

**THE
TRANSFIGURATION
OF LIFE**

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The Transfiguration of Life by James Freeman Clarke

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JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE

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By
JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE



Boston
American Unitarian Association
1909

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Miss Eleanor McCormack

TO
THE MEMBERS OF
THE CHURCH OF THE DISCIPLES
ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN
"WHAT GOD GIVES HE GIVES FOREVER"

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS . . .	1
II. A HAPPY NEW YEAR . . .	14
III. HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE COMING YEAR . . .	25
IV. THE TRANSFORMATION OF YEARS INTO LIFE . . .	38
V. THE GENUINE PRAYER . . .	50
VI. THE HOUSE OF GOD AND THE GATE OF HEAVEN . . .	62
VII. HOMES IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH	74
VIII. THE OLD AND NEW VIEW OF THE HEREAFTER . . .	90
IX. SOULS ALREADY RISEN WITH CHRIST . . .	103
X. WHAT GOD GIVES HE GIVES FOR- EVER . . .	117
XI. FROM FAITH TO FAITH . . .	134
XII. MAN DOETH NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE . . .	146
XIII. THE UNKNOWN GOD AND THE KNOWN GOD . . .	159
XIV. BE NOT WEARY IN WELL-DOING .	170
XV. DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED . . .	182
XVI. REJOICE EVERMORE . . .	194
XVII. ALL THINGS ARE YOURS . . .	206
XVIII. THE UNSPEAKABLE GIFT . . .	218
XIX. THE TRANSFIGURATION OF LIFE .	229



I

THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS

“Through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the Dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
— LUKE i. 78, 79.

I WILL speak to you this morning of the joy of Christmas. The peculiarity of Christmas joy is that it belongs to the present life, to the present hour, to earthly homes, human love, and is therefore universal. Christmas stands for the blessings which all men inherit by being born under the influences of Christianity,—the birth-right blessings of all of us. Easter is also a feast of joy, but it is for those who have faith in immortality. It is a festival of hope, looking forward to a higher world. But Christmas brings pleasure to the believer and unbeliever. No one need sign a creed or make a profession in order to have a happy Christmas. It is the festival of childhood; of children, who have no religious opinions of any kind: it is a feast of joy even in the homes of those whose faith has died out of their hearts. As the sun shines on the evil and the good, on the just and the unjust, so Christmas pours its liberal light into every