



Did you know Lyman Abbott...

Lyman Abbott distinguished himself as a Congregational clergyman, magazine publisher, editor, author, and populist social reformer. During the 1860's he pastored churches in Terra Haute and New York City. Abbott was opposed to slavery, and after the Civil War served on the Freedman's Bureau, the agency formed to protect the interests of former slaves against discrimination.

In 1869 he resigned his pastorate and entered the publishing profession. He founded and edited the *Illustrated Christian Weekly*. He also co-edited *The Christian Union* with the illustrious Henry Ward Beecher. When Beecher died in 1887, Abbott was selected to edit and publish Beecher's papers and write his biography. He also succeeded Beecher as pastor of Plymouth Church in Brooklyn.

As editor-in-chief of *The Christian Union*, later renamed *Outlook*, Abbott allied the magazine with the Social Gospel Movement. In *Christianity and Social Problems*, (1897), he attempted to find a middle way between socialism and the monopolistic capitalism. He was a supporter of Teddy Roosevelt's progressive social policies. He was also a defender of the theory of evolution. He wrote two books, *The Evolution of Christianity* and *The Theology of an Evolutionist*, in which he applied the concept of evolution in a Christian theological perspective. When World War I broke out Lyman Abbott became a strong voice in favor of American participation in the European war.

...was a Congregationalist?

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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