

# KNOWLE GREEN CHURCH

The Voice



**I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

**Psalm 116 vs 1&2**

**DECEMBER - FEBRUARY  
2013 - 2014**

[www.knowlegreenc.com](http://www.knowlegreenc.com)

## Knowle Green Congregational Church

Clitheroe Road, Knowle Green, Longridge. PR3 2YQ

Tel: 01254 878 394

Knowle Green is an independent Church affiliated to the Congregational Federation. Our ultimate loyalty is to Christ Himself and to His Word. We seek in our dealings to be guided by the Holy Scriptures and aim to build a spiritual house worthy and fit for the Lord Jesus.

If you would like to know more about our fellowship here you are welcome to speak to our Pastor, who can be contacted at the Manse, or by telephone (see above) or speak to one of the Deacons on duty, who will be happy to provide more information.

Services are Open to all and you are invited to attend any or all.

### **9.45am Devotional Service**

This takes place every Sunday morning excluding the 1st Sunday in the month. This Service is facilitated by a Church member. It is Devotional in orientation, is an open Service and attendees are encouraged (optional) to take part through reading of Scripture; sharing of testimonies; choose a hymn/Worship song etc. This Service offers you the opportunity to be still; Seek God and listen to what God through the Holy Spirit is saying; to share; encourage; bless and share in the Believers Breaking of Bread.

### **11.00am Family Service**

This is a traditionally structured family Service. It is led from the front by the Pastor of the Church (1st and 2nd of the month) and invited speakers thereafter.

### **2.30pm Agape Fellowship Meeting (1st Sunday ONLY)**

This is a 'MUST' for all. It takes place every 1st Sunday. We recognise the fact that increasingly Christians are becoming more isolated and marginalized hence this Service. It is more of a celebration/fellowship meeting. We share a meal (bring and share). This follows on after our usual tea/coffee recess. The gathering gives insight into the Church and the opportunity to meet Church members. We also recognise that we have a number who travel in and miss out on fellowship hence the need to be part of the family and enjoy each other's fellowship. Knowle Green remains unspoilt and is a designated 'Area of natural out-

### **Visitors**

If you are visiting, we welcome you to the service. We hope that you will be at home with us and experience the presence of God as we worship together. If this is your first visit, please sign in the visitors' Book in the foyer and we would love you to stay with us for coffee after the service. On Sunday mornings we warmly invite visitors to make use of our crèche, children and young people activities. Please ask for the group relevant to your child's age.

## Joy under Opposition

**'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you'** (Matthew 5:11-12)

Joy under opposition seemingly is equated by others to the 'burying of one's head in the sand'. For the Christian, it means acknowledging the existence of the reality of the trial, a pragmatist and a realist realizing Jesus Christ in the circumstance.

"They called the apostles in and **had them flogged**. They **ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus**, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name." (Acts 5:40-41)

Christianity has from the beginning of time lived with repeated opposition. This is because the message/teaching of Christ Jesus is deemed to be counter culture and offensive. We read also in Acts 16:22-25. **The crowd joined in the attack** against, Paul and Silas, and **the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten**. After they had been severely flogged, **they were thrown into prison**, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, **he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks**. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

**What was their crime to deserve such humiliation and treatment?**

Where was God in all this? The beating had two unexpected outcomes.

- ⇒ First - It caused them deep joy that they had been counted worthy to suffer shame for the name they loved.
- ⇒ Second - It sent them with renewed zeal and persistence. Daily in the temple and in homes, teaching and preaching Jesus as the Mes-

Trials and opposition can only but deepen our faith; spur us on in the Lord; mature us and demonstrate the reality of Jesus. The disciples did not set out to cause trouble, civil unrest and neither did they aim to attack officialdom yet they were mistreated.

**'Right glad am I, said the evangelist; not that you met with trials, but that you have been victors; and for that you have continued in the way to this very day'. (John Bunyan 1678)**

How did they respond?

They prayed; sang hymns to God; counted the situation worthy in the light of God.

We too can know this joy of the Lord. Here are some biblical principles to becoming an overcomer:-

- ⇒ Embrace the situation.
- ⇒ Pray into the situation that God gives you revelation
- ⇒ Ensure there is no ounce of hatred, bitterness in your spirit
- ⇒ Choose to forgive (You have the option not to). Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us (The Lord's prayer)
- ⇒ Surrender. 'Not my will but your will be done'.
- ⇒ Do not react on your feelings/ emotions. Remain open and allow God to initiate ministry.
- ⇒ The battle is the Lords'.

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight." (Proverb 3:5)**

**As we approach the joyful remembrance of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, let us be glad and full of joy at this miraculous birth, that we have the same God of miracles. My prayer is that you experience the fullness of the Lord's joy this Christmas time.**



**Isaiah 9:6&7**

**God Bless**

## Charis Ministries Prayer Meeting

**When:** 1st Thursday of every month

**Where:** 1 Sunnyside Ave, Wilpshire,  
Nr. Blackburn

**Time:** 7:30pm



## Ribble Valley Family Bible Week

**Dates:** Tuesday, 19th August - Sunday, 24th August 2014

If you would like to attend in the summer of 2014 please return your booking form to express interest. It helps to have an idea of numbers. You will find the booking forms either available in the Church or from the website: [www.knowlegreenc.com](http://www.knowlegreenc.com). If you have any questions please feel

## Biker Breakfast

The 2013 season has now ended. Thank you everyone for a very successful season and for all your hard work, dedication

## Agape Fellowship Meal

It is good to note attendance in number continues to increase month after month and we are thankful to God for the encouragement we can draw from the meeting and the messages we have received. We would encourage those who attend to please bring enough food for yourselves and another. If in doubt about what to bring please speak to:

## Autumn Fayre

**Date:** Saturday 30th November 2013

**Venue:** Knowle Green Village Hall,  
Clitheroe Road, Knowle Green,  
Longridge. PR3 2YQ

**Time:** 11.00am – 2.00pm

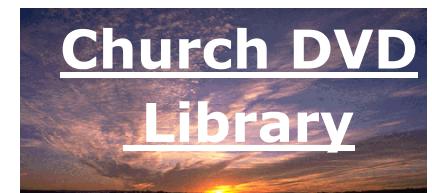
Gifts, presents, bric-a-brac, cakes, fun, toys, plants, books and much more. A lunch of Hot Pot and peas and a selection of



## The DVD Library is now Open!

We have a growing number of DVDS now in the church bookcase.

Please ask Jean or Annette for details. DVD's can be borrowed for up to 2 weeks and they include great teaching DVDs/CDs by Derek Prince...Do have a look and we pray this This is a **Ministry** with the aim of sharing the



## Going beyond the call of duty

Two star Wigan pupils have been commended for their extra-special achievements during the academic year, Kendal Dickinson and Alysha Foy.



Nine year old Kendal Dickinson from Shevington Community Primary both have won medals for outstanding contributions to their respective schools.

Kendal scooped Shevington's CP School's Young Citizen of the Year 2013 Award.

The hard working pupil was nominated by her teacher for acknowledgement of her academic

achievements and behaviour and contributions in and outside the classroom.

A school spokesman said: "The nominations this year were of a particularly high standard and choosing an overall winner was tough.

"This year's winner, Kendal Dickinson, has a very positive attitude and is

## Thank you

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the fellowship of the church for the gift and card presented to me following my retirement as church treasurer.

God bless you all.

Tom Mellor.

## Thursday Fellowship

28th November. – Walter & Lyn Crick

**19TH DECEMBER. – CHRISTMAS PARTY**

## Week of Prayer and Fasting

There will be a week of prayer and fasting from:

**Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014 to Friday, 31st January 2014.**

Fast as you are able before the Lord. Pray as you go about your week, come together for corporate prayer each night 7.30pm – 9.00pm

### **Why do we fast?**

- a) The cure for unbelief (Matt 17:14-21)
- b) Christian believers are instructed to. **'When you fast' (Matt.6:16;17.Matt 9:15)**
- c) Fasting humbles the soul before God, chastens the soul before God and crucifies the appetites etc (Ps 35;13; Ps. 69;10; 2 Sam. 12;16-230)
- d) The spiritual state of our Churches is dire, we need God for 'such a time as this.'
- e) We desperately need God's intervention in our lives, the life of the Church and to impact our community.

Joel 1;14; **Declare a holy fast. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the Lord your God.**

Joel 2:12; **Return to me with all your heart with fasting and weeping and mourning**

### **Advance notice:**

### **Joint Service**

Sunday, 26th January 2014. 3.00pm at Knowle Green Church. Local Churches will come together at a service here at Knowle Green Church.

## Week of Evangelism

### **28th February – 9th March 2014**

The Capernwray students will be with us from Friday, 31 January - Sunday, 2nd February (Introductory visit) and Friday, 28th February – Sunday, 9th March. (Week of Outreach)

Holiday at Home, school assemblies and local outreach will be taking place during this week. If you could offer accommodation to a student during these dates please speak to Pastor Chris. If the Lord prompts you to be part of this outreach team please let Pastor Chris know you would



## Preaching Plan December 2013 to February 2014

### December 2013

- 1 Pastor Chris
- 8 Pastor Chris
- 15 Joss & Diane Daune
- 22 Children's Nativity (a.m.)  
Carol Service (p.m.)
- 25 Pastor Chris - Christmas Day
- 29 (TBC)

### January 2014

- 5 Robin Clark
- 12 Pastor Chris
- 19 Revd. David Earnshaw of Inskip Baptist
- 26 Barry Holden of WEC

### February 2014

- 2 Pastor Chris
- 9 Pastor Chris
- 16 Ian McDonald—Messianic Ministries
- 23 Revd. D. Hardiman - Congregational minister

## **Christmas Carol Service**

**Come and join the celebration**

**Nativity Family Service - Sunday, 22nd December 2013**

**Time: 11.00am**

**Carol Service - Sunday 22nd December 2013**

**Time: 6.30pm**

(Mince pies and punch served afterwards).

**Christmas Day Family Service - Wednesday 25th December**

**Time:**

**For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,**

## With Thanks

We give thanks for our 25years of marriage. Thanks also to all of you who have sent kind greetings, Love, expressions of support, cards and presents for our silver wedding Anniversary. WE are touched and moved by the love and encouragement towards us and the children.  
God bless you.

**Love from Pastor Chris and Julie.**

God told Israel not to remove the ancient boundary markers. God establishes boundaries for our protection, blessing and guidance.

["Remove not the ancient landmarks, which thy fathers have set."](#)

## Thanks Giving for Christian Biblical Marriage

'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.' (Genesis 2:24)

**Saturday, 25th January 2014**

**Time: 3.30pm in the Church**

Coalition for Marriage to give update on marriage status in our nation. At this service couples will have an opportunity to stand and say their vows as a declaration before God, those present and in the spiritual realm as an affirmation of marriage as God intended.

A love offering will be taken at this service to go to support the work of C4M.

Afterwards:- At the Village Hall There will be a fellowship Jacob join Tea (Please bring a plate) with a Barn Dance to follow. All

## Ladies Shower

On Friday 24th January 2014 at 7:00pm there will be a ladies shower to be held in the Sunday School building.

## The Biblical basis for keeping marriage as it is

In the Bible, from Genesis to Jesus, marriage is the union of one man to one woman. The importance of marriage stretches beyond the two immediate people involved. It has an outward-looking aspect with implications for society at large.

### 1. Marriage is foundational

(a) It was established at the dawn of time Genesis 2 records for us that marriage was instituted by God from the very beginning and hard-wired into human society.

(b) It was established to help fulfil the creation mandate In Genesis 2:15 we read that God put man in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Then God says (v18): "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Marriage is instituted by God so that human beings can fulfil the creation mandate.

(c) Jesus and Paul say it is foundational. On various occasions in the New Testament our Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul both refer back to Genesis 2 as the foundation of our understanding about marriage (Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:7; 1 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 5:31).

### 2. Marriage is universal

There are some things in the Bible that are only meant for Christians. Holy Communion, for example. But there are other things in the Bible that are meant for all people everywhere, throughout time. The law of murder is one of them. Some things are universal.

Marriage is universal. Jesus remarks that before the flood people were "marrying and giving in marriage" – right up to the day that Noah entered the Ark – and Jesus says it will be just the same, right up until the end of this world (Matthew 24). Jesus says that marriage is ever-present throughout human history and into the future. It is important that we recognise that marriage is universal, because some Christians fall into the trap of thinking that marriage is just a Church institution – and that marriage is not real unless it is between Christians.

We should not accept the false divide between civil marriage and religious marriage. Some people have said that civil marriage is a matter for the state, and therefore religious groups should keep quiet about it. But marriage is universal and it cannot be split along secular/religious lines. There is only one definition of marriage: a man and a woman joined together for life, to the exclusion of all others. The definition stands, whether the ceremony is religious or civil.

### 3. Marriage is beneficial

Marriage was given by God to be a good thing. Christian theology has traditionally identified three purposes of marriage.

- a. The mutual help and support between husband and wife;
- b. The procreation of children;
- c. The restraint of sin.(See Genesis 1:28; 2:18 and 1 Corinthians 7:2, 9)

#### (a) Mutual support

We have already seen that Genesis 2 carries a sense that a husband and wife are like two sides of the same coin. The different natures of men and women complement each other. Being opposite sexes is integral to the design of marriage.

#### (b) Procreation

The procreation of children needs a man and a woman. There are all manner of scientific techniques that can provide a baby to a same-sex couple, but even those processes must start with an egg from a woman and sperm from a man. And when it comes to raising children, children need a mother and a father. They need a male and female role model.

#### (c) Restraint of sin

Nobody is perfect, but good marriage relationships help to tackle the selfishness and the 'me-first' attitude of the human heart. A broken marriage lets that attitude loose again. It is no coincidence that the breakdown of marriage in our society has been matched by increasing rudeness and self-centredness in our culture. And it is no surprise that study after study shows that marriage brings wonderful benefits for adults, for children and for society at large.

### 4. Defending marriage is about love, not hatred

So when we uphold the biblical definition of marriage in our society we do so out of love. We do so out of a genuine belief that marriage is foundational to happy lives and good communities. We therefore disagree with those who seek to redefine it. But disagreement is not hatred. People disagree with each other all the time. And in a democracy, people should be free to disagree. We defend the true definition of marriage out of love – love for God, and love for our fellow human beings in the whole of society.



*(Copy of article from the Christian Institute's Spring 2013 Newsletter)*



## Boys Club

Knowle Green Congregational Church, Clitheroe Road,  
Knowle Green, Longridge. PR3 2YQ Tel: 01254 878394

**When: Every other Monday Time: 6.30pm-8.00pm**

**Age Group: 6-16year olds**

**Forget the gadgets: The Wii; The Xbox; Computer games;  
The Blackberry.**

**Upcoming meetings in 2013 are:**

**December - 2nd & 16th**

**January - 27th**

**February - 10th & 24th**

**March - 10th & 24th**



## Senior Fellowship Meal

Date: **Friday, 17th February 2014.**

Venue: Knowle Green Church,  
Sunday school building.

Invitations will be sent out. If you know of a couple or individual who would benefit from this luncheon please pass on the details.

If you feel that God is prompting you to offer your services, the please speak to Julie. Remember this meal is to bless our seniors, express our love, serve our elders and reach out to others.

There will be an early planning meeting for this event on Friday



### 2013 Ribble Family Bible Camp update

2nd year running and we've achieved the impossible, operating from three different venues, the Church buildings, the Village Hall and the Stoneygate holiday complex. It was a challenge, we were stretched, and we rose to it. Praise God! The overall numbers were up from last year, and so were the number of Churches represented. We attracted 6 Congregational Churches from the Northwest Area and thirteen other denominations. Theme: Be Holy for I the Lord your God, am Holy (Leviticus 19 v 2) and we looked at the Tabernacle in the Old Testament and the parallel between Joseph and Jesus. Activities included youth sessions led by our local Youth enabler (North West Area) and helpers; Mission; Teaching; Holiday Bible Club with puppets; drama; music; story telling (life of Joseph); first fruits (5 and under ministry); Seminars: Is science and Christianity compatible; Evolution v Creation; Mission; other activities included swimming; evening Rallies with speaker; BBQ and a Barn Dance which were all well attended. One of the encouraging aspects of this year was to see many teenagers, 19 young people in all, in the youth meetings and serving in various capacities including the worship groups. Another addition this year was a café in the village hall which was well supported. The camp also attracted business to the local economy for which we praise God. A member of the local ATC (Longridge Air Corp.) also rendered his support for the duration. The whole venture was a success which would not have been possible without the help of the Ribble Valley Family Bible Week steering Group; the Congregation of the Church; the Village Hall management group and the Stoneygate Holiday centre proprietors. Thank you every one for your love, input, support and encouragement. Above all we Praise God for His Presence, revelation, Holy Spirit guidance and keeping everyone safe. God bless you all. Reeling of names is deliberately omitted otherwise it would be an exhaustive list with a certainty of omissions. Please clear your diary for next year's Ribble Valley Family Bible Week. (D.V.) 2014 Details: - Tuesday 19th August – Sunday 24th August 2014. Speaker: Pastor John Anglis (South Reading Christian Fellowship). Pastor John is down to earth, an excellent and enjoyable Bible scholar/teacher and comes with many years of experience.

This year we had repeatedly come through the word 'God chose the foolish things of this world' (1 Corinthians 1:27) which I believe is of the Holy Spirit. 'Do not despise small beginnings'.

Thanks to all who supported this vision practically, prayerfully and financially.

**God Bless**

**Pastor Chris. Okpoti**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Deacon's</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
Dec. 1st	Tony Jackson Michael Redmayne	Colin Procter	Audrey & Brian Wynne
Dec. 8th	Jean Procter Colin Procter	Tom Mellor	Tony & Pat Jackson
Dec. 15th	Annette Dickinson Margaret Mellor	Ken Saunders	Michael & Elaine Redmayne
Dec. 22nd	Ruth Woods Jean Hoole	Joss Daune	Barbara Sutcliffe Kath Bowyer
Dec. 29th	Jack Catlow Sue Catlow	Nigel Grimshaw	Ruth Woods Paul Knapton
January 5th	Robin Clark Joss Daune	Maureen Grimshaw	Jane Maher Ellen Saunders
January 12th	Tony Jackson Michael Redmayne	Mel Gilday	Brian & Audrey Wynne
January 19th	Colin Procter Nigel Grimshaw	Susan Catlow	Tony & Pat Jackson
January 26th	Ruth Woods Jean Hoole	Diane Daune	Michael & Elaine Redmayne
February 2nd	Margaret Mellor Annette Dickinson	Tony Jackson	Barbara Sutcliffe Kath Bowyer
February 9th	Jack Catlow Sue Catlow	Margaret Mellor	Ruth Woods Paul Knapton
February 16th	Robin Clark Joss Daune	Richard Grimshaw	Jane Maher Ellen Saunders
February 23rd	Tony Jackson Michael Redmayne	Ruth Woods	Brian & Audrey Wynne

**Deadline** for articles for the next issue of Voice is: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Please note: The Voice is published

**Quarterly NOT bi-monthly.**





A Life of Faith Girls Club exists to provide an encouraging and inspiring environment for mentoring young girls, primarily ages 6 to 16. The objective of the Club is to help each club member develop a life of Faith.

We look at a range of issues including forgiveness, rejection, truthfulness, jealousy and more through using the historical fiction novels of Martha Finley. The main characters - Elsie Dinsmore, Millie Keith and Laylie Colbert serve as excellent role models to teach us faith and godly living as a lifestyle.

The evening sessions include dressing up, baking, drama, craft and the much-loved tea party!

### **Forthcoming Events in 2013**

- December** - **9th**
- January** - **20th**
- February** - **3rd & 17th**
- March** - **3rd, 17th & 31st**

### **Men's Breakfast**

Due to the December calendar being a very busy period the men's Breakfast will recommence on Saturday 8th February 2014 at 9.00am. All men are welcome to join us. Bring a friend or neighbour. Please pray that the Lord uses this brief time to encourage, minister and speak to men.

### **Prayer for Israel**

Meets every first Wednesday in every month at 2.00pm

**4th December 2013**

**1st January – No meeting**

**5th February 2014**

**5th March**

'Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem. May they prosper who love you.'

Psalm 122:6



### Regular Weekly Fortnightly Schedule of Meetings/Activities

<b>Sunday</b>	9.45am –10.30am	Holy Communion and time of Open Worship	Weekly ( <b>not the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month</b> )
	11.00am –12noon	Family Service	Weekly
<b>Monday</b>	6.30pm-8.00pm	<b>Life of Faith Girls Group</b>	Alternate Weeks
	6.30pm-8.00pm	<b>Boys Club</b>	Alternate Weeks
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.00pm-10.00am	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	Weekly
	7.30pm-9.30pm	<b>House Group @ the Manse</b>	Weekly (not 1 <sup>st</sup> week of the month)
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.00am-12noon	<b>Art Group</b> (All ages)	Weekly
	7.30pm-9.00pm	<b>House Group</b> in Longridge	Fortnightly

### Regular Weekly Monthly/Quarterly Schedule of Meetings/Activities

<b>Sunday</b>	11.00am-1200 noon	<b>Family Communion Service</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month
	2.30pm-3.30pm	<b>Agape Fellowship Mtg</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month
<b>Tuesday</b>	7.30pm-9.00pm	<b>Deacons Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00am	<b>Finance Group</b>	Usually last week of the month (or as required)
	2.00pm-4.00pm	<b>Prayer for Israel</b>	Last Wednesday of the month
<b>Thursday</b>	10.00am-3.00pm	ACE Home School Support/Fellowship Group	Usually 3rd week of the month
	2.00pm-3.30pm	Thursday Fellowship (All Ages)	Usually last Thursday of the month
	7.30pm-9.00pm	Building Committee	Quarterly
<b>Friday</b>	7.00am-6.00pm	Day of Prayer and fasting	Last Friday of the month
	7.30pm-9.00pm	Prayer Meeting	
<b>Saturday</b>	9.00am-12noon	<b>Bikers Breakfast</b> - Last Saturday of the month	Monthly ( <b>Mar-Oct</b> )
	9.00am-10.30am	<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	Quarterly

SEE NOTICE BOARD FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES

Well, wife, I've found the model church, I worshipped there today!  
It made me think of good old times, Before my hair was gray;  
The meeting house was fixed up more than they were years ago,  
But then I felt when I went in, It wasn't built for show.

The sexton didn't seat me away back by the door;  
He knew that I was old and deaf, as well as old and poor;  
He must have been a Christian for he led me through  
The long aisle of the crowded church, to find a place and pew.

I wish you'd heard that singin', It had the old-time ring;  
The preacher said, with trumpet voice, Let all the people sing:  
The tune was Coronation," And the music upward rolled  
Till I thought I heard the angels all striking their harps of gold.

My deafness seemed to melt away, My spirit caught the fire;  
I joined my feeble, trembling voice, With that melodious choir;  
And sang as in my youthful days, "Let angels prostrate fall.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all."

I tell you, wife, it did me good to sing that hymn once more;  
I felt like some wrecked mariner who gets a glimpse of shore;  
I almost wanted to lay down this weather beaten form,  
And anchor in the blessed port forever from the storm.

The preachin'? Well, I can't just tell all the preacher said  
I know it wasn't written: I know it wasn't read:  
He hadn't time to read it, for the lightnin' of his eye.  
Went flashin' along from pew to pew, nor passed a sinner by.

The sermon wasn't flowery, twas simple gospel truth;  
It fitted poor old men like me; It fitted hopeful youth;  
Twas full of consolation for weary hearts that bleed,  
Twas full of invitations to Christ, and not to creed,

The preacher made sin hideous in Gentiles and in Jews;  
He shot the golden sentences down in the finest pews,  
And though I can't see very well I saw the falling tear  
That told me Hell was some way off, and Heaven very near.

How swift the golden moments fled within that holy place!  
How brightly beamed the light of Heaven from every happy face!  
Again I longed for that sweet time when friend shall meet with friend,  
"Where congregations ne'er break up, and Sabbaths have no end."

I hope to meet that minister, that congregation, too  
In that dear home beyond the stars that shine from Heaven's blue.  
I doubt not I'll remember, beyond life's evening gray,  
That happy hour of worship in that model church today.

Dear wife, the fight will soon be fought, the victory be won;  
The shining goal is just ahead, the race is nearly run;  
O'er the river we are nearin'. They are throngin' to the shore,  
To shout our safe arrival where the weary weep no more.