

PILGRIM SERMONS OF 1975

This booklet contains a selection of ten sermons that I have preached in my capacity as minister of Pilgrim Church in 1975. I have tried to put together a representative sample on various topics. The sermons are grouped under four headings and within each section they appear in chronological order. Since all preaching is situational - that is, it happens in a special setting in the lives of preacher and congregation - I have provided a brief introduction to the sermons in each section.

I would have liked to have included some of the "pulpit probes" on questions of religious belief that I delivered early in the year. However, these were written deliberately in a very loose form. The same is true of the series on the parables that I preached in the summer and in which I engaged the congregation in dialogue.

Even the sermons included here were written with the ear rather than the eye in mind. Had I the time I would subject them to considerable reworking. One should bear in mind, too, something I said in introducing the first booklet of sermons I put together for the members of Pilgrim Church. "These written pieces are but platforms on which all sorts of strange structures get built on Sunday morning."

Several of the sermons included here were mimeographed on individual basis when people asked for them during the course of the year. Several others were also mimeographed, including the other four sermons in the series "Five Dimensions of Christian Living," "Propositions I and II" and "Why Paul Was Thankful." They may still be obtained through the church office. Four sermons in this booklet, most of them preached to very small congregations are, are made available for the first time.

Royal F. Shepard, Jr.