

Opening

"Who ~~shall~~^{may} ascend the hill of the Lord? And who ~~shall~~^{may} stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who ~~does~~^{has} not lifted up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceiffully. He will receive blessing from the Lord, and ~~vindication~~^{righteousness} from the God of his salvation"(Psalm 24:3-5)

Prayer

Our Father, who revealed your love to us in Jesus Christ, in this hour it comforts us to know that the freindship of our souls, with thee is eternal, and that nothing in life and death is able to separate us from thee. Committed to thy care, we face the future with calm confidence and inward joy, - through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN:

SCRIPTURE READING:

PRAYER

HYMN:

MEDITATION: KEEPING FAITH

The words which seem appropriate, today, are those of the Apostle Paul when he said, as he came to the close of his life, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faithh."(2 Tim 4.7)

Paul had been involved in the struggle against the enemies of mankind; He had made the most of life, leaving the world richer because of his living; And the Apostle Paul had keep the faith even as he had moved about the world. The world couldnot cause Paul to doubt the eternal presence of God.

Like the Apsole Paul, we can say of ~~Earnest~~^{Nate Emmons} Fox: "He fought the good fight, he finished the race, he kept the faith."

what do we mean, when we say Nat kept the faith?

^{Nate}
Ernest kept faith with his wife - La Moyné

When two people enter the marriage bond, they do so as an adventure of faith. Neither one knows that the other will always be attractive or cooperative. They accept each other on faith, taking their vows, "For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer." Faith is a lovely thing at the marriage altar, but it is far more lovely after many, many wedding anniversaries have been celebrated at which one can say, "Now abideth faith, hope, love -- but the greatest of these is love."

kind of man who kept faith with his wife - ^{Nate} ~~Ernest~~ was the ^{LAMOYNÉ} ~~Ernest~~ ^{His wife of 46 years} ~~(Sophie)~~

^{Secondly} ^{Not} II.
Furthermore, Ernest kept faith with his children ^{daughter - La Lorie}

When parents bring children into the world, that too, is an adventure of faith. They cannot be sure the child will be ~~normal/healthy~~ sick or in health. They do not know whether the child will bring honor or shame to the family; they proceed with faith. On the other hand, the child ~~can~~ cannot know whether the parents will keep faith with ^{her} ~~them~~. They may disappoint them, or forsake them. The poet Gilliam said of his father:

He was my own until I fully knew
And never could forget how deep and true
A father's love for his own son may be.
It drew me nearer God Himself; for He
Has loved His son. These are but grateful tears
That he was with me all those happy years.

^{Nate}
~~Ernest~~ was the kind of man who
kept faith with his ^{daughter} ~~children~~ - La Lorie.
And with his grandson - Nathan

3.

Again, ~~Ernest~~ kept faith with his friends.

And unknown poet has written:

My greatest joy on earth shall be,
To find at the turning of every road,
The strong hand of a comrade kind,
To help me onward with my ~~load~~ load.
But since I have no gold to give
And only love can make amends,
My daily prayer in life shall ~~be~~ be,
"God make me worthy of my frineds."

I believe this prayer was answered in the life of ~~Ernest Fox~~.

Truly, he was worthy of his friends.

4.

Then, most important of all, ~~Ernest~~ kept faith in ~~God~~.

~~Ernest~~ started early in ~~his~~ life with faith in God, and he kept that faith to the end. It was the realization that a greater power was behind his life that made him ~~expendable~~ *useful* for the Kingdom of God. He had faith that God had saved him - that God loved him - and that one day he would be with God in glory. He had faith that for those ~~who~~ *who* love the Lord, God has prepared a crown of righteousness .

In II Kings chapter 2 one can read the interesting conversation of Elijah with his young son in the faith, Elisha. The older prophet says, "Ask what ¹ shall do for you, before ¹ am taken from you." The young man with insight, and profound appreciation, responded, asking not for worldly inheritance, nor fame, nor honor, but rather, "I pray you, let me inherit a double portion of your spirit." How fitting a request for a son to ask, of a father.

How Fitting a request for us to ask of our Heavenly Father - a double portion of Nat's Spirit

Note

with His Lord and Saviour J.C.

There is one final thought I would like to leave with you today, Someone once said at the time of bereavement, "I feel that because I believe in God, I have all I need."... ~~To be sure~~ ^{It is true -}, Faith should be kept with our family and our friends, but faith, your faith, should be in God... For you see, human explanation and words are often empty and frustrating at such a ~~an~~ hour. But there is one who is everlasting to everlasting, the creator of life, the planner of death, the provider of eternal life..... ~~And~~ ^{Namely Jesus Our Lord} We who would be your friends give to you our love and our words of concern... But ~~the Lord~~ ^{The Lord Jesus} is able to give far more. For it is his love which will support you in your sorrow. It is his strength which will comfort you in your grief. So, seek ~~God~~ ^{Jesus} who makes the seven stars and turns the shadow of death into the morning of light... For it is Jesus who said..."I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and ~~if~~ believes in me shall never die. Do You believe this?"

Nate not only believed in Jesus, but Nate had that personal relationship of a son with a Father. "He fought a good fight... He finished the race... He kept the faith....."

AND ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SAID.....AMEN..