbell, B.A., Minister
Miss Roberta Shaw, Deaconess
Mrs. Madelyn MacGowan, M.A., M.Mus.,
Organist and Choir Director
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School—Classes for all ages.
10:00 a.m.—Bible Class—1:00 a.m.—Nursery School
11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP
Sermon: "THE OLD AND THE NEW"
Solo: "The Lord's Prayer—Melodie"
Mr. Frank Wood
Broadcast over CFXY
7:00 p.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP
Sermon: IN ENDOR'S CAVE
Anthem: Holy Father Cheer Our Way
A CORDIAL WELCOME TO ALL

The Kirk of St. James

The Reverend T. H. B. Somers, M.A., S.T.M., Minister
Organist and Director of the Choirs
Christopher Gledhill, M.A., B.Mus.

- 9:45 a.m.—Church School
- 11:00 a.m.—Church Nursery and Nursery School
- 11:00 a.m.—NEW YEAR MORNING WORSHIP AND SERMON: "DO NOT MAKE TODAY THE YESTERDAY THAT YOU WILL REGRET TOMORROW"
(Revelation 16)
Anthem: "Lord of all power and might"
(S. S. Wesley)
- 7:00 p.m.—EPIPHANY EVENING WORSHIP AND SEMINAR: "THEY CAME—THEY SAW—THEY WERE SHIPPED"
(S. Matthew 2:11)
"Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed for I am thy God."

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Charlottetown, P. E. I.
Ministers: Rev. J. G. E. Ball, B.A.,
Rev. G. G. Myrnes, B.A., B.D.,
Rev. Clayton C. Lewis
Organist & Director of Choirs: Royton F. Magford, A.R.C.O.

- 9:30 a.m.—Senior, Intermediate and Junior Church School
- 11:00 a.m.—Primary, Kindergarten and Nursery
- 11:00 a.m.—"CONFESSION OF FAITH COMMUNION"
Rev. J. G. E. Ball
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Anthem: "Bless The Lord O My Soul"
(Psalm 135)
7:00 p.m.—"Holy Communion"
"THIS IS THE WORK OF GOD"
Rev. C. C. Lewis
"A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT TRINITY AND SPRING PARK"

SPRING PARK UNITED CHURCH

(Cor. Kirkwood Drive and Dunbrink Street)
CHURCH SCHOOL
9:30 a.m.—Primary, Junior and Intermediate Church School
11:00 a.m.—Nursery in Sunday School Room
11:00 a.m.—"FACING THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE"
Solo: Miss Susan Williams
Organist: Mrs. Ron H. Atkins

Central Christian Church

218 Kent Street Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Morning
10:00 a.m.—Bible School for the whole family
11:00 a.m.—Lord's Supper and Morning Message:
"EXPECTATIONS UNEXPECTEDLY FILLED"
Anthem: "Unto Us A Boy Is Born"
(Geoffrey Shaw)
EVENING
7:00 p.m.—Evening Evangelistic Service
Message: "MESSAGE OF LIFE"
Anthem: "Bark What Mean These Holy Voices"
Minister: Mr. William O. Wells
Organist—Mrs. Allison MacRae, A.R.C.M.
YOU ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH US