

[Third Universalist Society, New York City]

## THE NATIONAL MOURNING

[from] Continued Cessation of Business in the City  
THE PULPIT ON THE DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT  
Bleecker-street Universalist Church.

Selections from Scriptures were ready by Rev. Mr. Battles, and prayer offered by him appropriate to the occasion. The following resolutions were reported to the meeting by Messrs. Smith, Taylor, Van Valer and Adams, who had been appointed a committee for that purpose, and were unanimously adopted:

This Church, recognizing the awful magnitude and solemnity of the events which have called us together at this time, and desiring to perpetrate so far as we can do so, the reflections and impressions of this hour, do therefore,

*Resolved*, That in the life and character of our martyr, President ABRAHAM LINCOLN, we have a conspicuous example of comprehensive philanthropy, devoted patriotism and Christian statesmanship. An unassuming man, called to preside over the destinies of a great nation under circumstances of trial and difficulty, at the bare contemplation of which the bravest might well have quailed and faltered; jeered at by some, maligned by others, misrepresented on the one hand, and on the other misunderstood, with an integrity of heart which knew no wavering, with a determination of purpose which scorned the idea of defeat; with a lofty and heroic self-sacrifice which smiled at and rendered powerless the vilest shafts of personal malignity; with a magnanimity which knew no limit, save such as the sternest necessity imposed upon him; against armed foes without and insidious enemies within, he rose with every emergency, grappled calmly, fearlessly with each and every hostile element, and overpowered them all; maintaining at once the unity and integrity of our beloved country and of his own exalted manhood. The record of that life, so pure, so truthful, so just, so noble, at last constrained malice itself to confess that it found no fault in the man.

*Resolved*, That holding these views of Mr. LINCOLN'S character and service, we regard his assassination with unmingled horror and detestation, branding it as an act dastardly, cowardly, atrocious, with not one circumstance to palliate its naked enormity. We do not invoke vengeance upon the head of the assassin. It is enough for us to know that God is just.

*Resolved*, That in the life of Mr. LINCOLN our country possesses a priceless treasure. We contemplate it with national pride, with profound admiration. As a perpetual admonition, inspiration and incentive to the pursuit of true greatness, we would cherish its lessons in our own hearts, and earnestly commend them to our children and the world. ABRAHAM

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LINCOLN had become to every true American heart as a father and a friend. He had not only our confidence but our love. Honoring him in life, we revere him in death. May God enable us all to interpret aright this terrible visitation, and in His fear, and in accordance with His will, to act as becomes true Christian men and women in this emergency.

*Resolved*, That we extend to the widow and family of Mr. LINCOLN our tenderest sympathies in this their hour of bitter bereavement. Conscious of the poverty and insufficiency of all human aid or consolation at such a time, we can only commend them to the care of him who is the Father of the fatherless and the widow's stay, and whose choicest blessings we invoke upon their heads.

*Resolved*, That in the contemplation of the lamentable fate of our beloved President, we must not, we do not forget the sufferings or the worth of his associate—aye, associate even in suffering—our honored Secretary of State, WILLIAM H. SEWARD. Thanking God that the fell spirit of murder was, in this instance, thwarted in its horrid purpose, we pray that his sufferings may be mitigated, and his life spared, not only for his sake and that of his family, but that our country may still enjoy the benefit of his wise and patriotic counsels. We tender to him, and to his afflicted family, our warmest sympathies.

*Resolved*, That though overwhelmed with grief, in view of these terrible events, taking strong hold upon truth, and justice, and right, we should have no fears for the future of our country. Pledging to our government in word and deed, our hearty and united support, and being faithful to His high will, we cannot doubt but God will give us the victory over all our enemies. For is it not written that "He shall cause even the wrath of man to praise him, and the remainder of that wrath he will restrain."

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be tendered for publication to the daily papers, and to the *Christian Ambassador* [a weekly Universalist publication], and that they be presented at the next meeting of this society for entry upon its minutes.

*New York Times*, New York NY, 21 Apr 1865

Transcribed on 2 Oct 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY