

## RELIGIOUS.

## Sunday Services.

Religious services were held at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, June 22nd, 1890, commencing at 2 p. m., Counselor Joseph E. Taylor presiding.

The choir sang:

Come, thou glorious day of promise,  
Come, and spread thy cheerful ray.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Elias Morris.

The choir sang:

Behold the great Redeemer die,  
A broken law to satisfy.

The Priesthood of the Fifth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

PRESIDENT GEORGE Q. CANNON

addressed the congregation. He referred to the profession made by the Latter-day Saints that they have received the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Under such a profession as this they should bring forth fruits in harmony with the position they have assumed. Those who obey the Gospel become a distinct people, because of the peculiar blessings they receive through that obedience. The powers of heaven are bestowed upon them for their advancement and salvation. It is an important question with the Latter-day Saints as to whether they enjoy the favor of God. If they have not received a remission of their sins, and do not have the guidance of the Holy Ghost, then their professions are vain. This Gospel that we have received is a Gospel of repentance, for without that it is impossible to please God.

It is appropriate that we come together on the Sabbath day, and bring ourselves to the light of heaven, that we may learn our faults, repent of our sins, and partake of the Sacrament with pure hearts and penitent spirits, that we may go forth knowing that we have been refreshed in the presence of the Lord. This should be our feeling when we separate from this meeting. We should not only profess to have the religion of the Lord, but we should have the power also. We should live in such close communion with God that when we ask for blessings we may know that He is near to answer our prayers.

The religion of Jesus Christ is one of power—one that brings blessings to those who live for it. Otherwise it would be of no value. We have no account of any who made a profession of true religion, who did not suffer persecution in some way. No Prophet of God, no one who ever sought to serve Him, escaped opposition. A long list of martyrs bear testimony to this. It was the case in ancient days, without exception. The teachings of Jesus and those who followed His doctrine was to prepare them for the path in which they were to tread, for He knew that path was beset with difficulties. The Apostles bore testimony to this same truth, that the powers of darkness would assail them. In our day the revelation of the truth brought to

light forces that seemed to have been hidden for centuries. The mere declaration that God had again sent His angels aroused animosity without a parallel since the days of the Apostles. This has been the case whenever the Gospel has been taught. How necessary it is that we should so live that we can enjoy a fulness of His favors. Shall we profess to be Saints, and so live that we do not enjoy the favor and blessings of the Lord? If we do we will not receive a compensation for the difficulties we have to contend with. Of all people on the earth, the Latter-day Saints should be most faithful to their professions. There is no happier people than the faithful Saints.

This occasion is a good one to ascertain whether we are in harmony with God. Have we a living testimony of the divinity of this work? Are we satisfied that God is guiding and managing the affairs of His Church, and that His Spirit is poured out upon the people? I would feel very unhappy if I did not have a testimony concerning these things. I have rejoiced all my life in a knowledge that this is the work of God. It was revealed to me by our Father through the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. I knew that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God; that President Young was his successor; and I thank God that that testimony continued with me, with respect to President Taylor and President Woodruff. I know that God is with President Woodruff; and that He has chosen His counselors and the Apostles, and that He is guiding the work today as much as He ever did. If I had any doubts concerning the guidance of this work, my peace would be broken up. I want to bring it home to every Latter-day Saint, to ask you individually, Have you each a living testimony for yourselves? If you have not, now is the time to put yourselves in the position to know whether or not God is guiding His Church today. We profess that He has restored the everlasting Gospel, and has bestowed the Holy Ghost on us. If we have the Holy Ghost, God is with us, and by that Holy Ghost we should know when we are right.

The gifts of revelation and prophecy are bestowed upon all who receive the Gospel in sincerity. Every one who has endeavored to live the life of a Saint can testify that these gifts are with the Church. We should live so that each can stand for himself. It is not the design of God to save the people in a mass, without the exercise of their own volition. It is not His design that we should be led blindly; it is for each one to have a testimony and act for himself; that he shall choose good intelligently, and practice virtue because he knows the results of such practice. We would be of no value if we were saved without the exercise of intelligence individually. If we were to walk blindly we would be of no value in establishing the cause of God. A man cannot carry his wife or his children to salvation, but the wife and children must act for themselves and be strong in right-

eousness. I thank God that He has blessed the Saints so that they act intelligently, and know as well as any people that ever lived that the Gospel is true. If all should leave them, there are hundreds and thousands in this Church who would stand, because of the testimony and power of the Holy Ghost that rests upon them. Without this blessing there would be no strength in the Church. But there are many who are neglectful and need awakening. They are in a critical condition. It is a time to test the Latter-day Saints, and see if they will trust in God. Where can we look for succor, or who can deliver us? There is no power on earth that has the inclination or can do it. God alone can do it, and it is our duty to live close to Him, that His grace may be with us. Did you ever ask of Him in faith, and come away without being blessed? No. It is more important to us than anything else that we should have close communion with Him, and live near unto Him in prosperity. If we are neglectful in the days of our prosperity, when adversity comes His face will be turned from us. We should not place ourselves in such a condition. In prosperity our hearts should swell with gratitude, and praise toward Him. We should do nothing that we cannot ask His blessing on it. This is the way to live day by day, and our hearts should be continually lifted up in prayer and thanksgiving.

If we live in humility and work righteousness, the Spirit of God will point out the true path, and will make our duty clear. This is the spirit of revelation, and if we commune with the Lord, His voice will be plain within us, and we will know whether a thing is right or wrong. Every good comes from God. The evil one does not inspire people to do right. When good doctrine is taught, and you have the Holy Ghost, you know it, and when you hear false doctrine you can detect that also. When we heard the truth we were filled with joy and truth. Every one born on earth receives a portion of the Spirit of God to guide him. When men receive the testimony of the truth, and do not obey it, the Spirit is grieved and they turn aside. Those who trifle with that testimony will lose it. We should hold ourselves ready to receive the teachings of God, that we may always have the sweet influence of the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Sister Agnes Olsen Thomas sang a solo, "Come Thou and Help Me;" the choir sang the anthem, "O, Give Thanks," and the congregation united in singing the Doxology.

Benediction was offered by Counselor Joseph E. Taylor.

LORD WM. CECIL, the second son of Salisbury, is a parish clergyman, very popular among all classes. He is to be appointed honorary chaplain to the Queen on the next vacancy, and will preach in the private chapel at Windsor when Her Majesty again takes her residence there.