

1905+GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY+1955

SOUVENIR BOOK  
SHOWING FIFTY YEARS OF PROGRESS



YAKIMA, WASH.

FIRST CHURCH  
of the

AZARENE

## P R E F A C E

History does not just happen, it is made. Made by the noble efforts of men and women. People who were not just written about, but who actually lived, and gave themselves to a great cause. In other words our church has not come to us accidentally, but rather on purpose, as saints of the past purposed to serve God and humanity by living and preaching holiness.

In preparing this anniversary book we have tried to do our best with the available material and other records. No one person could be singled out for any special praise in relation to our church history. We do, however, humbly dedicate this book to a most worthy ideal. To the CAUSE OF HOLINESS for which all of the by-gone saints have labored we this book do wish to dedicate.

It has been a real privilege to work with the anniversary book committee consisting of:

Mrs. John Fairwood, chairman  
Mrs. Hazel Cherrington  
Mrs. Edwin Groenig  
Mrs. Lawrence Sanford  
Miss Nina Barrett

With the committee we say to you, "Happy Memories".

Respectfully yours,

*Robert Condon*

Robert Condon, Editor

## FIFTY YEARS FROM INFANCY

Fifty years, as I recall, a child was born  
Over a blacksmith shop so cold and gray,  
Born of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost  
This babe was tiny, but happy and gay.

'Twas then the Angels of Heaven rejoiced  
As they sang their songs of praise that night;  
While a few saints bowed in prayer  
To fight for salvation with all their might.

Only a few weeks old when Satan appeared  
With his forces so wicked and strong.  
Its life they were seeking to take away,  
But were defeated by prayer and song.

This newly born babe so tiny and small,  
With a God-Father whose name was Bresee,  
Naturally grew by leaps and bounds;  
'Till a full grown child we could see.

This babe, the Church of the Nazarene,  
Nourished by Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
Reached out for sinners, far and wide,  
To join in singing with this Heavenly host.

We now have reached the fifty year mark,  
We are in infancy and childhood no more.  
We're preaching salvation full and free  
As we have in years gone on before.

We'll continue to preach God's holy word,  
With unction and power from on high,  
Pointing sinners to Christ for pardon from sin;  
'Till time ends and eternity draws nigh.

We've out grown the old shop so dingy and gray,  
Moved into buildings built under God;  
Our numbers have increased as years passed by,  
And shall ever as onward we trod.

And now we wish you a happy birthday  
With God's richest blessings as of yore,  
Until eternity reveals God's great love  
And we'll sing His praise forevermore.

by Mrs. O. A. Clark

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PLEASE NOTE: In the Home Mission column of Churches on the next page an explanation should be made. The figure of 104 under the Sunday School average actually indicates that the five churches each averaged the equivalent of 104 per week throughout the past year. This gives a grand total of 520 per Sunday. This is more than First Church averaged, thus showing that home missions has helped the church to double in attendance in the Yakima area.

# MARCHING WITH MY SSIONS AT HOME....

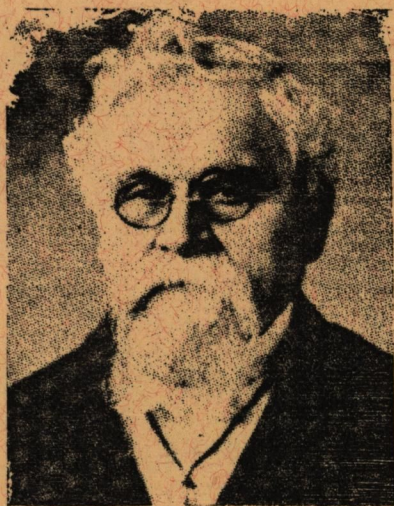
CHURCH	YEAR ORGANIZED	MEMBERS 1956	S. S. AVE. 1956
Union Gap	1921	61	92
Bethel	1951	100	170
Trinity	1954	51	134
Selah	1954	43	84
Naches	1955	20	40
TOTAL		275	104

## AND ABROAD....



REV. and MRS. CARL MISCHKE, MISSIONARIES TO AFRICA  
Members of our church

# EVANGELISTS



REV. H. D. BROWN  
First Superintendent  
of Northwest District



MRS. H. D. BROWN



REV. AND MRS.  
DeLANCE WALLACE

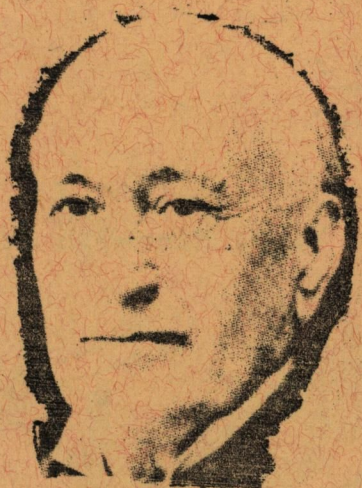
Evangelism has been one of the major factors contributing to the success and growth of our church. God has given some wonderful revivals and some outstanding men and women of God to serve as evangelists. Those pictured are among them, and were the ones who conducted campaigns here which led to the organization of the church. According to available records others are listed below.

L. B. Kent  
C. W. Ruth  
Seth Reese  
Dr. Godby  
Mattie Curry  
Rev. & Mrs. Earl Wilde  
Fred and Kitty Suffield  
T. M. Anderson  
Rev. & Mrs. Jarrett Aycock  
Lewis-Matthews party  
Edwards Ladies Quartette  
Dr. R. V. DeLong  
Rev. & Mrs. V. W. Littrell  
Rev. & Mrs. M. A. Stumbaugh  
Mrs. Maridel Harding  
Lacy Duo  
Bernie Smith

Cleveland Colored Quintet  
Bona Fleming  
Otho & Billie Schwab  
Charles B. Templeton  
Constance Orozco Templeton  
Rev. & Mrs. Lyle Potter  
Lon Woodrum  
A. L. Morgan  
Harold Volk  
Fairy Chism  
L. Guy Nees  
Sammy Sparks  
C. William Fisher  
Mrs. C. William Fisher  
Dr. B. V. Seals  
Rev. & Mrs. Jack Hamilton  
Rev. & Mrs. Cecil Knippers

Besides these there were many others including all of the early General Superintendents who were here for meetings. One of the outstanding meetings was with Uncle Bud Robinson and singer Rev. Babcock. Many who are now in the church as members were saved or sanctified during this meeting.

# OUR GREAT HERITAGE



DR. P.F. BRESEE  
on left

Founder of the  
Denomination

J.B. CREIGHTON  
Founder of  
Yakima First  
Church

"Let's keep the  
glory down."



## PASTORS OF THE PAST

J. B. Creighton..1905-1906  
W. S. Rice.....1906-1907  
J. D. Scott.....1907-1908  
J. B. Creighton..1908-1909  
J. T. Little.....1909-1910  
R. L. Wistler....1910-1913  
J. B. Creighton..1913-1914  
George L. Hunt...1915-1916  
Alpin M. Bowes...1916-1920

Will H. Nerry.....1920-1921  
N. J. Hepburn.....1921-1924  
D. Shelby Corlett..1924-1925  
Weaver Hess.....1925-1930  
L. W. Collar.....1930-1934  
F. R. McConnell....1934-1941  
J. E. Williams.....1942-1943  
Milo L. Arnold.....1943-1953  
J. Paul Downey.....1953-

### SUPPLY PASTORS

Rev. Lunn.....1915  
M. M. Cahill.....1930  
Lyle Robinson....1941-1942

### ASSISTANT PASTORS

De Witt McAbee....1948-1950  
Robert E. Condon...1950-1956

## MEMBERS OF MEMORY

### (CHARTER MEMBERS)

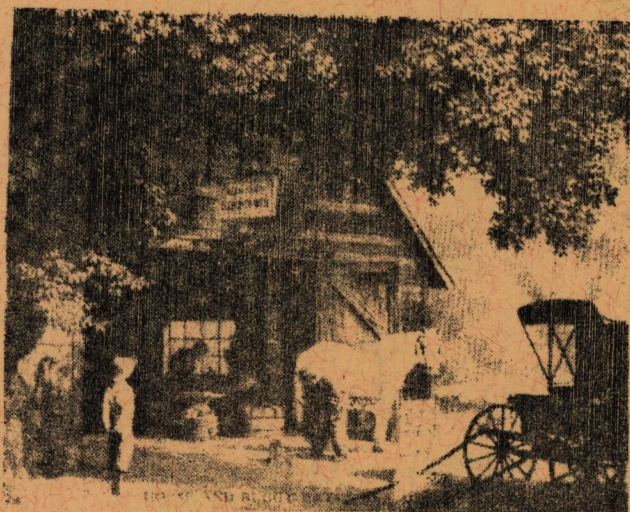
Rev. J. B. Creighton  
Mrs. J. B. Creighton  
\* Miss Bertha Dooley  
S. O. Summers  
Mrs. S. O. Summers  
Fremont Dooley  
Mrs. Fremont Dooley  
\* Nettie Marble Summers

J. H. Barnard  
Mrs. Lydia (Berg) Clark  
\* Mrs. Margaret (Rine) Bay  
Mrs. J. R. Elmore  
Luther Barnard  
Mrs. Mary Davis  
Lulu (Clark) Watts  
Benjamin Franklin

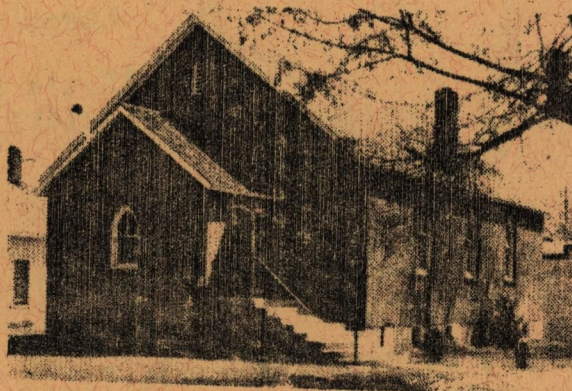
\* Indicates still living

# SANCTUARY STEPPING STONES

1905 (A building like this one)

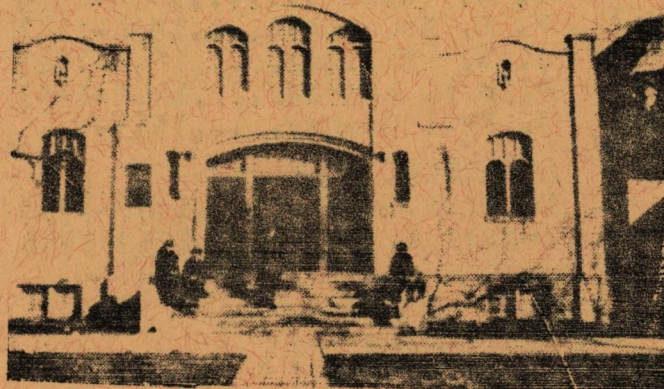


1906  
Under Rev. W. S. Rice-9th Ave.



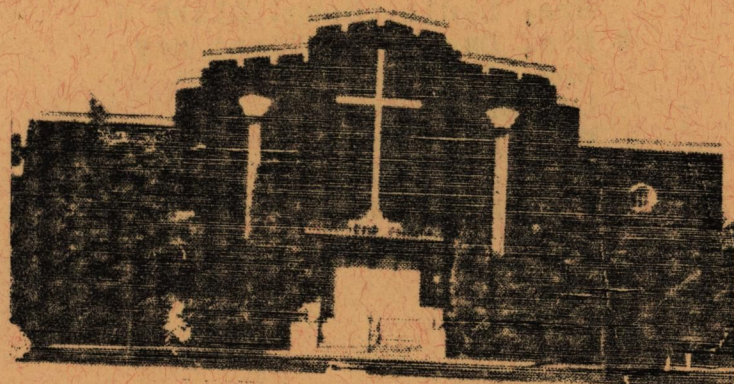
1916

N.  
3rd  
St.



Rev. Albin Rowes

1937

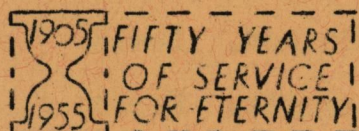


Rev. F. H. McConnell

# HIGHLIGHTS OF HISTORY

The Yakima First Church of the Nazarene had its humble beginning in a hall over a blacksmith shop, owned, and operated by J. R. Elmore, who had a kindly interest in the group of holiness friends. His devout wife was one of this group and became a charter member of the church.

It was following several visits to the northwest by Dr. P. F. Bresee, founder of the Church of the Nazarene, that Rev. H. D. Brown was appointed District Superintendent of the Northwest District. He and others, including Mrs. Brown, Rev. and Mrs. DeLance Wallace and Rev. L. B. Kent, held an evangelistic campaign here in Yakima. Soon after that, in May 1905 the church here was organized. Rev. Brown appointed to be the first pastor of the church, Rev. J. B. Creighton, who with his family had been a part of the holiness group here.



It is of special note that Rev. Creighton was the originator of the church's general polity. Dr. Bresee invited Rev. Creighton to attend the first General Assembly in order that the Assembly might learn of his ideas. The polity was adopted and stands today.

During the year 1906 at the District Assembly held in Spokane Rev. Creighton was released from the pastorate to do evangelistic work. Rev. W. S. Rice supplied for the remainder of the year.

In 1906 property was purchased on Ninth Avenue and Spruce Street and a church and parsonage were built on that corner. Rev. Rice was pastor at that time, being succeeded by Rev. J. D. Scott in 1907. There followed a period of continual steady growth for a number of years and the people felt the need of a larger place of worship.

In 1916 Rev. Alpin M. Bowes was called to be the pastor. He was a young man with vision and ability. In a few months a building down town was rented and services were conducted there until a new church was built on North Third Street. The church prospered and grew under the leadership of Rev. Bowes and many people were brought into the church. In 1920 Rev. Bowes resigned to accept the pastorate of Kansas City First Church.

Rev. Will H. Nerry succeeded Rev. Bowes, coming to the church in July 1920. At the District Assembly in 1921 he was elected Superintendent and found it necessary to resign as pastor.

Rev. N. J. Hepburn was called as pastor in 1921, and served in this capacity until 1924. His ministry was dynamic in the presentation of the Word. Many people prayed through to victory in the Lord under his anointed ministry. A district campmeeting was held here at the fairgrounds with many seeking and finding the Lord.

Rev. D. Shelby Corlett came in 1924 and served as pastor for one year. He was an exceptionally good preacher as well as a singer. He was the special soloist in the campmeeting. A wonderful revival meeting was held with Rev. and Mrs. Jarrett Aycock as the evangelists. The place soon overflowed with the crowds and again the need of a larger building was apparent.

In 1925 Rev. W. W. Hess was called to be pastor. His ministry was owned and blessed of God. Another meeting was arranged with the Aycocks and the church could not adequately care for the crowds. It was

1905 FOR TIME  
AND  
1955 ETERNITY

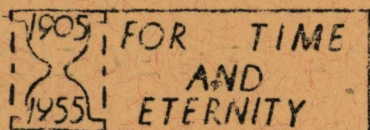
during the ministry of Rev. Hess that the present site was secured for the building of a new church.

Miss Fairy Chism came and held a missionary rally in the church, at which time she joined the Yakima church. She later became the first missionary sent out from the local congregation.

The house on the new building site was moved to a lot on North Naches Avenue and became the parsonage. The parsonage on North Third Street was being used for Sunday School rooms. The church did not have funds enough to go ahead and build, but at least a substantial start for the project was realized.

In 1930 Rev. L. W. Collar was given a call to pastor the church. There were some wonderful services and good attendances under his leadership. The people were still hoping to build in the near future and some progress along this line was accomplished. A ground breaking ceremony was held in 1931 as the first step toward the building of the new church.

Another missionary achievement realized in 1931 was the sending of Carl and Velma Mischke from our church to Africa for full time service.



In 1934 Rev. F. R. McConnell was called to be the pastor of our congregation. He and Rev. Collar actually exchanged pastorates, with the latter going to Spokane. The church had some good years during the ministry of Rev. McConnell. He was immediately interested in setting about to begin the work with the new building. A building committee was organized and in the year 1937 the present church was built by much sacrifice and also much donated labor on the part of members and friends. In October of 1937 the move was made to the new building with a grand march of the entire congregation from the church at 113 North Third Street to the new location at North Second Street at E.

In the middle of the assembly year of 1941 a call was given to Rev. J. E. Williams to serve as pastor. He accepted the call and was successful in beginning some very worthwhile projects during his short term. It was during his ministry here that the radio program was started. At that time the church went on the air each Sunday evening. Also Rev. Williams was instrumental in beginning the present envelope tithing system of the Church.

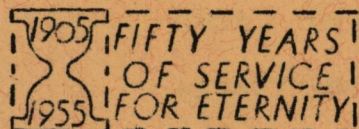
Rev. Milo L. Arnold came as pastor in 1943. During his ministry the broadcast was changed to be a daily program Monday through Friday and was known as "Pastor's Call". It was very well received in the entire valley and proved to be a valuable contact with the community in future years. Also the Bethel Church of the Nazarene was organized during Rev. Arnold's term and since then has continued to grow from year to year. Two other accomplishments of Rev. Arnold's pastorate were the acquiring of a commodious parsonage on South Sixteenth Avenue and the obtaining of "Goat Rocks" church camp located at Clear Lake. Rev. Arnold was pastor longer than any other up to this time, resigning in the Spring of 1953 after ten fruitful years in Yakima at First Church. It was during his ministry the church had the services of two assistant pastors. The first was Rev. DeWitt McAbee who served for three years, and resigned in 1950 to accept the pastorate of the Wenatchee church. Rev. Robert Condon was then employed as director of music and youth activities.

Rev. J. Paul Downey was called as pastor in 1953 and arrived to assume his duties on May 12. He retained Rev. Condon as assistant and they worked together hand in hand all of the way. During these

past three years the church has shown gains in the Sunday School, Church membership, and financially. This year should prove to be the very best year the church has ever known financially. Three new churches were started in the Yakima area in the past two years. This has been accomplished to a great extent by the pastor working closely along side with Dr. E. E. Zachary, District Superintendent. These churches are Yakima Trinity, Selah, and Naches. A parsonage was purchased to house the assistant minister and family. Also the purchase of a new grand piano has enhanced the services in the church sanctuary. Rev. Downey has led the church to a greater vision for the cause of world-wide missions. This was indicated with the giving of an all-time high in the missionary Thanksgiving offering in November of 1955, when \$2774.26 was given for this cause. Rev. Downey conceived the idea of a large Prayer and Fasting chart which Rev. Condon designed and placed in the vestibule. This chart has not only received denominational attention, but has aided considerably in increasing the total missionary giving of the church. Rev. Downey also started and continued a varied visitation emphasis throughout the church and Sunday School. He has received into church membership a total of 165 in three years.

Rev. Condon resigned as assistant pastor in April 1956 to accept the call to pastor the church at Pomeroy, Washington. He has served as assistant for the past six years. Rev. Downey has proven to be God's man for this time and is guiding the church to deeper depths in the things of God. The fifty years of history of our church is not a closed book. After these glorious, blessed, and victorious years there is still more to be added. On the next page we will look ahead to the prospects of an even brighter tomorrow.

"O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST,  
OUR HOPE FOR YEARS TO COME,  
BE THOU OUR GUIDE WHILE LIFE SHALL LAST,  
AND OUR ETERNAL HOME. AMEN"



# LEADERS OF TODAY

DR. E. E. ZACHARY  
District Superintendent

Aggressive

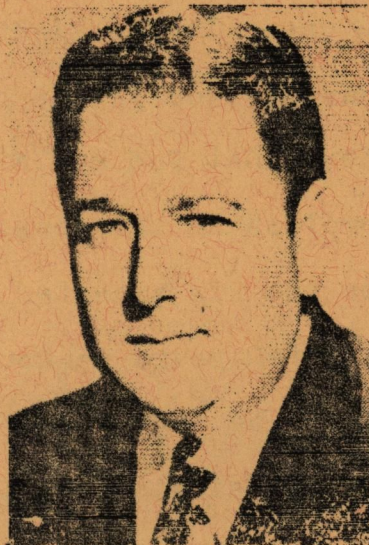
Efficient

Alert

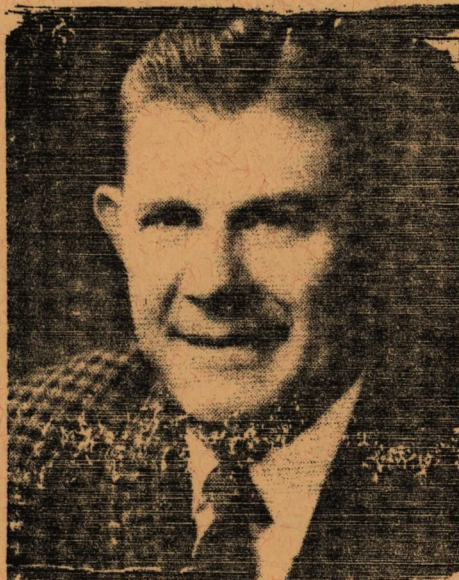
Loved by all

He says:  
"If it's RIGHT it  
ought to be done."

Now in his eighth year



Indeed we are rightly proud to have as one of the members of our church this man who under God has so wonderfully led our district and our church to greater home missionary achievements.



1953 - 19...  
REV. J. PAUL DOWNEY, Pastor

Unselfish, Capable, Missionary minded, Fearless Preacher of truth. He says: "Our greatest need is of the spirit."



1950 - 1956  
REV. ROBERT CONDON, Assistant

Talented, Versatile, Creative, Cooperative. He says: "There is no place as comfortable as God's will."

# LOOKING AHEAD

With over fifty years of Nazarene history now completed in this area it would be profitable to think in terms of the future. In the light of the marvelous way that God has blessed in the past it appears reasonable to believe that God has a great work for the church to accomplish in the years ahead. With the population increase that is expected here in the Yakima area in the next few years no doubt several other Nazarene churches will be organized. Possibilities for the future include Fairview area, West Yakima, Terrace Heights, Moxee City, Cowiche-Tieton, Harwood, Wiley City, Ahtanum, Gleed. And so the expansion and extension program unfolds.

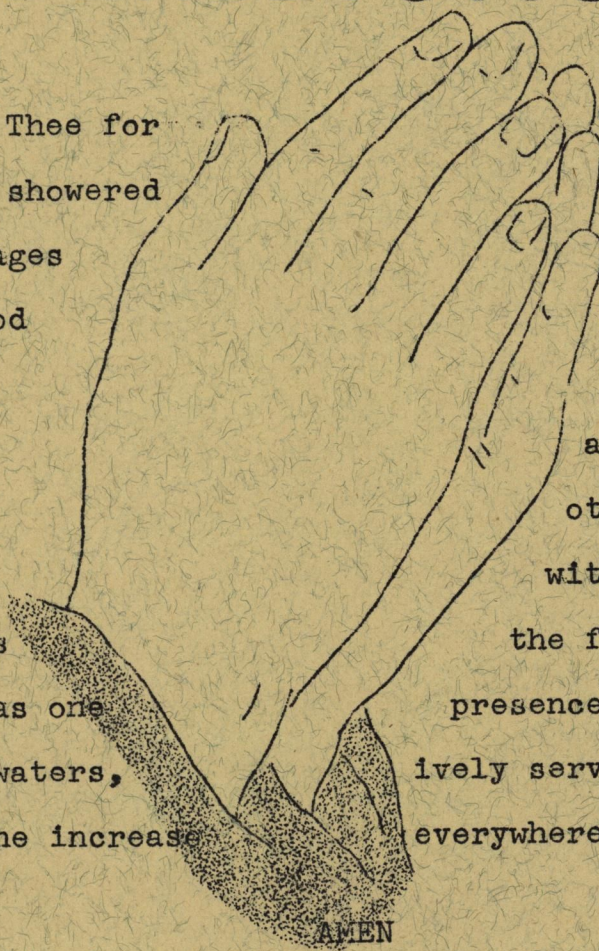
Yakima First Church should continue to grow and be blessed of God as it gets its rightful share of the new people moving into the area. With a well planned program of evangelism and the blessing of God there is no limit to the possibilities of growth for the Church of the Nazarene in Yakima and the surrounding vicinity.

Yours for a bright future,

*J. Paul Downey*  
J. Paul Downey, Pastor

# BENEDICTION

Father, we thank Thee for  
blessings divine showered  
upon us through ages  
past and gone. God  
grant that from  
these showers  
may come the  
fruit unto life  
eternal. Help us  
to realize that as one  
plants, another waters,  
and God giveth the increase



Truly Thou art the God  
of passing generations  
varying circumstances,  
and differing persons.  
Help us to know that  
as Thou hast been with  
others so shalt Thou be  
with us today. Give us  
the fullness of thy divine  
presence that we may effect-  
ively serve Thee and all mankind  
everywhere. In Jesus' name.....

AMEN

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Lead on, O King Eternal, the day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home.  
Thro' days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong;  
And now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal, 'till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And holiness shall whisper the sweet Amen of peace;  
For not with sword's loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;  
With deeds of love and mercy, the heav'nly Kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King Eternal. We follow, not with fears;  
For gladness breaks like morning Where'er Thy face appears.  
Thy cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light.  
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

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[illegible]

