

The
Annual Vesper Service
Of The
Young Women's Christian
Association

"For the comforting warmth of the sun that my body
embraces,
For the cool of the waters that run through the
shadowy places,
For the balm of the breezes that brush my face with
their fingers,
For the vesper-hymn of the thrush when the twilight
lingers,
For the long breath, the deep breath, the breath of a
heart without a care,
I will give thanks and adore Thee, God of the Open
Air!"

East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, N. C.
Sunday, June 5th, 1927

A Litany of Comradeship

PRELUDE:

SONG: "DAY IS DYING IN THE WEST."

ANTHEM: "LIFT UP THINE EYES TO THE MOUNTAIN."

The House of Comradeship

Leader:

"Let me live in a house by the side of the road,
And be a friend to man."

This house by the side of the road is a House of Comradeship. Let us inquire the way as pointed out by the three guideposts.

First Spokesman:

I am the first guide post to the House of Comradeship, for I am the Spirit of Friendliness.

"These are the things I prize
And hold of the dearest worth:
Light of the sapphire skies,
Peace of the silent hills,
Shelter of forests, comfort of grass,
Music of birds, murmur of little rills;
Shadow of clouds that swiftly pass,
And after showers
The smell of flowers
And of the good brown earth,—
And best of all, along the way, friendship."

In Unison:

Friends are necessary to a happy life. When friendship deserts us we are as lonely and helpless as a ship left by the tide high upon the shore: when friendship returns to us, it is as though the tide came back, gave us buoyancy and freedom, and opened to us the wide places of the earth.

Leader:

"There is a destiny that makes us brothers;
None goes his way alone:
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own."

Second Spokesman:

I am Co-operation, the second guidepost to the House of Comradeship.

"For the one will do what the other commands,
Although they are chilled to the bone,
And both together can live through weather,
That neither could face alone."

In Unison:

"For the one will do what the other requires as soon as the need is shown,

And hand in hand they can make a stand which neither could make alone."

Leader:

The beauty of work depends upon the way we meet it. Whether we arm ourselves each morning to attack it as an enemy that must be vanquished before night comes, or whether we open our eyes with the service to welcome it as an approaching friend who will keep us delightful company all day and who will make us feel at evening that the day was well worth its fatigue.

Third Spokesman:

I am Service, the third guidepost to the House of Comradeship. No man needs sympathy because he has to work, because he has a burden to carry. Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

In Unison:

God help me to give what He gave—myself—and make that self worth something to somebody: teach me to love all as He loved—for the sake of the infinite possibilities locked up in every human soul.

The Foundation of The House of Comradeship: Love

Leader:

Love is patient and kind. Love knows neither envy nor jealousy. Love is not forward and self-assertive, nor boastful and conceited. She does not behave herself unbecomingly, nor blaze out in passionate anger, nor brood over wrongs. She finds no pleasure in injustice done to others, but joyfully sides with the truth. She knows how to be silent. She is full of trust, full of hope, full of patient endurance. Love never fails.

SONG: "LOVE DIVINE."

In Unison:

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

SOLO: "A PERFECT DAY."

Building Stones in the House of Comradeship

HYMN: "I WOULD BE TRUE."

Leader:

Only perfect stones are used in building the House of Comradeship.

First Spokesman:

The first building stone in the House of Comradeship is Sincerity.

"A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere."

In Unison:

“What is a friend?” I asked,
“What else?” he said,
“But in a world, where all misjudge one so, a soul
to whom one dares to speak the truth.”

Second Spokesman:

The second building stone in the House of Comradship is Loyalty.

“I would be true, for there are those who trust me.”

In Unison:

If there be no loyalty, there can be no great friendship.

Third Spokesman:

The third building stone in the House of Comradship is Trust.

“They that trust in the Lord, shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed but abideth forever.”

Fourth Spokesman:

And the fourth building stone in the House of Comradship is Service.

In this world the one thing supremely worth having is the opportunity coupled with the capacity, to do well and worthily a piece of work—the doing of which is of vital consequence to the welfare of mankind.

In Unison:

Let me but do my work from day to day,
In field or forest—at the desk or loom,
In roaring market place or tranquil room;
Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,
'This is my work; my blessing, not my doom;
Of all who live, I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the right way.' ”

The Dwellers in the House of Comradeship

First Spokesman:

I am Joy whose home is the House of Comradeship.
“Be glad of life because it gives you a chance to
love and to work and to play and to look up at the
stars.”

In Unison:

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth;
Sing forth the glory of His name:
Make His praise glorious

All the earth shall worship Thee, and shall sing
unto Thee; they shall sing praise to Thy name.

Second Spokesman:

And like a sister, I, Sympathy, dwell with Joy in
the House of Comradeship.

We need sympathy, and we crave for friendship.
Joy also demands that its joy should be shared. Sym-
pathy will respond to a friend's gladness, as well as
vibrate to his grief. A single generous friendship
will thus add to the joy, and will divide the sorrow.

Third Spokesman:

Joy and Sympathy are happier with me as their companion, for I am Understanding.

“In men whom men condemn as ill,
I find so much of goodness still;
In men whom men pronounce divine,
I find so much of sin and blot,
I hesitate to draw a line between the two,
Where God has not.”

Fourth Spokesman:

For my dwelling place in the House of Comradeship I give thanks, for I am Help and Encouragement.

When men face the world together, and are ready to stand shoulder to shoulder, the sense of comradeship makes each strong.

Leader:

“A Mile With Me,” by Henry van Dyke.

In Unison:

He who can look on the loveliness of the world and share its sorrow, and realize something of the wonder of both, is in immediate contact with divine things, and has got as near to God's secret as anyone can get.

The Head of the House of Comradship

HYMN: "WHAT A FRIEND I HAVE IN JESUS."

Leader:

Love Him and keep Him for thy friend, who, when all go away, will not forsake thee nor suffer thee to suffer at the last.

Prayer In Unison:

We praise Thee, O God, for our friends and fellow-workers, for the touch of their hands and the brightness of their faces, for the cheer of their words and the outflow of good will that refreshes us.

May naught mar the joy of our fellowship here. May none remain lonely and hungry of heart among us. Let none go hence without the joy of new friendships and the blessing of old friendships. Give us more capacity for love and richer consciousness of being loved.

Lift our human friendships to the level of spiritual Companionship. May we realize Thee as the eternal bond of our unity. Shine upon us from the faces of Thy servants, Thou Friend of Supreme Love, that in loving our friends we may be praising Thee Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Taps.