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Notes: Alumni: Remember John 16:4, 1959

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THEME

Remember

1. This is a service dedicated to the past, a service of remembrance. A service to loving memory of all those former members of the U. who now lie in hallowed graves all over the world - men and women for whom there is no more past but only the eternal Now. Those we remember this morning - in the hope that out of this solemn act of remembrance there will come a new awareness of the meaning of our own past and the purpose of our own lives. This is a homing service which reminds us of the final homing of those who left this University to go to a land of perfect knowledge and perfect peace.

2. In considering a theme for our service of remembrance, I find myself turning with a compelling haunting urgency to the question and to remembrance in the world history - the final chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. The words quoted: "Then Jesus knew that when the time should come, ye may remember - here is that written - the remembrance of faint and hope and tears - the past stirring in its sleep before the
Voice of the living God—the seal of old
remembrance of old truths by which we must live.
If we are to live at all and not die under
the crushing weight of the monstrosity of life and
history—these things I have told you that when
the time shall come, ye may remember—

3. These things I have told you—what has He told thee
that was so different from the world's forgetfulness—
well, He had told them about God—about God's
sorrowing, yet essential judgment on the past—
about God suffering on a Cross to redeem them
from the wrong of the past and the present—
about God's holy, hopeful future for the future—
this was it—the heart of the matter—this was
what they used to remember always—that they
could remember God because He had remembered
them—remembered them so long and so hard
that one day they were a corns and a mean
hanging on it—brought them by main force
forgetfulness, pride and hate holding in their
hands an eternal judgment and an utterly
bleakness have—and on that day—and every day
and every hour since then—mide women have
come down that hill silent and forgivness at
unspoken—all that lies in the past—this
own and the world's past—has been buried in
the impartial sea of divine forgiveness—and all
its 'only the word 'Remember'—the golden, driving
memory of a Cross and a voice 'Father.—He,
word of remembrance and forgiveness—making you
unshackled at the past—giving you a home in a
homeless world—a light—by the water of our discipleship
THEME Remember.

4. When the time comes* remember* [read: I must say that especially to our returning alumni this morning] Remember* no matter what has happened to you (to the returning year) for good or evil, for success or failure - this is a time to remember - you may have traveled a road for different reasons what you dreamed or quite rights lose of help that was supposed to disappoint and now are thus a sudden, unexpected joy - sometime then better than you had done or hope - sometime then one deep within - sorrow's failure struck when you least expected it - at this time you remember this morning - but I am standing here to see you to remember* God* the golden years when the men and women classes are done to remember that the love bestowed you and called you to come*  

*finally* at this tumultuous a time voices shrank is sometimes been undone* and it is always been work when you have wandered away from home and a part of our service this morning should be to make you understand to return to the past when God was one in - and when He has waited for you in mercy and love since the beginning of time - when the time comes, remember - and the time the time of work, of faith, of return* is now*

5. And when you have done that* when you have remembered God then you can also remember other who have already come to Their* first tumbling therefore men and women when living space to us today - that we may remember*
6. During World War II I saw a letter written by a soldier to his parents from a fox-hole in France: "I am writing this letter to you just before going into action at dawn. I am about to take part in the biggest battle that has yet been fought in Europe. My idea in writing this is in case I am one of the "casualties" and get killed. To be killed means nothing to me; it is only you who really suffer, you who really pay the cost. I have been living at the start and thinking what an immense distance they are away. What an insignificant thing the lot of, say forty, years of life is, compared with them. Try not to worry about me and remember that we shall meet again quite soon. This letter is only going to be mailed if — that is, if it passes by a desk. The letter was mailed —

7. In the next few moments, as an act of remembrance, I shall try to finish this letter, not only for him, but for all the men, our comrades and friends of other days, whom we remember this morning. It will not be as good as my memo would do, but if I knew the minds and hearts of some of them, any

The highest tribute we can pay them today is to listen to them and more on God's behalf through them — through the veil which separates time from eternity — when the time comes, remember — I think they would say —
THEME

Remember

8. We who have died sympathize with you who live—
no state of separation is in our hearts and no
loneliness in our souls—we know now that all
the mourning over Death is on our side of
the valley—we wait for you but it is not the
waiting of absence and pain; it is the same
quiet waiting of those who know that their loved
ones will come and that they will not be late—
9. But even before we meet again there are a
few things we should like to say to you—we
would like to think that you will now listen
to us as you have never listened before—that
our graves have given us a measure of authority
and power which we, when we were young, did not
have in life—

Now or

10. We would ask you to renew your remembrance
of us as an act of dedication to the towns
which remain under— that you will think your
days and years to the bringing of a little more
justice and truth and honor and money into
the world—for this we died—and our death
will be a memory if you will not remember—
till our country, our nation again that a land
is not great because of the abundance of things
that it possesses—that great wealth does not
make a great nation—that bombs and
missiles and arm w do not make it great—

That there are not the things for which we
died—we died for the things of the heart and
the soul— for freedom, for charity, for justice, for
peace— if you forget these, you forget us—and
THEME  

Remember

we shall have died in vain - but if you remember - then we shall sleep in peace in the
far and lonely courts of distant lands - then we shall know that there are great horizons
and happy days before you became we died - and that you will follow us into immortality
by placing your mortality at the foot of
God and earth and fellowship.

11. Remember - we may have been unwear soldiers - but we found no more reason to God - on of
us write many years ago:

"The stars on shining bright above the camp
The boys call the sky and clear
Over the hills the mistcuddled motor lamps
Dwindle and disappear.

The notes of Taps arise and blend
With the low marshmellow horn from far and broad.
And swell into that question at its end
They are the rite of Obed -
Whether the dead within the endless ground
Will ever one throw their crosses off
And rise triumphant from each mound
To greet the coming day?"

12. The answer be that question, we new men,
brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of our Alma
Mater - is Yea - a triumph, a shout, Yea -

13. When the time came, remember - this is
the end of our quest for remembrance - the
end of our labor -

14. God we? Perhaps only a whispered prayer:
"The trumpet and the shooting drum - etc.
The Sepulchre and the dust are cheer - etc.