

[Fifth Universalist Society, New York City]

Installation of Rev. Charles Follen Lee  
As Pastor of the Fifth Universalist Society

Interesting religious services were held last evening in the hall of the New-York Historical Society, the occasion being the ordination of CHARLES FOLLEN LEE as a minister, and his installation as pastor of the Greenpoint (L.I.) and Fifth (New-York City) Universalist Societies. The exercises were commenced by an anthem sung by the choir, followed by an invocation by Rev. E. C. SWEETSER. Appropriate Scriptures were read by Rev. G.[GEORGE] H. EMERSON, followed by the ordaining hymn, after which E.[EDWIN] C. CHAPIN D.D., preached a sermon, selecting as his text First Timothy, third chapter and fifteenth verse: "Which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Mr. CHAPIN preached one of his usual forcible and eloquent sermons, in which he contended that the true Church is not defined or bounded by dogmas or the dividing lines of sects, but is made up of all who in sincerity and truth accept the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ; that, even if Christ was an imposter, as some have claimed, yet he exhibited a purity and divinity of character excelling all men [sic] of all times, so that, in the language of the late THEODORE PARKER, it required a Jesus to counterfeit a Jesus; but the religion of Christ bears with it the evidence of its divinity in the unparalleled changes which, from its first promulgation, it has wrought in the world. The teaching of this religion—this great truth—and ministering in that Church which is the pillar and ground of the truth, is to be the duty of the faithful minister of Christ.

The ordination prayer was then offered by Rev. R.[RICHMOND] FISK, Jr., D.D., and after singing the installation hymn, Rev. J.[JAMES] M. PULLMAN delivered the charge to the pastor. The right hand of fellowship was given by Rev. CHAS. FLUHRER; the charge to societies was made by Rev. E.[EDWIN] C. BOLLES, Ph.D., and the exercises concluded with an anthem and the benediction.

*New York Times*, New York NY, 16 Sep 1870

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