



## Did you know Charles Sheldon...

In 1896, a series of Sunday sermons by the Rev. Charles Sheldon, pastor of First Congregational Church in Topeka, became one of the best selling novels of all time. Each sermon was a chapter in a story about the transformation of a town whose residents vowed to live by the slogan, "What Would Jesus Do?"

*In His Steps* imagined how different the world would be if Christians lived by the ethical teaching of Jesus. The story begins when a down and out visitor in town, whose appeals for help had been ignored by the pastor and other members, stands up in a Sunday church service and says to the congregation, "I heard you sing, All for Jesus, and your pastor preached that Christians must follow in the steps of Jesus. There is an awful lot of trouble in the world that somehow wouldn't exist if all the people who hear such sermons and sing such songs went and lived them out." The Pastor, deeply convicted issued a challenge to the congregation, "I want volunteers from First Church who will pledge themselves for an entire year not to attempt anything without first asking the question, 'What would Jesus do?'"

*In His Steps* captured perfectly the spirit of the Social Gospel movement in this one compelling phrase. Rev. Sheldon supported the equality of the races, women's right to vote, and the compassionate treatment of animals, because he believed that is what Jesus would do.

## ...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism  
Learn more about our Congregational History at [naccc.org](http://naccc.org)



## Call To Worship

L: Each day will have its trials

**C: Each day we'll see God's grace**

L: For God has promised surely

**C: To bless us in our place**

L: May we live with a pilgrim's spirit

**C: This hour and every day**

L: To cast our lot upon the Lord

**C: In work, in worship, and in play**

## 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. Norm Erlendson

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard