

**THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH; A
CELEBRATION FOR THE CENTENNIAL OF
THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION OF
THE CHURCH AND THE SEMICENTENNIAL
OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649195176

The mission of the church; a celebration for the centennial of the missionary organization of the church and the semicentennial of the Woman's auxiliary by William Chauncy Langdon

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON

**THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH; A
CELEBRATION FOR THE CENTENNIAL OF
THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION OF
THE CHURCH AND THE SEMICENTENNIAL
OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY**

The
Mission of the Church

**A CELEBRATION FOR THE CENTENNIAL OF
THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION OF THE
CHURCH AND THE SEMICENTENNIAL
OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY**

By
WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON



**THE PRESIDING BISHOP AND COUNCIL
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
261 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK**

1921

FOREWORD

One hundred years ago the missionary work of the Church was started in a definitely organized and coordinated manner. Fifty years ago the cooperation in that work of the women of the Church was similarly coordinated and organized as a part of it. *The Mission of the Church* has been written for general use on the occasion of this Centennial and Semi-centennial. It is a religious service, constructed according to the laws of the lyric drama. It will be found to be suitable for presentation in the Church itself. Indeed, it can be properly presented only in the Church. In writing it, there has continually been borne in mind the possibility for eliminations and amplifications such as would make it practicable for use in any Church, large or small, urban or rural, whether as simple and plain as an Upper Room or architecturally as glorious as the greatest Cathedral. Within the fixed plan of its structure, and obedient to the main flow of the feeling as determined by the spoken words, allowance is made, as is necessary, for a very wide degree of liberty in order to conform to local conditions, in the number and character of the personnel and in the detail of the dramatic action. Thus, for example, while in the text, for the sake of being definite, the Foreign Mission Field is represented by the Chinese, in any Parish, if preferred, that Field can be represented by the Japanese, by the Liberians, by the Filipinos, by the Cubans, by the Mexicans, or by the Eskimos. So too the number used may be large or small according to the size of

the Church and the number available to take the parts. Finally the details of the very simple dramatic action called for will be somewhat different according to the manners and customs of the people chosen to stand for the two great Mission Fields, the Domestic and the Foreign.

The speaking and the reading are confined to only three persons, the three Voices that represent three elements or aspects of religious life,—the Voice of Divine Mediation, the Word of God, and the Appeal of the Human Spirit. The parts of the attendant Angels can and should be omitted in smaller Churches. The parts of the Missionaries and of those to whom Missionaries are sent may be enacted, as has been said, by smaller or by larger numbers. These matters are given attention in a pamphlet on the producing, as also such matters as Lighting and Costuming. In this pamphlet also is included copy for a simple programme, which may be printed locally in whatever quantity may be desirable, and distributed through the Congregation.

The Mission of the Church emphasizes in the occasion of this Centennial and Semicentennial, the significance of the missionary work of the Church, the immediate touch it gives with the need of humanity and with the hope in Christianity, and the direct application of the missionary responsibility to ourselves both as individuals and as a Church. It is earnestly hoped that in doing this it may render a real and practical service to every Parish and to every Mission in the Church.

W. C. L.

Bronxville, New York,
June 27, 1921.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, Who art the only Poet and true Artist of the Universe, Who dost write across the centuries of Time the Drama of Human Development, and before Whom continually passes the Pageant of the Generations: We offer to Thee for Thy blessing this celebration of the mission work of Thy Church, as with praise to Thee we look back upon the hundred years now brought to a close, and with prayer look forward to the hundreds of years into which we are just entering. Forgive in Thy Fatherly goodness all that falls short in this offering of worship; and bless what is good in it to a greater measure of service than without Thy blessing it could possibly attain. Use it, magnify it, perfect it, we pray Thee, as we each of us do our parts, to the glory of Thy Name, to the wider spread of Thy Love throughout the Church and throughout the world, and to the hastening of the day when Thy Will shall be done on earth as it is in Heaven, through the power of the Only Perfect Word, Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The
Mission of the Church

**A CELEBRATION FOR THE CENTENNIAL OF
THE MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION OF THE
CHURCH AND THE SEMICENTENNIAL
OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY**

YE CHRISTIAN HERALDS GO PROCLAIM

Ye Christian heralds, go proclaim
Salvation in Emmanuel's name:
To distant climes the tidings bear,
And plant the Rose of Sharon there.

The Choir, preceded by a Crucifer, comes in processional up the centre aisle. In their midst come three figures in the friar's cowl and gown representing

THE VOICE OF DIVINE MEDIATION, in soft white or cream, lined with very pale yellow or with purple, and carrying a large processional Cross;

THE WORD OF GOD, in a soft blue, lined with rose, and carrying a Bible; and

THE APPEAL OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT, in soft rose, lined with blue, and carrying a Flaming Torch.

At the head of the aisle the Choir divides, the parts going to places at the front corners of the Nave, where they lead the singing of the Congregation. The three Voices go to their respective places—in front of the Altar; at the Lectern; and at the Pulpit. From the Chancel door or the Vestry door come Angels to meet the three Voices. Two, in lavender with golden wings, attend the Voice of Divine Mediation, one on either side of him; one in rose with golden wings attends the Word of God at the Lectern; and one in blue with golden wings attends the Appeal of the Human Spirit at the Pulpit. With the Choir may be carried the American and Church Flags in procession; these should be placed at either front corner of the Nave. At the close of the hymn, the Voice of Divine Mediation, standing facing the Congregation, raises the Cross high above him as he speaks.

VOICE OF DIVINE MEDIATION

The Lord is in His Holy Temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him. (Habakkuk II, 20.)

WORD OF GOD

For the earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is; the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein. (Psalm XXIV, 1.)

APPEAL OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Lift up your hearts! Yea, lift them up unto the Lord!

CONGREGATION

We lift them up unto the Lord.