



Did you know Washington Gladden...

Washington Gladden was a Congregationalist minister who penned hundreds of articles and authored nearly forty books. He also wrote the popular hymn, "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee." However, he is best known as the father of the Social Gospel Movement which gave the gospel a social conscience.

Gladden believed in the redemption of individuals and social institutions. His Social Gospel perspective challenged local churches to take up issues of social justice by standing with prisoners, the oppressed and the sick, as Jesus did. He was an advocate for labor rights, a living wage, racial justice and world peace. He warned that widespread poverty and the concentration of vast wealth in the hands of a few was subversive to the very fabric of American society. He called for the application of the "Golden Rule" to all economic, business, political, and international relationships. Teddy Roosevelt was a friend of Gladden and a promoter of the Social Gospel. In the early 20th century Social Gospel proponents campaigned to enact a whole host of progressive reform measures to empower the common people against corporate monopolies and monied interests. Their political success in this brief period is remarkable.

Between 1913 and 1920 four amendments to the Constitution were adopted to establish a more just and equitable society. In his final years Gladden opposed American participation in World War I. His last book, *The Forks of the Road*, was an indictment of the growing spirit of militarism in America and the church.

...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 Erendson

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