

CHRISTMAS SERVICE IN THE TABERNACLE

Elder O. F. Whitney Delivered
Eloquent Address on
Savior's Mission.

GOOD MUSICAL PROGRAM.

**President Winder in Charge of Service
Which Was Attended by Several
Hundred People.**

Special services, commemorative of the birth of the Savior, were held this morning in the tabernacle, and attended by several hundred people, who enjoyed the excellent program furnished.

nished, as well as the impressive sermon preached by Elder Orson F. Whitney of the council of twelve.

The services were in charge of President John R. Winder, and there were present on the stand President Anthon H. Lund, Heber J. Grant, George S. Richards, Hyrum M. Smith and Orson F. Whitney, of the council of twelve.

After a selection on the great organ by Prof. J. J. McClellan, prayer was offered by Elder F. S. Richards.

"Shine on, O Star," was then sung by Miss Edith Grant, after which Prof. McClellan played, "Nearer My God to Thee."

John Robinson then sang the solo, "Nazareth."

BISHOP O. F. WHITNEY.

Elder Orson F. Whitney began his address by reading from the first

true light which lighteth every man
which cometh into the world, and the
word which was made flesh and dwelt
among men, full of grace and truth.

In these simple though sublime words, said Elder Whitney, the beloved apostle announces the Incarnation of the Son of God and this is the day set aside for the celebration of that event. It matters not now whether this is the exact day, the all important fact is exemplified that he did come into the world and die for the sins of the world.

I shall take it for granted that all present look upon Christ as the Son of God and not alone as a great teacher. There may be those among us here who think it strange that

life could be effectual in bringing to life a dead world. There is no more mystery about this than that by one man's transgression death came into the world. To me death is just as mysterious as birth, and birth just as

by sinister as death. And the fact that by the transgression of death came into the world is just as mysterious as that by the vicarious work of one man life came to man.

Consider the conditions which led the second Personage of the Godhead to take on life in this world. The Latter-day Saints do not regard Adam as a criminal, as one who fell wickedly and awaywardly.

We believe in the transgression of Adam, scolded, this fall being common to all in these words, "Adam fell that man might be, and of the seed of the woman might have joy." By this we mean that Adam's fall gave man his opportunities in this world. Previous to this they existed in the spirit world. It

for the spirit of man to obtain a body, it being essential to progress. It was necessary to have a body in order to go on to perfection. The spirit and

is the soul which is redeemed in the resurrection. Consequently man came to earth to get a body and also get experience to fit him for glory in the world to come.

All men who have tabernacled in the flesh kept their first estate, and their reward for obedience there was the opportunity to come here and get bodies. All of the spirits in the first estate were not so favored. Lucifer and his hosts were not permitted to do so, but were cast out of heaven and they now tempt man. Adam's fall was in reality a step

Adam and Eve became mortal that men might be born in the flesh, and the world peopled with mortal beings. To do this it was necessary to break a

law. This was done by Adam and Eve, who partook of the forbidden fruit and brought sin and misery and wretchedness into the world.

Notwithstanding this fall of Adam, provision was made to bring immortality to light and to place man where he was before the fall. The Savior was the person chosen to do this work and overcome the death which came through the fall, which was eternal banishment from God. The world was placed in pawn by the fall and the pawnbroker is death. But God, know-

ing from the beginning, that this would occur, provided a way of escape by the sacrifice of the life of a God, who descended from his throne of glory and gave his life to restore the equilibrium and make it possible for Adam, and all men upon whom death had passed, to live again and enter the presence of God. He did that for us which we could not

He did that for us which we could not do for ourselves and he asks us to keep his laws and the commandments of God, promising us if we do so, that we

shall have eternal life in his presence.

CONDEMNED BY OWN ACTS.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter told those who were pricked in their hearts what they should do to be saved. It is also said that those who do not obey the gospel will be damned, which is strong language. But if after God

has given us the means of escape we reject it, it is our own acts that damn us, not God. If a man falls into a pit, and cannot get out, is he wise to reject the aid of a friend who puts down a ladder? The way of God is so simple that many reject it because of that fact. When Augustine was first told

the requirements of the gospel, to repent of his sins and be baptized, he despised it at first. So with Naaman when told to go and dip in Jordan seven times. It was so simple a cure for his leprosy that he at first rejected it. These men afterwards accepted of the hand of help. They climbed the ladder. Shall we be self sufficient and reject the means provided by God?

The Savior was provided because man could not effect his own salvation. There is no death that we experience worthy of the name. It is merely the

To save us the Savior descended below all things that he might rise above all things. And his first words after his resurrection were, "All power is given me on earth and in heaven."

At the conclusion of Elder Whitney's address, Miss Esther Davis sang "The Rosary," after which Miss Edith Grant sang "O My Father."

The benediction was pronounced by President Anthon H. Lund.

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