

[Third Universalist Society, New York City]

The old Bleecker-Street Universalist Church will to-day occupy its new edifice in West Eleventh-street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues. Services will be held at 11 A.M. and 7:45 P.M., the Sunday-school exercises taking place at 9:30 A.M.

New York Times, New York NY, 24 Feb 1884

WORSHIPERS IN A NEW CHURCH

The Third Universalist Church yesterday occupied for the first time its new home in West Eleventh-street, near Sixth-avenue. The pulpit and organ gallery were elaborately trimmed with flowers and evergreens, and the church was filled with the members and their friends, including a great many former attendants at the old Bleecker-Street Church, who have moved to other localities. The Rev. Mr. Nash, of Newton, Mass., officiated and delivered a sermon, congratulating the church on its removal and its consequent improved opportunities for Christian work. A volunteer choir, made up of the young members of the society and the Sunday-school, gave the musical part of the services. The society is in a flourishing condition financially, the church building, as well as the improvements which have been made, especially in the Sunday-school room, having been paid for in full prior to the removal. The church has as yet no settled Pastor, but arrangements are now making to supply this need.

New York Times, New York NY, 25 Feb 1884

[Third Universalist Society, New York City]

LISTENING TO NEW PASTORS

[excerpt]

The pretty little church in West Eleventh-street now the permanent home of the old Bleecker-street Universalist Church was decked yesterday with handsome flowers and trailing vines in honor of the new minister, the Rev. Thomas S. Illman. As he stepped to the pulpit the church choir sang a hymn of welcome, after which the new Pastor delivered an appropriate sermon on the sanctity and necessity of the church. Among other things, he said: "The church is but a universal home, and will only decay as the God-fearing spirit of man decays. As long as humanity aspires to divinity, so long will the church continue to exist, no matter what storms may come or what opposition it meets. The need of it is as perennial as the need of God himself. Creeds are not essential to it, and substantial unity is more likely to be achieved by freedom from creeds than under their hampering jurisdiction."

In manner, Mr. Illman is quiet and undemonstrative. His voice is full and sonorous, and his gestures appropriate and well chosen. He is genial in disposition, and his former congregations have parted from him with regret. He is regarded as one of the rising young men of the Universalists, his reputation both as a thinker and Pastor having given him an enviable reputation in the denomination. He was born in Philadelphia, Jan. 25, 1853, residing in that city until his entrance to the Divinity School at Tufts, from which he was graduated in 1875. He was then called to a church in Saugus, Mass., where he remained two years, going thence to Attelboro of that State, where he was settled when he received his present call. He is married and has one child.

New York Times, New York NY, 5 May 1884

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