



Pastor's Message

April 19, 2020

On November 3, 1918, Francis Grimke, Pastor of the Fifteenth Presbyterian Church, Washington D.C., delivered a magnificent discourse. It was given during the devastating Spanish Flu, which infected about 500 million people world-wide.

The following is passage from his discourse about “the importance of the church to the community at large.”

“It was indeed a hardship for churches to be closed for a season. The fact that for several weeks we have been shut out from the privileges of the sanctuary has brought home to us as never before what the church has really meant to us. We hadn't thought, perhaps, very much of the privilege while it lasted, but the moment it was taken away we saw at once how much it meant to us. One of the gratifying things to me, during this scourge, has been the sincere regrets that I have heard expressed all over the city by numbers of people at the closing of the churches. The theater goers, of course, have regretted the closing of the theaters. I do not know whether the children or the teachers have regretted the closing of the schools or not; I have heard no regrets expressed, but I do know that large numbers of people have regretted the closing of the churches. I hope that now that they are opened again, that we will all show our appreciation of their value by attending regularly upon their services. It would be a great calamity to any community to be without the public ministrations of the sanctuary. There is no single influence in a community that counts for more than the Christian church. It is one of the institutions, particularly, that ought to be strongly supported; that ought to be largely attended, and that ought to have the hearty endorsement and well-wishes of every right thinking man and woman within it. It is a great mistake for anyone to stand aloof from the Christian church. Everybody in the community ought to have a church home, and ought to be found in that church home Sabbath after Sabbath.”

Worthy of reflection for all of us!

May God bless all of us with even greater appreciation for our church!

Fr. Marc