



Did you know Ray Palmer...

Ray Palmer's early life was spent at Boston, where he joined the Park Street Congregational Church, then under the pastoral care of Dr. S. E. Dwight.

He attended Phillips Andover Academy, where he and Oliver Wendell Holmes were classmates. He continued his education at Yale University where he graduated in 1830, and was ordained a Congregational minister in 1835. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Union College in 1852.

On December 10, 1850, Ray was installed as the first pastor of the newly-formed First Congregational Church of Albany, New York. Here he continued for fifteen most fruitful years of labor, until April 18, 1866, when he was dismissed to accept the secretaryship of the American Congregational Union, in New York City. Here he served the churches for twelve years, or until May 1, 1878, during which time more than 600 churches were elected by the aid of this society.

He was also pastor of other churches and wrote extensively for the quarterlies, and for the literary and religious press generally. He published six or seven volumes in prose, besides numerous discourses, and three or four volumes of hymns and other poems. Probably the best known of his hymns was "My Faith Looks Up to Thee."

He wrote these words while employed as a teacher at a private girls' school in New York. He had experienced a difficult year of illness and loneliness and was inspired to write this verse one night after meditating on a German poem that depicted a sinner kneeling before the cross of Christ.

...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism
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Call To Worship

L: We gather together, to ask the Lord's blessing

C: God chastens and hastens, divine will to make known

L: The world's constant oppressors will cease from distressing

C: For we have the voice, and heart, and will to be God's pilgrim people

L: Come, let us worship as God's pilgrim people

Invocation (in unison)

Gracious God, we thank You for Jesus Christ, who inspired our ancestors to be who they became, and for each like revelation of Yourself in the hearts of all who followed them in the last four centuries. Teach us to know that Christ can inspire us this and every hour to be what we ought to be ourselves. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard