

COLLECTION 133: Sermons of Robert Ellsworth Green, 1955-1980

Administrative Information

Title:

Sermons of Robert Ellsworth Green, 1955-1980

Collection Identifier:

CFT00133

Creators:

Green, Robert E.

Size:

7 Boxes, 3 linear feet

Repository:

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Biography

Robert Ellsworth Green (1911-1991) served as a pastor in the Methodist church for 34 years. He married Dorothea Scott (1920-2000) and the two served as pastor and wife for three years while he attended Boston University School of Theology, 1930-1932. His BU Master's thesis is entitled "Hosea's Conception of God." After his education was completed, Mr. Green and his wife moved to Indiana where they served churches in the Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church and the South Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, which Robert Green also served as Secretary. His appointments included churches in Evansville, Boonville, Mount Vernon, Jeffersonville, Belford, Greenwood, Franklin and Indianapolis. In 1961, the Greens were delegates to the World Methodist Conference in Oslo.

Dorothea Scott Green became a member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Committee in 1973, and was appointed to the Indiana Governor's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission and the Indiana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She served as Secretary, Vice president and President of the South Indiana Conference of United Methodist Women. As President, she served as a trustee of Methodist Hospital and as a Director of the Franklin United Methodist Home. Bishop Rueben Mueller appointed her to the General Board of the National Council of Churches.

In 1972, Mrs. Green was the first woman elected as first delegate to the General Conference of her church. From 1972 to 1976, she served on the General Council of Ministries (the church's governing body) and as Chairman of the Committee on Communications. During these years, she was a member of the Committee on the Episcopacy. In 1974, she was the first woman elected to be president of the Indiana Council of Churches. In 1976, she was elected as a delegate to the North Central Jurisdiction Conference and was a member of the Board of Global Ministries, the Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns and the Indiana Area Commission on Communications.

Among many honors, Mrs. Green received the Brotherhood Award from the National Council of Christians and Jews in 1975; the Community Service Award from the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis in 1990; the Roy Wilkins Individual Award in 1993, and the Service to Mankind Award for 1996-1997 from the Tri-County Sertoma Club. She also was named an Unsung Hero by the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy in 1999.

Scope and Content

This is a collection of the sermons of Robert E. Green who served as a pastor in the Methodist church for 34 years. Included are the Bulletins from Wall Street Methodist Church, Jeffersonville, Indiana from 1955 to 1957; First Methodist Church, Bedford, Indiana from 1958 to 1961; Grace Methodist Church, Franklin, Indiana from 1958 to 1965; First Methodist, Mount Vernon, Indiana from June 1966 to 1968; First United Methodist, Sullivan from 1968 to 1971; United Methodist, Fortville from 1971 to 1973 and Mt. Olive United Methodist Church from 1973 to 1977. In addition there are papers documenting events attended by the Greens as well as a twenty page history of Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church, 1839-1939.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series as follows:

Series 1: Biographical papers documenting events attended by the Greens, their areas of service and a twenty page history of Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church. (Box 1)

Series 2: Sermons, arranged chronologically and according to the Church in which they were preached. Most sermons were inserted into the Bulletin for that day's service. (Box 2-6)

Series 3: Bulletins to which no sermon was attached, arranged in chronological order. (Box 7)

Box Inventory

SERIES 1

Box 1: Biographical information

Folder	Item	Date/note
1	Biographical Sketch of Dorothea Green written by Robert E. Green	c. 1977
2	Personal papers	
3	Prayers, sermon notes and resources	
4	Weddings	
5	Obituary of Dorothea S. Green	2000
6	Program for a Women's Society meeting, including remarks by Robert E. Green	1961
7	Letter head, South Indiana Annual Conference, Robert Green secretary	
8	A Faith for Today. Mid-Winter Institute, Johnson County Teachers Association	2/7/64
9	Franklin Community High School Commencement Exercises	6/3/65
10	Hampton Methodist, Georgia. Robert E. Green, guest preacher	4/23/72
11	Bulletins Central Ave. United Methodist Church, Indianapolis	1976, 1977
12	Program of the Indiana Faith & Order Conference Nov 1977 with notes	1977
13	Zionsville United Methodist, Indiana. Bulletin. Prayer by Green	1/1/78
14	Pastors and History of the Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church 1839-1939; Main Street Methodist Church 1939-1968; Main Street United Methodist Church 1968-1976. 20 p. booklet	1976
15	Clipping – Pyramid going up in Bedford	1980

SERIES 2

Box 2: Sermons, Wall Street Methodist Church, Jeffersonville, Indiana 1955-57 and First Methodist Church, Bedford, Indiana 1958.

Folder	Sermon Title	Date/note
1	A Fellowship of Saints	6/26/55
2	On Thinking Realistically about Christ	7/17/55
3	Sing Unto the Lord	9/18/55
4	God, the Word	11/27/55
5	The Power of Perfect Love	1/8/56
6	This is the Life	1/22/56
7	What do You Seek to Prove?	2/5/56
8	Our Caste System	Feb 1954, 2/12/56
9	Tongues to Sing	2/19/56

10	Thy Name is Love	2/26/56
11	Investing in That Which Lasts	4/22/56
12	Except the Lord Build the House	5/6/56
13	The Alchemy of Mother Love	5/13/56
14	The Vulnerability of Love	5/27/56
15	The Faith of the Early Church	7/8/56
16	The Judgment of Life	7/15/56
17	Our Faith in Life	7/22/56
18	The Compassion of Jesus	3/27/55; 7/29/56
19	The Fearlessness of Jesus	8/12/56
20	The Sternness of Jesus	8/19/56
21	One People in All the World	9/16/56
22	The Search for Certainty	9/23/56
23	A Mighty Fortress	10/28/56
24	The Greatest Calling on Earth	11/4/56
25	The Necessity of Thanksgiving (notes)	11/18/56
26	Come Before Winter	11/11/56
27	On Treating People as Persons	11/25/56
28	The Word of Life	12/14/52; 12/9/56
29	The Hope of All the Earth	12/15/56
30	Having a Tender Care Lest Any Be Lost.	1/13/57
31	A Redeeming Fellowship	1/27/57
32	The Grace of Fellowship.	2/3/57
33	The Basis for Brotherhood	2/10/57
34	Friends of the Master.	2/17/57
35	Children of Light.	3/3/57
36	The Call to Christian Perfection.	3/10/57
37	Our Deepest Need (And its Cure)	3/17/57
38	The Quest for Meaning	3/17/57
39	In the Secret Place	3/24/57
40	The Lowliest of Kings.	4/14/57
41	The Highest Gift of All.	5/5/57
42	The Press of the Years	6/30/57
43	The People of God	7/21/57
44	Children of Promise	7/28/57
45	A Christian Every Day	8/4/57
46	The Kingship of Christ	8/25/57
47	My Master was a Workman	9/1/57
48	A People with Zeal	9/8/57
49	The Need for Sound Learning	9/15/57
50	Great Expectations	10/13/57
51	The Heart of Protestantism	10/27/57
52	The Gospel for Today	11/3/57
53	The Prejudiced Man	11/10/57

54	The Disturbed Man	1957, '58, 11/26/61, '65, '71
55	The Need to Be Somebody	2/2/58
56	Person to Person	2/9/58
57	Like Cattle in a Storm	2/16/58
58	The Majesty of God	6/13/54; 2/23/58
58	The Body of the Lord	4/20/58
60	The Glory of Eternal Partnership	4/27/58
61	An Appointment with God. Insert: List of Women's Society Officers for the year	5/4/58
62	The Yoke of Youth. 1958 Baccalaureate Service	5/25/58
63	The Church We Want to Have	6/1/58
64	How Great the Cloud of Witnesses	7/27/58
65	Men Among Machines (A Labor Day Sermon)	8/31/58
66	A Colony of Heaven	9/28/58
67	The Necessity of the Sacraments	10/5/58
68	The Major Requirements of Church Membership	10/12/58

Box 3: Sermons, First Methodist Church, Bedford, Indiana 1958-1961

Folder	Sermon Title	Date/note
1	My Responsibility	2/1/59
2	Conservation Through Liberality	2/8/59
3	The Darkness Within	2/22/59
4	The Communion of Saints	3/11/59
5	Blessed Assurance	3/15/59
6	Good Friday Service, 2 last pages of sermon	3/27/59
7	When Do We Have Enough?	4/5/59
8	Rendezvous With Life	5/31/59
9	Speak a Good Word	6/21/59
10	You Are the Body of Christ	7/12/59
11	Help From the Hills	8/16/59
12	Be Like a Tree. Methodist Hospital insert	8/23/59
13	What Kind of King?	8/30/59
14	Thou Shalt Earn Thy Bread	9/6/59
15	We Do Not Presume to Come	10/4/59
16	God's Rule Accepted, Rejected	10/25/59
17	On Good Terms With God	11/1/59
18	The New Frontier	12/29/59
19	When Honey Tastes Bitter	1/10/60
20	A House Without a Roof	1/17/60
21	For Want of a Nail	1/24/60
22	The Pilgrimage of an Outsider	2/28/60
23	Personalities of the Passion	3/6/60

24	Personalities of the Passion: Judas	3/13/60
25	Personalities of the Passion: Caiaphas	3/20/60
26	Personalities of the Passion: Pilate	3/27/60
27	Personalities of the Passion: James and John	4/3/60
28	Ride On in Majesty	4/10/60
29	The Day of Triumphant Gladness	4/17/60
30	The Power of Pentecost	6/5/60
31	Faith in the Third Dimension	6/12/60
32	The Challenge to Methodists	7/17/60
33	That We All May Know	7/24/60
34	How Wide is Your World?	7/31/60
35	Meaningful Labor	9/4/60
36	Our Faith in Education (a sermon for the opening of school)	9/11/60
37	The Joy of Living	9/18/60
38	The Peace That Jesus Gives	9/25/60
39	Are Beliefs Important?	10/9/60
40	One World? No Bulletin	10/16/60
41	Always Be Prepared	10/23/60
42	Here We Stand	10/30/60
43	The Lord's Men (servants)	11/6/60
44	Preparing for Christmas. Methodist Education insert	11/27/60
45	The Day of the Lord	12/4/60
46	The Highest Gift	12/11/60
47	Who is an Average Methodist?	1/29/61
48	Who is the Average Christian?	2/5/61
49	God's Law and Man's Defiance	2/19/61
50	God's Defeat and Man's Triumph	3/26/61
51	The True Test of Easter	4/9/61
52	God Does Business: the Economy of the Kingdom of God	4/23/61
53	Turn Round and Become Like Children	5/7/61
54	The Demands of Unlimited Responsibility	6/4/61
55	Our National Vision. No Bulletin	7/2/61
56	The Mind of Christ. No Bulletin	7/9/61

Box 4: Sermons, Grace Methodist Church, Franklin, Indiana 1958-1965

Folder	Sermon Title	Date/note
1	A New Creation	7/23/61
2	Sermon	10/8/61
3	Junior sermon: The Statue of Liberty	10/29/61
4	Here I Stand	10/29/61
5	In Christ is Our Peace	11/12/61
6	The Future is not Blank	1/10/58, 1/11/59, 1/21/62

7	The Faith that Unites Us	2/11/62
8	A Lively Sacrifice	3/11/62
9	With All Thy (Our) Hearts	3/18/62
10	With All Our Souls	3/25/62
11	With All Our Minds	4/1/62
12	With All Our Strength	4/8/62
13	The Note of Authority – Wednesday of Holy Week	4/15/62 & 4/18/62
14	A Sense of Proportion	5/19/57, 6/3/62
15	Things Money Can Buy	4/29/59, 7/1/62, 5/16/65
16	Speaking Truly	7/7/57, 7/8/62
17	The Nature of Disobedience	7/15/62
18	Hope for the Despairing	7/22/62
19	Is it the Will of God?	8/5/62
20	The Freedom we have in Christ	8/26/62
21	Our Noblest Work	9/2/62
22	The Church and Social Responsibility. Enclosure: The Social Creed of the Methodist Church	9/9/62
23	Reverence for Life	9/16/62
24	Religious Awakening, Our Task. Enclosure: Indiana Chain of Missions, Oct 7-12	9/30/62
25	The Weapons of Our Warfare. Enclosure: NCC message for World Order Sunday	9/21/62
26	They Sang a New Song	11/4/62
27	A Foundation that cannot be Shaken	11/25/62
28	God Gives the Law	12/9/62
29	The Crowded Ways	1/13/63
30	Our of the Darkness	1/27/63
31	The Right to Command	3/3/63
32	The Jealousy of God	3/10/63
33	Respect for Tradition	3/17/63
34	Our Moral Bill of Rights	3/24/63
35	Romans, and Our Need	5/5/63
36	Romans and Our Response to Grace	5/13/63
37	The Power of the Abundant Life	7/20/58, 7/16/61, 8/18/63
38	The Exalted Christ	8/25/63
39	The Warnings of Christ	9/8/63
40	Christian Nurture in the Church	9/15/63
41	The Royal Priesthood	10/27/63
42	The Communion of Saints	11/3/63
43	The Stewardship of Intercession and Witness	11/17/63
44	The Crib and Cross are One Wood	12/22/63
45	The Almighty Father	2/23/64

46	The All-Sufficient Spirit	3/1/64
47	The Holy Catholic Church. Girl Scout Week enclosure.	3/8/64
48	The Forgiveness of Sins	3/15/64
49	The Triumph of Love	4/22/62, 3/29/64
50	The Eternal Christ	4/26/64
51	He Set a Child in Our Midst	5/3/64
52	The Faith that Separates Us	6/7/64
53	What Kind of a Church do we Need?	6/63, 6/28/64
54	Our Fathers' God	7/5/64
55	God Calls His People	7/12/64
56	Conditions of Discipleship: Counting the Costs	7/19/64
57	Conditions of Discipleship: Family Relationships	7/26/64
58	Conditions of Discipleship: Meeting the Adversary	8/16/64
59	Deliverance to the Captives. No Bulletin	10/4/64
60	For the Glory of God	10/18/64
61	The Word is Commitment. Enclosure: Methodists Believe in Abstinence	11/8/64
62	God's Self – Unveiling His Creation	11/29/64
63	God's Word to the Church	12/13/64
64	We Would See Jesus	1/17/65
65	Some Peculiar Doctrines	1/31/65
66	God Finds a Prophet	2/28/65
67	Signature of Death. Church Conference	3/21/65
68	The Parable of the Wicked Tenants	3/28/65
69	Unexpected Devotions	4/4/65
70	Immortal Tidings in Mortal Hands	4/21/63, 5/23/65
71	The Joy of Our Religion	6/22/58, 6/27/65
72	Christianity and the Adversary	8/1/65
73	Pay As You Go	8/8/65
74	Fishers of Men	8/15/65

Box 5: Sermons, Grace Methodist Church, Franklin, Indiana 1965 - March 1966; First Methodist, Mount Vernon, Indiana June 1966 – 68; First United Methodist, Sullivan 1968-70

Folder	Sermon Title	Date/note
1	Joining the World	9/5/65
2	The Marks of the Church: the Apostles' Teaching	9/12/65
3	The Christian's Use of money	11/14/65
4	The God Who is Alive	1/30/66
5	The God Who is Righteous	2/13/66
6	The Visible and the Invisible. Enclosure: The Church in Mission	3/6/66
7	The Ministry of Faith	5/22/66
8	Faith and the Future	7/31/66

9	The Word for Faith	8/21/66
10	The Dignity of Work	9/1/63, 9/4/66
11	Dead and Gone	1/22/67
12	Our Common Worship	9/29/63, 2/5/67
13	That We May All Be One	4/23 & 30/67
14	The Enthronement of Christ	5/7/67
15	Notes on discipline. Enclosure: All Nature Sonis	9/30/67
16	The Ultimate Concern	10/8/67
17	An Alternative to War	10/22/67
18	Man's Search for a Meaningful Faith	11/5/67
19	Jesus, the Name High Over All	11/26/67
20	Shall We Look for Another?	12/17/67
21	The Truly Faithful	1/7/68
22	A Fire Left Burning	1/21/68
23	Water and Worship	2/11/68
24	From Sick Love to Self-Love	3/10/68
25	One Church – The United Methodist Church. Brochure	4/28/68
26	Traveling Light	5/19/68
27	The Power of Transforming Love	6/20/65, 6/26/66, 6/2/68
28	Who is My Neighbor?	6/9/68
29	Climbing Jacob's Ladder	6/23/68
30	Experiment in Revolt	7/7/68
31	The God Who Overlooks	7/14/68
32	The Struggle for the Faith	6/11/67, 8/3/68
33	A Large Upper Room Furnished	5/14/67, 8/25/68
34	Imprisoned for Christ	9/8/68
35	The Keys to the Kingdom, outline	9/15/68
36	How Do We Tell It?	9/29/68
37	Reformation Sunday. Hidden in Great Events. Enclosure: Family Worship	10/30/66, 10/27/68
38	Hidden in the Bible	11/6/66, 11/4/68
39	Hidden in Sorrow	11/13/66, 11/11/68
40	The Blessing of the Lord	11/24/68
41	Come Lord Jesus	11/27/66, 12/3/67, 12/1/68
42	Crisis in Worship	1/12/69
43	Crisis in Religious Education	1/16/69
44	Crisis in Church Music	1/26/69
45	Crisis in Church Finance	2/2/69
46	Happy are the Poor in Spirit. Enclosure	2/9/69
47	Beyond the Law	3/16/69
48	King for a Day	3/30/69
49	The Whole Man. Eventide Lenten Service	3/30/69

50	The Quest for Forgiveness	3/31/69
51	Who Asks the Questions?	4/1/69
52	The Uniqueness of the Christian Faith	4/2/69
53	From Reluctance to Rejoicing	5/4/69
54	The Vital Roots of Our Faith	5/20/57, 5/27/62, 5/25/69
55	Not As Sheep Without a Shepherd	7/6/69
56	Authentic Worship	7/13/69
57	The Celebration of the Gospel	7/20/69
58	The Sacrament of Holy Communion	8/3/69
59	The Good Steward	8/31/69
60	I Will Be Loyal to the Methodist Church	11/2/69
61	The Doctrine of the Church	11/9/69
62	Christ and Our Expectations	11/30/69
63	Christ and Our Principles	12/7/69
64	God Redeems	3/1/70
65	God Hears	3/8/70
66	When Faith Falters	4/19/70
67	Who Will be Justified?	4/26/70
68	Love is Eternal	5/10/70
69	The Ground of Our Hope	5/31/70
70	Truly Human, Truly Christian	10/10/70
71	That the Purpose of His Coming be Fulfilled	10/28/70

Box 6: Sermons, First United Methodist, Sullivan Indiana 1971; United Methodist, Fortville and Sermons with no date.

Folder	Sermon Title	Date/note
1	Lights for the World	1/17/71
2	This World – Its Life Style	1/31/71
3	What is Salvation?	2/7/71
4	The Persuasion of Power	2/21/71
5	The Forgiveness of Sin	3/28/71
6	The Thwarted Christ	4/4/71
7	The Greatness of Jesus	4/18/71
8	the Next Ten Years	5/16/71
9	The Shepherd's Psalm	6/6/71
10	Let's Get it All Together. Fortville	6/20/71
11	Christ is Lord, Christ is King	8/29/71
12	The Church Encourages Friendship	9/12/71
13	The Church is Foolish	9/19/71
14	The Church is Exciting	9/26/71
15	A Cloud of Witnesses	10/31/71
16	A Goodly Heritage	11/7/71

17	Where is the Christ?	1/2/72
18	Once Having Believed	1/23/72
19	Affirmation of Joy. World Day of Prayer	3/3/72
20	What it Means to be Filled with the Holy Spirit	3/5/72
21	One Holy Church of God	3/12/72
22	Forgiveness of Sin(s)	3/19/72
23	The Barren Fig Tree	3/26/72
24	The Triumph of Meekness	4/15/62, 4/7/68, 3/22/70, 3/26- 29/72
25	The Dawn of Another Day	4/5/70, 4/9/72
26	The Eternal Father	2/28/71, 2/20/72 revised
27	The Enthronement of Christ: Why Celebrate Ascension Day?	5/14/72
28	For the Beauty of the Earth	5/18/58, 5/5/68, 6/4/72
29	God Works in Our Common Ways	7/16/72
30	Chained for Hope	7/23/72
31	Trial By Fire	9/3/72
32	God's Purpose and Man's Will	3/5/61, 11/15/70, 9/10/72
33	The Judgment of God	9/17/72
34	The Simplicity of the Kingdom	10/22/72
35	Temperance and Compassion	11/12/72
36	Let This Mind Be in You	11/26/72
37	When a Manger was a Throne	12/31/72
38	Who Owns the Church?	1/26/58, 2/11/73
39	Creation in Crisis. Mt. Olive United Methodist	2/18/73
40	In the Name of Jesus	2/22/70, 2/25/73
41	You Can Be Made New	2/15/59, 2/4/73, 3/4/73
42	The Future Present	6/3/73
43	Faith Renewed or Abandoned	6/17/73
44	Who Makes a Church?	6/24/73
45	Miracles Do Happen.	3/28/76
46	The Lord is With Us.	4/22/59, 5/24/62, 9/24/72, 7/28/74, 7/31/77
47	The Great Rift. Prayers inserted	8/14/77
48	Uncomfortable Words.	2/24/80
49	The Lonely Greatness of the World.	n.d.
50	The Tragedy of the Empty Pew.	n.d.
51	The Church in the World.	n.d.
52	Reconciliation: Where Does it Begin? The Church in Reconciliation. 2 sermons	n.d.

53	The Invisible Church.	n.d.
54	Outliving Ourselves.	n.d.
55	The Gift of Fellowship.	n.d.
56	The Foundations Do Shake.	n.d.
57	The Faith Once Delivered.	n.d.
58	The Burden of Affluence. Funeral sermon.	n.d.

SERIES 3

Box 7: Bulletins with no Sermon included

Folder	Sermon Title	Date/note
1	Wall Street Methodist Church, Jeffersonville, Indiana	1955
2	Wall Street Methodist Church	1956-1957
3	First Methodist, Bedford, Indiana	1958
4	First Methodist, Bedford	1959
5	First Methodist, Bedford	1960
6	First Methodist, Bedford	1961
7-8	Grace Methodist Church, Franklin, Indiana	1958-1966
9	First Methodist, Mt. Vernon bulletins without sermons	1966-67
10	First Methodist, Mt. Vernon bulletins without sermons	Jan-May, 1968
11	First United Methodist, Sullivan, Indiana bulletins	July 1968 - 1970
12	First United Methodist, Sullivan, Indiana	1971
13	First United Methodist, Fortville, Indiana	1971-1973
14	Mount Olive United Methodist Church, Indianapolis	6/19/77