

Dedication

[slightly abridged]

The new and beautiful church erected during the past year by the Fourth Universalist Society in Brooklyn, was dedicated by appropriate religious services on the afternoon of last Sunday.

The occasion was one of much interest, and the church was filled to the utmost capacity. The order of service was as follows:

1. Organ Voluntary, Chant. "Venite Exultimus Domino."
2. Invocation—by Rev. F. L. H. Willis (Unitarian)
3. Responsive Chant. "Thy will be done."
4. Scripture Lesson—by Rev. Asa Saxe.
5. Original Hymn—by Rev. G. T. Flanders
6. Dedicatory Prayer—by Rev. E.[Edwin] H. Chapin.
7. Responsive Chant. "O Father, hear our prayer."
8. Sermon—by the Pastor, Rev. L. J. Fletcher.
9. Organ Voluntary and Collection.
10. Address to the Society by Rev. E. G. Brooks.
11. Anthem
12. Closing Prayer—by Rev. T. S. Lathrop
13. Benediction—by the Pastor.

This church is a substantial and very beautiful structure, built of brick, with a brown stone front, surmounted by four turrets.

The windows are of stained glass, the walls are frescoed in deep panel-work, and the ceiling finished in half-gothic arches is painted in beautiful centres of stucco-work, with rosettes. The church is lighted from three arches in the ceiling, with silvered glass reflectors, and with the exception of a jet of gas at the organ, no other light is seen.

The organ is a fine-toned instrument with 12 stops, and in form would seem to have been selected with an eye to that harmony of form and proportion which pervades every part of the structure and its furniture.

The basement of this church is the full ground size of the audience room, high posted, well ventilated and with an abundance of light. It is finished into Sunday School room, Bible class room, and library separated by sliding glass partitions so that it all can be thrown into one room, or when separated that the superintendent from his stand can see all the rooms, at a glance. This part of the church was dedicated in the morning, by the Sunday School, when addresses were made by the Superintendent Mr. J. W. Carr, and by the pastor, also by the Superintendents of the three other schools of our order in Brooklyn; by Mr. Cushing, superintendent of one of the New York schools, and Mr. Tristed, former superintendent of the school of the Fourth society in said church.

The basement is neatly finished and furnished. The aisles of the large room are covered with matting[,] [t]he platform and the Bible class room neatly

Dedication

[slightly abridged]

carpeted, and the tables, chairs, &c. in good taste. In writing of the church, we should have said it is carpeted throughout, and provided with furniture which appears to have been made for the place it occupies. On the tablets in the front of this edifice, cut in relief, are on the left the words "Church of the Redeemer" and on the right "Erected 1863," the year in which the cornerstone was laid, with Masonic honors. The church cost, all furnished [and] organ included, about \$18,000, and the society will have a debt of \$8,000 on the property unless a portion of this is cancelled by the sale of pews.

The services of dedication were of an interesting character, and cannot fail to be productive of good. The friends who have thus realized the fruition of their labors and hopes enter now, we trust, upon a career of prosperity, such as their usual persistence and fidelity have so richly earned. It is scarcely too much to say that no terms are extravagant to express the zeal, earnestness and unconquerable spirit of work which these friends have exhibited. Discouragements of all kinds have wrought against them; but their motto has been, "no such word as fail," and God has given them the success which they were determined, by his blessing, to win. They are deserving of great credit; so it Br. Fletcher, their pastor, who has proved himself, by his labor, in season and out of season, "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." May the future of pastor and people be such as their united faithfulness has so well deserved.

The Christian Ambassador, New York, NY, Sat. 25 Jun 1864

Transcribed on 14 Jul 2011 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester NY