

Minister:

And now, what wait we for? Arise,
O Lord, into thy rest, thou and the
ark of thy strength! Behold Him here!
His glory fills the house! Bow your-
selves before a present God! Looking
forward into the future and beyond,
into eternity. Should this chapel
stand a century and a half, and its
seats be generally filled, how many
hundreds will hear the gospel within
these walls!

People:

By all those hundreds, the effect
of its erection and dedication will
be felt, millions of ages after this
world is no more.

Minister:

And when the dust of this crumbled
edifice shall be scattered upon the
winds of heaven;--when the elements
of the last earthly sanctuary shall
tremble in the convulsions of expir-
ing nature;--in the full assembly
of your fathers, and with all the
triumphs of victory, you shall ride
the clouds with your victorious Prince.

People:

And for the glory of the eternal God,
we consecrate this chapel.

Minister:

To our heavenly Father, who has called
us by his grace; to the honor of his
Son, who loved us and gave himself
for us; to the praise of the Holy
Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies
us, we offer this chapel in dedication.

For the worship of God in prayer and
praise, for the preaching of the ever-
lasting gospel. For the comfort of
all who mourn, for strength to those
who are tempted, for light to those
who seek the way.

DEDICATION OF FARWELL CHAPEL

NATIONAL ROYAL RANGERS TRAINING CENTER

JUNE 28, 1988 - 5:00 P.M.

Dedication ceremony adapted from Boston's Park Street Church, January 10, 1810.

The famous Park Street Church in Boston was founded in 1809 by a group of concerned laymen. On January 10, 1810, Pastor Edward Griffin commented, "that so small a number of men should complete so spacious and beautiful an edifice in the course of eight months is a wonder which has no parallel in the history of American churches." His sermon was so well received, within a few hours a thousand copies were ordered from the printer.

The Park Street Church is known for evangelistic, Bible preaching! A book written about its history was titled Brimstone Corner, which may give the idea they were moving against the tide.

Its ministers and people were instrumental in found-
ing America's first foreign missions board.

William Lloyd Garrison made his first public address on slavery there, and the patriotic hymn "America" was first sung at Park Street Church.

Andrew Stone was installed as Park Street's sixth pastor, January 25, 1849.

Charles Finney began an evangelistic meeting at the church in February, 1857. Pastor Stone invited Finney and told him he was in need of spiritual help. The pastor testified to the church in the meeting he had been converted.

DEDICATION CEREMONY

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 6:18: "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!"

1. Does the omnipresent God dwell in any one place?
2. Will God dwell with men on the earth?
3. Can it be presumed that He will dwell in this house which we have built?

PRESENTATION OF CHAPEL

Don Jacques: On behalf of the Board of Directors I present this chapel to be dedicated to the glory of God and the service of man.

Minister: By what name shall this chapel be known?

Don Jacques: It shall be called The Farwell Chapel.

Minister: We religiously devote this edifice to the Father, infinite and self-existent; to the Son, the brightness of His Father's glory; to the Holy Ghost, almighty and eternal. To the honour and service of the ever blessed Trinity we solemnly dedicate these walls, this pulpit, and with all that is contained within these sacred limits.

People: For the preaching and teaching of the Word, for the service of prayer and praise, and for the worship of the eternal God, we consecrate the chapel.

The Civil War came. Pastor Stone didn't see it as a slavery issue. He said, "The war is simply and solely a war for the maintenance of the government and the constitution."

President Abraham Lincoln sent out a call for men to serve a short term of nine months. On August 8, 1862, the 45th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment was organized. Pastor Stone requested a nine-month leave to serve as regiment chaplain. Chaplain Stone and 14 other service personnel from Park Street left for their post in North Carolina. A total of 80 Park Street men served during the war.

Stone served his nine months and returned as pastor.

On the Sunday following President Lincoln's death, Pastor Stone preached mournfully to a hushed audience from Lamentations 5:15,16: "The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning. The crown is fallen from our head; woe unto us, that we have sinned!" He quoted Lincoln's words uttered a few months before: "Yes, now I can say that I do from my heart love the Lord Jesus Christ."

Stone left the church February 4, 1866, for a pastorate in San Francisco. The church reached its peak during Stone's ministry. Church membership numbered nearly 900, with Sunday school enrollment at 600, a figure that would remain unsurpassed for one hundred years.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Silas Gaither, chm, Johnnie Barnes, Ken Riemenschneider, Don Jacques, David Cribbs, Joseph Flower, Fred Deaver, Mark Gentry, David Wharton