
Bethinking of Old Orleans

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EXPECTATIONS

On March 26, 1950 the Rev. Donald W. Lawson, Minister (1946-1951) of the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion preached from the pulpit a sermon entitled "The Minister's Great Expectations." This interior photo, looking west to the Tiffany window of the Resurrected Jesus, shows the pulpit in the middle ground. On that Sunday Mr. Lawson ended his sermon with a poem which has as much validity for any society today as it did over twenty nine years ago when he wrote it as follows:

If you'd like to have the kind of church
Like the kind of church you'd like,
You needn't stick your clothes in a grip,
And start on a long, long hike:
You'll only find what you left behind,
For there's nothing that's really new--
It's a knock at yourself when you knock at your church.
It isn't your church, it's you!

A good church is not made by folks afraid
'Lest somebody else get ahead,
But, when everyone works, and nobody shirks,
You can raise a church from the dead;
And if, while you're doing your level best,
Your neighbor will do his, too,
Your church will be what you want to see,
It isn't your church, it's you!