

12-13-1956

Notes: Christmas Vesper: Christmas Nevertheless, 1956

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DATE 12/13/46 OCCASION Vesper

THEME Christmas Nevertheless

1. If you have thought about the topic printed in your program "Christmas Nevertheless" - you have probably said to yourself "that's a natural, obvious choice." We, the U. family, have had a common experience & a common loss which could conceivably dim our Christmas joy & happiness. We lost the auditorium, hallowed & consecrated by the memory of many Christmases, in which these vesper were always conducted. We lost the candleabra which gladdened such special ^{holy} warmth at Christmas vesper - & we hold in our hearts the bitter-sweet memory of the many solemn occasions when the U. family met for meditation & prayer when the whips of God were whistling through the U. in judgment - or, ^{winning} His mercy was clear & holy on the horizon of our lives. Dec. 8, 1941 - Memorial services - V.I. day - Homecoming services - bacchanals.
2. And so we must tonight in an atmosphere of loss & sorrow - the topic "Christmas Nevertheless" thrust itself upon us. And the "nevertheless" has already come true - our Xmas lights have not been dimmed & our candles have not been silted - our Xmas faith has not died & our Christmas hope is stronger than ever. Out of the ashes, ^{in the} good & great things have already come. the united spirit of our student-body - their devotion to their Alma Mater - the ready help of our friends - the loyalty of our alumni - tomorrow morning -

DATE 12/13/56 OCCASION _____THEME Christmas Nevertheless

3. And so - we shall have an unusually happy Christmas - because in the light of the fire we have again seen the mercy of God, the loyalty of our students, and the becoming, challenging greatness of the year that lies before us - we have lost something but we have gained more - and we shall go on in the comforting assurance that God has again had His own way with us - and as always & forever - it is good - and right - and mysteriously blessed.
4. And so I can tonight apply the "nevertheless" of Christmas in 1956 to ^{more} personal & universal issues of life & time - every Christmas is really a nevertheless - we celebrate it ^{not} because of something ^{but} despite something - because of God & despite ourselves - because of His love and despite our sin - because of eternity & despite the stain of time - because of heaven & despite the world - there is always a nevertheless in the Christian faith and it never appears more clearly than on Christmas Eve when ^{above} the roar of cities and bombs & gun the listening heart can hear the whisper of a Baby and the soft rustle of angels wings - nevertheless -
5. Nevertheless Christmas - 10 years more - 1956 (II)