

First Presbyterian Church

IOWA CITY, IOWA



A LITANY OF DEDICATION

for

BIBLE MARKERS

and

A PULPIT SCARF



Placed in

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Iowa City, Iowa

AS A MEMORIAL TO

Matthew Garvin Slemmons

a member of this church from 1867 until 1906

by several families of his descendants



Dedicated at

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE BUILDING

Sunday

December 2, 1956

It has been the custom of the people of God in all ages to make beautiful the place of the worship of the Lord. When God had redeemed the people from their slavery in Egypt and they were wandering in the wilderness, they made a Tabernacle. It was made of blue and purple and scarlet and lamb skins dyed red with fittings of silver and gold. When they had entered into the land which God promised to their fathers to give them, a good land and large, they built the temple. We read that there were forms of lilies and pomegranates, with bulls and cherubim worked in cedar and in gold.

We in our church here have inherited from the fathers of this church, the simple, gentle beauty of this Sanctuary. And from time to time we have desired to seek to add to and enhance that beauty, that we may be reminded to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

So today there have been put at the place of the lessons of the Holy Scripture some Bible bookmarks. And on the pulpit has been placed a pulpit scarf.



The Marker for the Old Testament Lesson bears the symbol of the Alpha and Omega, the Bible's own symbol of the Eternity of God. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord, the Beginning and the Ending." (Revelation 21:6)



The Marker for the New Testament Lesson bears the symbol of the Chi Rho, the first two letters of the name Christ, one of the most ancient symbols of the church to designate the Lord Jesus Christ.



The Pulpit Scarf bears the sign of the Celtic Cross. This form of cross was used by the Irish monk, Columba, whose faith and strategy won Scotland from paganism to the Christian Church in a single generation. Sending out his monks two by two in the sixth century, they won a whole nation for Christ. Later, the Roman obedience substituted the Latin Cross in those northern lands; but with the coming of the Reformation there was a return to the use of this Celtic Cross, as a continuing symbol that the Church sets Jesus Christ and his Cross at the center, and seeks the Word in an ancient and pure form. To indicate that we would have Jesus Christ and His cross at the center of all preaching here; and to relate our church to its roots in Scotland and North Ireland, we have chosen a Celtic Cross for the Pulpit Scarf.

These things are given to the Glory of God and the Beauty of His Church as a memorial to Matthew Garvin Slemmons, member of this church from 1867 until 1906; the gift is made by several families of his descendants.

And now by prayer and thanksgiving let us dedicate these things to the uses of this holy place.

Minister: O God our Father, who didst lead Thy people of old to free them from the slavery of Egypt,

People : **With grateful hearts we worship Thee, O God.**

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, who didst call Thy disciples unto Thee to give them the saving health of Thy word,

People : **With grateful hearts we worship Thee, O God.**

Minister: Holy Spirit, who didst descend with fire to give power and a message to Thy church,

People : **With grateful hearts we worship Thee, O God.**

Minister: Lord God who didst give Thy law unto Moses, Thy songs unto David and Thy guiding Word unto Thy chosen prophets,

People : **Teach us to be obedient to Thy Holy Word, O Lord.**

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, who didst promise Thy coming to the Holy People of God's Chosen Nation,

People : **Teach us to be obedient to Thy Holy Word, O Lord.**

Minister: Holy Spirit, who didst inspire Thy Word in the minds and hearts of prophet and psalmist, teach us to read, mark and inwardly digest all that Thou hast set before us here.

People : **Teach us to be obedient to Thy Holy Word, O Lord.**

Minister: Lord God, who didst send Thine angels to sing peace on earth and glory in the highest at the birth of Thy Holy Son;

People : **Grant us hearts to receive the salvation of His Gospel, our Father.**

Minister: Lord Jesus Christ, who didst empty thyself to take our humanity upon Thee, and wast made man for our salvation,

People : **Grant us hearts to receive the salvation of Thy Gospel, O Christ.**

Minister: Holy Spirit, Guide, Comforter and Friend, who didst pour Thy Word into the hearts of evangelists and apostles so that all men might be brought to a saving knowledge of the truth of Christ,

People : **Grant us hearts to receive the salvation of His Gospel, O Lord.**

Minister: O God, that Thou mayest use them to remind us to read Thy Word with carefulness,

People : **We dedicate these Bible Markers and this Pulpit Scarf to Thee, O God.**

Minister: O God, that Thou mayest use them to remind us to hear Thy Word with gladness,

People : **We dedicate these Bible Markers and this Pulpit Scarf to Thee, O God.**

Minister: O God, that Thou mayest use it to remind us that the preaching of Thy Word must always set the Lord Jesus Christ at the center of it,

People : **We dedicate these Bible Markers and this Pulpit Scarf to Thee, O God.**

Minister and People together: Lord God, we praise Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for the reading and the hearing and the preaching of Thy saving Word among all peoples. Pour out Thy Spirit upon all flesh that men shall hear of Thy love in Jesus Christ, and accept the gift of life which Thou dost give through Him; even Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Father and Spirit be praise and adoration forever and ever.

Choral Amen



Matthew Garvin Slemmons and one of his grandsons

Born February 11, 1818

Died August 22, 1906

Mr. Slemmons came to Iowa City in 1867 from Cadiz, Ohio. In his former home he operated a large blacksmith shop and woodworking establishment. He not only put shoes on horses, having made the shoes by hand; but he also manufactured wagons, making all the parts in his own shop, and the knives of the community were also made by him.

When he came to Johnson County he settled on a farm five miles southeast of Iowa City, where he resided until his death. Immediately upon his arrival here he joined this church, and was active in its life through the rest of his years.

He was known as a man who permitted no drinking or swearing among his employees or on his premises. An honest, kindly man, he proclaimed his faith by his way of life.

"He that endures unto the end, behold, I will give him a crown of life, says the Lord."