

[Sixth Universalist Society, New York City]

Dedication of the Church of Our Savior

The Church of Our Savior, erected by the Sixth Universalist Society, in Fifty-seventh street, near Eighth avenue, was dedicated last evening. The building was erected at a cost, including the site, of \$145,000. It is a handsome building of the Romanesque style of architecture, of Philadelphia pressed brick, trimmed with Belleville stone. The internal structure is on so improved and economical a plan that there is ample accommodation for a congregation of 1,600 persons, on a lot measuring 75 by 100 feet. The audience-room is constructed in the amphitheatre form, the seats rising gradually in every direction from the speaker. By the construction of the lobbies, the space least advantageous for sitting is used for the exit and entrance of the audience. The stand for the minister is a simple platform, slightly raised, and is occupied by only a light reading-desk and chairs. It is carried as far out as possible toward the centre of the audience-room, so as to bring every listener within easy reach of the speaker's voice. In the front of the edifice, over the vestibule, the Sunday-school rooms and the church parlors are situated, in the second and third stories respectively. Rev. J. [James] M. Pullman is the Pastor of the new church.

The building was crowded on the occasion of the dedicatory services last evening. Very profuse and handsome floral decorations were displayed in the neighborhood of the minister's stand. The musical services were remarkably satisfactory, the organ being supplemented by an efficient orchestra. There was also excellent choral singing. Services were commenced by an overture on the organ, followed by the "Gloria" from Mozart's Twelfth Mass. After an invocation by the Pastor, the hymn "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him," was sung by the choir. Rev. E.[Edmund] Chapin, D.D., preached the sermon, taking his text from the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians, iv, 6: One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." The words of his text, the preacher said, constituted a grand confession of faith—the creed of the Church universal. It was a creed satisfactory to the intellect, to the heart, and to the soul; not a part of any special system, but the creed for humanity and for all time. No broader and better would ever be revealed. It was the ultimate doctrine of Christianity. There were two sources of revelation—one found in the works, and the other in the Word of God—and it was the realization of both. We had reached, the preacher said, an era of unfettered thought and of bold utterance. The fate of Galileo had no terror for scientists, such a nickname as heretic was but lightly regarded; geology told its story, the question of the diversity of races was probed in free discussions, but yet, with all the

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excessive claims which physical science put forward, the intelligence of man went back behind all to that grand concept of unity—"One God and Father of all, through all, and in you all." All things went toward the same confession; it was the grand and comprehensive creed of humanity. Man wanted a religion, something that would satisfy him when material speculation failed him. He wanted a creed for the intellect, for the heart and for the soul, authenticated by the works and by the word of God. That creed was to be found in the words of the text, but it was a creed which should be received, not merely in its harmony, but in its spirit and in its power.

At the conclusion of the sermon the hymn "How Pleased and Blest was I" was sung by the choir, and then the report of the Building Committee was read, which showed that a debt of \$50,000 incurred in the erection of the building remained as yet to be liquidated. The Pastor, in an address to the congregation, urged the desirability of removing \$25,000 of the burden before the dedication was proceeded with, and asked that somebody would head the list with \$2,500. Mr. Nathaniel Smith responded, but subsequent appeals for similar amounts went unanswered. Some gentlemen, however, put down their names for \$1,000 each. The dedicatory services were afterward proceeded with, and did not terminate till a late hour.

Rev. E.[Eldridge] G. Brooks, D.D., of Philadelphia, will preach in this church to-morrow evening, and the anniversary exercises of the Universalist Sunday-schools of New-York will be held there on Wednesday afternoon.

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Transcribed on 7 Nov 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY