

# RETURN THANKS FOR VICTORIES

## Citizens Attend Churches to Show Gratitude for War's Course

## HARVEST NOT FORGOTTEN

## Buildings Profusely Decorat- ed With Grain, Fruit and Vegetables

Thanksgiving Day had a new meaning for the thousands of people who attended the special services in the various city churches yesterday. Never before since the beginning of the war on the national day of thanksgiving had there been such reason to be grateful for the marvelous victories that have attended the allied arms. This thought was uppermost in the minds of the worshippers as they wended their way to services, and as they joined in the prayers to Almighty God for His wonderful guidance in these troublous times. The churches were well attended, as people were anxious to give thanks for the events which have changed the whole course of the war in recent months.

### Buildings Decorated.

And as a manifestation of thanks for the bounteous crops which have been harvested this autumn, in many of the churches grain, fruit and vegetables were used for decoration purposes. They gave a picturesque appearance which added to the general thanksgiving spirit. In some of the churches, too, offerings of fruit were received to be distributed to the poor. Special music was provided by the choirs. In some of the churches where the national holiday was not observed yesterday special services are being held this morning.

As the Roman Catholic churches have dispensed with the regular services until the Spanish influenza epidemic is past, the usual Thanksgiving Day services could not be held. On instructions from Archbishop McNeill, received Saturday, Low Mass was said instead of High Mass, and short services were held in the afternoon. No services were held last night, and no sermons whatever were preached. But in the different Protestant denominations—Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist and Methodist—special services were held.

### Thankful for Victories.

Rev. Dr. S. Cleaver, at a special Thanksgiving service on Sunday morning in Howard Park Methodist Church, pointed out that we could be grateful at this time for the present position of the allied armies. There was also need for rejoicing in the crops that we have had this year. It was gratifying, too, he said, to see the splendid crops of young manhood, as emphasized by the recruits composing our army. That they were capable was shown by the place of honor given them by the allies, and the fact that the Germans always sent their best troops against them.

There will be things result from this war for which the world will be grateful, he continued. Before the outbreak of hostilities Germany was gaining a domination in economic affairs, as well as in education and in religious training, as shown by the fact that college professors and ministers felt they had to take a course in that country to be polished off. "We have broken off these fetters, and this could have been done in no other way," declared Dr. Cleaver. The war has also released the world from the domination of capital. Various Governments have learned that they can control transportation matters and the natural resources of the countries without allowing them to be in the hands of capitalists. The war has also released the down-trodden.

### At Little Trinity.

The historical church in the east end, better known as Little Trinity, never looked more beautiful since it was built 75 years ago, than it did yesterday. It was the annual harvest Thanksgiving Sunday, and the decorations were very fine indeed. Around the walls all the flags of the allies were hung, and across the whole chancel, on stands prepared specially, were arranged vegetables, flowers and fruit of every sort and description.

The rector preached in the morning from the words, "Giving thanks always for all things."

In the evening Rev. Canon Gould preached a most eloquent sermon, in which he told of the great Canada which he has travelled over, and the heritage the people have in this country.

"We have reason to be thankful for the loyalty, endurance and unconquerable energy of the allied nations in front of the most disconcerting problems," said Rev. A. E. Ribourg at St. Alban's Cathedral yesterday morning.

### Christianity Survives.

"Although the cost of the war in men and money is most stupendous, there are, however, certain blessings and benefits for which we must be thankful," he said. "We are to be thankful that Christianity still survives, that its spiritual ideals are still riding upon the storm of battle, and will yet be the balm which will heal the wounds of mankind."

### Navy Chaplain Speaks.

The Sunday morning congregation at Dale Presbyterian Church yesterday was privileged to hear a vivid description of work at the front from Chaplain Jones of the American navy. He told particularly of the work which the Salvation Army is doing in France, and vividly related many instances of how they cared for the soldiers. He told also of the recruiting in the United States, and of the thoroughness of which the branch of this work is carried on.

Last night the pastor of the church, Capt. J. D. Morrow, surprised his congregation at Dale Presbyterian, by being present and addressing to them a brief personal message, after which Rev. Oswald J. Smith delivered a brief sermon in keeping with the spirit of the day. The church was profusely decorated with fruit and vegetables, the work of the choir.

Rev. J. H. Turnbull, speaking at High Park Presbyterian Church last night, said, in taking his text from Jeremiah, that riches and ambition have brought the world to the pass in which it now is, and from which it is delivering itself. This year in particular is now a real time for

thanksgiving, said the pastor; and the real thanksgiving is in kindness, righteousness and justice, he concluded.

### War Showed Best of Manhood.

Rev. Dr. Hincks preached special thanksgiving services at St. Paul's Methodist Church at both services. In the morning he pointed out that this war had brought to the surface the very best of our manhood, both in the military, in Parliament and in the co-operative industrial life of the nation. It has also brought to the surface the very finest type of womanhood. Dr. Hincks pointed out that thanksgiving this year was particularly opportune, in view of the great victories now being won by the allies, and the prospect of the termination of the struggle soon, by the complete surrender of the Central Empires.

Dr. Hincks confined his discourse at the evening service to one of thanksgiving for the marvellous victories of Gen. Allenby in the Holy Land. He showed how the Jews have come to the forefront in this war in affairs of the State, and in military strategy, as well as in art and music. The speaker called attention to the danger of admitting Jews of the Central Empires to Palestine until after the war is won. The German Emperor recently demanded that the Jews of the Germanic Empires should be admitted to Palestine at once. If that were done there would be trouble in the East, in Syria and on the high road to India. In conclusion, Dr. Hincks said the Jew is already sufficiently efficient to take upon himself the burdens of a self-governing nation under British protection.

### Capt. Vining Welcomed Back.

The members of College Street Baptist Church welcomed home yesterday Capt. A. J. Vining, their pastor, who has been at the front for the past three or four months. Large congregations greeted him at both services. Yesterday, however, he did not preach a sermon on the war, nor particularly on Thanksgiving Day. Last night he spoke from two texts: Matthew, 26:32, "I will go before you into Galilee," and Matthew 28:10, "Go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee and there shall they see me." The one message, he said, was spoken in the shadow of the Cross, and the second message on the other side of the Cross where the glory of heaven had scattered all the gloom. Every person, he said, has his dark disconsolate thoughts, but then they are met with the Divine promise "that I am going before you; I will meet you there." Continuing, Capt. Vining said He meets us in our social life, in our business transactions, in sorrow, in the shadow of great trouble, when condemned by a guilty conscience and the Bible and at the Cross. "He has conquered the Cross and His victory is our victory," he concluded.