

**THE HUNGER OF THE HEART FOR  
FAITH, AND OTHER SERMONS  
DELIVERED AT THE CATHEDRAL  
OPEN-AIR SERVICES,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

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The Hunger of the Heart for Faith, and Other Sermons Delivered at the Cathedral Open-Air Services, Washington, D. C. by Charles C. Pierce

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**CHARLES C. PIERCE**

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## The Hunger of the Heart for Faith



*James H. Hens.*

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Delivered at the  
Cathedral Open-Air Services,  
Washington, D. C.

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BY THE  
REV. CHARLES C. PIERCE, D. D.  
Chaplain Artillery Corps, United States Army.

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*With an Introduction by the  
Bishop of Washington.*

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L. C.

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## INTRODUCTION.



**M**ORE than four years ago, the Rev. Dr. Charles C. Pierce, who is a Chaplain in the United States Army, stationed at Fort Myer (just across the Potomac River), and also a clergyman of the Diocese of Washington, kindly consented to preach at an open-air service on the Cathedral grounds, and such was the influence and effect of his words, that I asked him to continue this service of his, again and again.

The congregations on Sunday afternoons at these open-air services are chiefly composed of non-churchgoers; many who do not enter the doors of the church from one year's end to another. They are drawn to these services, partly on account of the unrestrained freedom they enjoy in attending them, and partly because the glad tidings of salvation are proclaimed by the preacher in such a simple, direct, and loving way, that those who hear him once, want to hear him again.

As year followed year—five seasons now have passed—when the novelty of these services necessarily wore off, it became evident that there was a deeper influence at work, which drew this large and increasing congregation together. The message of God Himself was being felt by human hearts, and testimony came to me, from all sides,

by individual men who had been personally helped and strengthened in their lives through the sermons of Dr. Pierce.

By and by, followed the spontaneous request from different members of the congregation,—which, as we have said, is composed not only of all denominations of Christians, but chiefly of non-church-goers—that certain of these sermons which had impressed and aided them in their spiritual life, might be preserved in printed form.

Most of the sermons thus published are now out of print, and it is in answer to an ever-increasing demand, in which the very classes of whom we have been speaking have been most active, that this volume is set forth.

Every thoughtful person who glances over its pages will see at once, I am sure, the reason why the preacher's words took such hold on human hearts, but yet none but those who have attended the open-air services themselves, can realize their influence amid the surroundings of the Washington Cathedral Close.

Although this spot is now, and for some years to come will be at least two miles from the centre of Washington, one would never know from the large congregations present, but that the Cathedral was situated in the heart of the city, and often a sense of wonderment has been expressed, that so many people are induced to come so far with the limited means of transportation now provided.

The cause of the attractiveness of the People's Even-song on Sunday afternoons, however, is at once appreciated by any one who has attended these services.

As the sun is sinking in the west, strains of music are wafted upon the air, in the voluntary before the service. The congregation as they gather, face the city of Washington, lying in the valley four hundred feet below, where the exquisitely shaped white dome of the Capitol lifts its head above the reddish glow of clustered houses.