



Did you know David Brainerd...

David Brainerd begins his missionary work among the Native Americans of New Jersey, having previously worked in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. The New Jersey natives showed more interest than most. He accomplished his work under great personal difficulty traveling over 3,000 miles on horseback.

He was born on April 20, 1718, in Connecticut. His father was a farmer and a legislator who died in 1727. His mother died shortly after, and David was raised by an older sister. He did not enjoy farming, and prepared for the ministry at Yale.

His training was cut short as a result of his involvement in a student-led religious revival movement and for his criticism of faculty and staff. He became part of the 'New Lights' movement, and entered into missionary work with the support of the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian knowledge.

Throughout his short life, David suffered from chronic ill health and depression, besides lack of food and loneliness. He became so ill that he was unable to continue his work in New Jersey. He moved into the home of Jonathan Edwards and remained there until his death from tuberculosis in 1747. He was buried in Northampton, Massachusetts.

His diary, published by Jonathan Edwards, became a major force in promoting missions work, inspiring missionaries like William Carey, Henry Martyn, and Thomas Coke.

...was a Congregationalist?

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Call To Worship

L: Laus Deo.

C: Praise be to God.

L: This is the first inclination when we gather for .

C: Laus Deo. We gather to praise and thank God for this hour .

L: May our prayers and songs honor the saints of old and the presence of the Spirit among us.

Invocation (in unison)

Since the landing of our Pilgrim forebears, our worship has changed – it is less somber, with more music, condensed so often in an hour. What we still share with them in worship, is our constant need for courage to live as Christ would have us live. Come to us, Lord God. Imbue us with the adventurous spirit not only of the Pilgrims of old, but the pilgrims centuries earlier, both of whom gathered regularly on the Lord's day in simple surroundings to worship You with thanks. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard