

At Laurel Vesper Service Yesterday in Granville



Robed choral singers, with trumpet accompaniment, at Laurel Vespers yesterday afternoon in Granville as event of Laurel Week.

Don Jose Browning Photo

ONE THOUSAND AT IMPRESSIVE LAUREL SERVICE

Song and Prayer Turn Gran- ville Hilltop Into Out- door Cathedral

"Evil in Europe will disintegrate and give way to a better world as God has set great processes at work that will bring the ultimate triumph of right, truth and kindness, rather than the victory of brute force," was the message of hope and faith delivered by Dr. James Gordon Gilkey of Springfield at the Laurel Vespers in the impressive natural laurel amphitheater on the Phelon hill-top farm in Granville yesterday as one of the events of Laurel Week.

Laurel Banked Paths

About a thousand men and women of all ages and creeds joined in hymns of praise and the ringing notes of "God Bless America," with the old New England organ accompaniment played by Mrs. George Bailey. Passing along laurel-banked paths to the hill-top, visitors from many cities and states stood amidst the laurel and juniper facing a natural stage hewn out of grey ledges in ages past and set with laurel and pines pointing into the deep blue sky.

Winding up the pine-screene dpaths on either side of the stage, the black and white robed choral singers entered singing "God of Our Fathers," with trumpet accompaniment. Appropriately then came the song with words written by Miss Elisabeth Winslow, "There's Laurel on the Hills," as sung by the trio. The chorus sang, "The Lost Chord," and Mrs. Ida Lyons Scott, musical director, sang a solo, "If I but Lift Mine Eyes." The choral program included "Oh God Our Help

One Thousand

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in Ages Past," and "Fariest Lord Jesus," the Crusaders' hymn.

"Just as God has put the processes of the coming of the spring and the rebirth of this glorious laurel bloom after it has lain dormant under winter snow, and as the dawn comes after night, there are processes below the surfaces of history that give stability, strength and meaning to life," said Dr. Gilkey in his inspirational address. "We cannot stop the coming of spring or dawn, and man cannot interfere with them. Neither can we interrupt or delay the moral forces that are God's processes.

Moral Truths Live On

"There are moral laws and truths in which we may find courage to face these tragic times. The triumph or right is a moral law written on tablets of eternity. Falsehood, cruelty and unrighteousness must go down to defeat and at long last the ideals of truth and righteousness will win their way to a better world. Some of the processes in the world which give us courage today are:

"First: there are many men and women who have brave ideals for society and tons of bombs cannot destroy these ideals which seek friendship not slaughter, co-operation, not killing.

"Second, new leaders will arise. Even if violence and hatred everrun Europe, in a million homes in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, France and other countries boys and girls will be trained to think courageous thoughts and to plan a world organized around friendship, not force. By and by, when those boys and girls become new leaders, they will bring about a happier day. Men go down in slaughter, but strong men keep coming on through the generations.

"Third, evil is self-destructive. This is the record of all history. Down through the ages the nations have fallen from want of righteousness. They will again.

"Fourth, whatever his race, the Christian believes that God gives every human being new life after death. Just as this beauty that surrounds us rises each spring with new life and new beauty, so we believe the personality continues its growth in some new realm as one of the processes God has put into life".

Kindly Hospitality

Winding down pathways cut deep in laurel, pines and juniper, men and women passed through the laurel reservation gateway to find a friendly greeting from the kindly owners of the laurel hill-top pasture, Mr. and Mrs. Austin T. Phelon. The grey-haired farmer pumped cool well-water for the strangers at his gate, and gladly shared with them the beauty Nature had lavished on that rocky New England farm.

Each day throughout Laurel Week, some farmer shares his laurel-laden pastures with all who care to enjoy the laurel displays. On Tuesday there will be members of the Westfield River Parkway Association to guide those who wish to join the laurel tour leaving Grandmothers' Garden at 3 o'clock. The route will take them to Major Nelson Farm, West Granville and Granville State Forest. At 6.30 there will be a strawberry ice cream supper served in Old Academy Hall, West Granville by the ladies of the town. Reservations should be made with Mrs. George H. Aldrich, telephone, West Granville, 3369.

For those who wish to visit the West Granville laurel reservation without joining the tour, the route will follow route 10 to Southwick, turn right at church onto route 57 and proceed along the beautiful gorge road to West Granville where the laurel reservation gateway will be seen on the left. The state forest road is a left-hand road just before reaching the Major Nelson farm.

State Police received many compliments for the manner in which they handled the heavy traffic at the Laurel Vespers service when the long line of automobiles with registration plates from Florida, Illinois, Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts joined the procession on Phelon Hill, West Granville, two miles beyond Cobble Mountain Reservoir.