

**COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES AT
THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GATHERING OF THE FIRST
CHURCH IN DEDHAM, MASS.**

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Commemorative Services at the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Gathering of the First Church in Dedham, Mass. by Various

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VARIOUS

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Anal. p. 55.

1638.

1888.

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES

AT THE

Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary

OF THE

GATHERING OF THE FIRST CHURCH

IN DEDHAM, MASS. — ^

Observed November 18 and 19, 1888.

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DEDHAM:

PUBLISHED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE TWO CHURCHES,

1888.

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PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

At the annual meeting of the First Parish, held March 19, 1888, it was voted that the approaching two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the gathering of the church be suitably observed. A committee was appointed to make provision for such an observance. The First Congregational Church at their annual meeting, held April 18, took similar action. Prompted by a desire to unite the two churches in commemorating an event of equal interest to both, the committee of the First Parish passed the following vote, July 2 :

"That, in behalf of the First Parish in Dedham, we cordially invite the Allin Evangelical Society and the church connected therewith to unite with this parish in celebrating the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the gathering of the church from which both of the present churches originated."

To this invitation the following reply was received :

"At a meeting of the committee appointed by the First Congregational Church to arrange for the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the gathering of the First Church in Dedham, it was voted that we heartily accept the invitation of the First Parish to unite with them in celebrating our common origin."

The two committees met for conference at an early day. After some deliberation as to plans and methods, it was decided to have an address in the First Parish meeting-house in the afternoon of the anniversary day, November 19, and that several representative speakers be invited to deliver addresses in the First Congregational meeting-house in the evening. It was also arranged that a social reunion should connect the two services.

With hearty unanimity Rev. George E. Ellis, D.D., was chosen to deliver the address. He subsequently accepted the invitation.

Although Monday, November 19, was selected as the day for the joint celebration of the anniversary, each church early matured its plans for an observance of the event in its respective house of worship on Sunday, the 18th instant. It was the earnest desire of all that these services should be held at different hours of the day, that all might be permitted to attend them. A vote was passed to that effect. Services were accordingly held in the First Congregational meeting-house in the forenoon and in the First Parish meeting-house in the afternoon, the pastor of each church preaching an historical discourse in his own pulpit. At these services each house of worship was crowded with members of both parishes, former members of these churches, invited guests from abroad, and representatives of other churches in Dedham. A choir of forty voices, under the leadership of Mr. Arthur W. Thayer, sang at all the services. Mr. Charles J. Capen and Mr. William A. Morrell presided at the organ. A pleasant feature of the service on Monday evening was the "lining off" of the second hymn on the programme, conducted by Mr. Thayer and accompanied by stringed instruments. The floral decorations in each meeting-house were ample and elegant.

The programme, as arranged by the joint committee, was carried out with very great success and to the apparent gratification of all who attended the exercises. In spite of the rain on Monday evening, a large audience gathered in the First Congregational meeting-house to listen to the eloquent words of the speakers.

COMMITTEES.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

First Parish.

REV. SETH C. BEACH, <i>Chairman.</i>	ALFRED HEWINS.
BENJAMIN WEATHERDEE.	HENRY W. RICHARDS.
NATHANIEL SMITH.	WINSLOW WARREN.
	A. WARD LAMSON.

First Congregational Church.

REV. J. B. SEABURY.	HENRY C. BIGELOW.
CALVIN GUILD.	DON GLEASON HILL, <i>Secretary.</i>
THEO. L. BROWNE.*	ELIJAH HOWE, JR.
EDWARD P. BURGESS.	E. SCOTT MORSE.
	GEORGE W. HUMPHREY.

* Deceased.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

ON SPEAKERS.

REV. S. C. BEACH.	ELIJAH HOWE, JR.
REV. J. B. SEABURY.	E. P. BURGESS.
ALFRED HEWINS.	CALVIN GUILD.
	DON GLEASON HILL.

ON INVITATIONS.

For the First Parish.

REV. S. C. BEACH.	ALFRED HEWINS.
	A. WARD LAMSON.

For the First Congregational Church.

REV. J. B. SEABURY.	ELIJAH HOWE, JR.
	DON GLEASON HILL.

ON FINANCE.

WINSLOW WARREN.	A. WARD LAMSON.
	E. P. BURGESS.

ON COLLATION.

CALVIN GUILD.	C. W. WOLCOTT.
H. C. BIGELOW.	E. S. MORSE.
	M. G. BOYD.

Committee of Ladies on Collation.

MRS. SAMUEL D. COBB.	MRS. CHARLES RUSSELL.
MRS. J. BIRNIE SMITH.	MRS. GEORGE B. LORING.
MRS. AMASA GUILD.	MRS. GEORGE MARSH.

USHERS.

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W. C. WEATHERBEE.	EDWIN EASTERBROOK.
HARRY COLE.	GEORGE B. LORING.
RUSSELL COLE.	EDWARD C. PAUL.
HARRIS FISHER.	J. H. BURDETT.

ELMER P. MORSE.

At a meeting of the joint committee, held November 27, it was voted to publish the proceedings of the anniversary, together with the sermons of the pastors. Rev. Mr. Seabury, Alfred Hewins, and Don Gleason Hill constituted the committee.

[Form of Invitation.]

1638. *The First Church in Dedham.* 1888.

To

Sir:

The Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary

of the Gathering of the First Church in Dedham will be commemorated by the First Parish and the First Congregational Church, November 19, 1888.

United services will be held in the First Parish meeting-house at 3 o'clock, and in the First Congregational meeting-house at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Addresses will be delivered by Rev. GEO. E. ELLIS, D.D., Rev. HENRY M. DEXTER, D.D., and others. Between these services there will be a social reunion. You are invited to be present.

S. C. BEACH,
ALFRED HEWINS,
A. W. LAMSON,

For the First Parish.

J. B. SEABURY,
ELIJAH HOWE, JR.,
DON GLEASON HILL,

For the First Congregational Church.

Dedham, Mass., Nov. 8, 1888.

Please reply to DON GLEASON HILL, Esq., Secretary of Joint Committee.