

Christmas, 1971

To Members and Friends of Pilgrim Church:

Sermons are meant to be heard, not read. If they read better than they sound they are not good sermons. But it is true that sermons are more enduring when they are printed. You can look at them a second time. No doubt that is why people sometimes ask for copies.

It is in response to requests of that sort that I have gathered here a sampler of six sermons preached during the first four months of my ministry at Pilgrim Church. The particular sermons included were chosen partly to ensure variety, partly in response to requests by the congregation. They might be summarized under the heading of "opening remarks."

The sermons appear almost entirely as they were written with very few corrections in the interests of style. Certain typographical peculiarities appear that were originally designed to catch the preacher's eye, but which would not pass muster in English 1. It should be noted that what was said in the pulpit often deviated considerably from what is written here. These written pieces are but platforms upon which all sorts of strange structures get built on Sunday morning.

Nevertheless, I hope you enjoy them. Even though people feel guilty at using that word about sermons, I believe that most sermons should be enjoyed. With that hope in view they are a kind of Christmas gift from me (and the secretary who did all the work) to the congregation.

Royal F. Shepard, Jr.