

The singing will be by the Relief Society Singing Mothers of the Salt Lake Region. Sister Florence Jepperson Madsen is the conductor, and Elder Frank W. Asper is the organist.

The first song will be "Come, Thou Glorious Day of Promise."

The opening prayer will be offered by President Virgil Smith of the Liberty Stake, Salt Lake City.

The Relief Society Singing Mothers sang the hymn, "Come, Thou Glorious Day of Promise."

Elder Virgil Smith, President of the Liberty Stake, offered the invocation.

Selection by the Relief Society Singing Mothers, "O Savior of the World."

PRESIDENT GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

This audience this morning would be an inspiration to any thoughtful person in the world. As I stand and look at your faces and realize that the house is filled to capacity, (at least there are people standing in various parts of the building who have not yet obtained seats) and this on a busy weekday when so many people are occupied with other affairs and unable to leave their homes, I know that this fine attendance indicates a faith that is commendable.

THE UPLIFT OF MUSIC

I am sure we have been uplifted by the glorious music of our Singing Mothers this morning, representing the greatest women's organization in all the world given to the work of charity and uplifting womankind. This group this morning who have just sung to us represent this particular region; and if you were to travel in different parts of the world, even into the South Seas, you would find a group of Singing Mothers in the various missions of the Church, who sing the same music that we sing here, but the hymns have been translated into their own languages, and they rejoice in singing praises to our Heavenly Father.

I wonder if there are any people in all the world who have as great reason to be thankful as this group assembled here this morning. Coming from various parts of the world, various mission fields are represented by those who have gathered for conference; many of you have come a long way to be present this morning.

SAFETY OF HAWAIIAN MISSIONARIES

For the comfort of those who are here or who may be listening in who have missionary representatives in the Hawaiian Islands, we are pleased to inform you that this morning we received a cablegram from Hawaii to the effect that while there has been considerable damage wrought by the recent tidal wave, much destruction of property,

and some loss of life among our members all the missionaries are reported safe.

THE WAY FOR PEACE

With the confusion and uncertainty that exist everywhere, surely we are blessed who are permitted to assemble under this spacious roof this morning in worship. What a privilege it is to live in an age of the world when we know that God lives, when we know that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and our Redeemer, and when we know that the Lord continues to manifest himself to his children who have prepared themselves to receive his blessings! I am looking into the faces of a great audience this morning, most of whom enjoy the inspiration of the Almighty, and when they pray, they pray to their Father in heaven knowing that their prayers will be answered in blessings upon their heads. We live in a day when the scripture is being fulfilled among the nations wherein the Lord said through one of his prophets, that in the latter-day, ". . . the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid." (Isaiah 29:14.) With all the wisdom of the world, no group thus far has been able to point the way for peace with the certainty that it is the way. We who are assembled here this morning are fortunate to know that there is a way for peace that alone will produce results, and that way is to keep the commandments of God as revealed to the children of men anciently and in our day. If that way were followed, all the problems that are so serious in the world could be solved, and peace would come to this unhappy earth.

DIVINE WATCHCARE

So, this morning, under the influence of prayer, coming as we have come to wait upon the Lord, surely his promise will be fulfilled to us that when even two or three shall meet together in his name, he will be there to bless them. What a comfort it is to realize that there is no mistake about it, that we are the children of our Heavenly Father, that he does love us, and because of his anxiety for our peace and welfare, in our day, sent another prophet to restore the gospel of Jesus Christ and to place in the Church divine authority, that men, as of ancient times, may hold the priesthood and officiate in the ordinances of the gospel of our Lord. No other people have that assurance as we have it. I do not say boastfully, but gratefully, that we know there is a God in heaven, that he is our Father, that he does interest himself in our affairs, and he has done that ever since the world began, when his first children were placed upon the earth.

One of his prophets long ago made the statement, and it has been fulfilled literally, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants, the prophets." All the important things that have happened in the world up to now have been foretold by the servants of the Lord, and the things that are oc-

curing and that will occur that are important will be revealed, if they have not already been, before those things occur. I think it is marvelous to know how close we are to our Heavenly Father, and I also think it is deplorable that some of us do not appreciate how near he is, for the reason that we have failed to measure up in many cases to his wise counsels.

A CHOICE LAND

We live in the most wonderful land in all the world, "... a land which is choice above all other lands," ((Ether 2:10) so stated by a prophet. Advantages are enjoyed by the people in this great western hemisphere, and particularly in the United States of America and Canada—opportunities and blessings that are not known in many parts of the world. We are permitted to worship God according to the dictates of our consciences. We can make our adjustments according to his rules and regulations and not be interfered with by those who are godless and who are anti-Christ in their attitude toward the human family. So this morning I feel that I am talking to a great family. We are all brothers and sisters. We are here to worship. This is not merely a convention. This is a conference of the representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who have come from their homes into this edifice which has been rendered sacred by those who have spoken from this very pulpit and who have assembled here ever since this building was constructed. It was erected in the poverty of the people, and no other place like it may be found in all the world. Often when it is vacant there is a spirit here that you will find in few places in the world. Many people have come here on a busy weekday as tourists, and as they have come under the shadow of this roof and looked through the building and have seen this great organ, with everything quiet, many of them have been moved to tears by the inspiration and influence that they have found here.

THE BLESSING OF LIFE

We are here as sons and daughters of the Living God, trying to work our way through life until we shall be worthy of an exaltation in the celestial kingdom. What a privilege it is! Oh, how I hope we appreciate it this morning and will continue to appreciate it as long as we live upon the earth! I hope that during the sessions of conference we may all come prepared to be fed the bread of life. I hope that we will come with a prayer in our hearts that those who address us may be inspired, that they may draw the inspiration necessary from our Heavenly Father to feed his flock. If we shall do that, when conference has been concluded, and the last prayer has been offered, there will return to our homes in the valleys of these everlasting hills and in the other states and territories and missions represented here, men and women who have realized fully and completely that we waited upon our Heavenly Father and he did not disappoint us.

PRAYER AND BLESSING

It is not my purpose to talk long this morning. I greet you and welcome you on behalf of the Church and say to you, it is a joy to look into your faces and be with you to worship and wait upon the Lord, with the assurance that he will hear and answer the prayers that have already been offered and that will continue to be offered, not only by those who speak audibly but by those who come here with a prayer in their hearts. I pray that the Spirit of the Lord may be in our homes and abiding places, that there may go out from this great conference influences that shall enrich the lives of those present and absent, that day by day we may let our light so shine that others seeing our good works will be constrained to glorify the name of our Heavenly Father.

I pray that his Spirit may be here in rich abundance this day that we many partake of its influence and be instructed and informed under that power that will enrich our lives and give us a feeling of gratitude that we are able to be here this morning, and that the Lord may add his blessing and his peace to be upon you and our Father's sons and daughters everywhere.

How I pray in my soul this morning in your hearing that the President of the United States and those who are working with him may live in such a way that the power of the Lord will be with them, that they may not be misled but that they may so adjust affairs at the seat of government that the people of this nation will be blessed because of their desire to honor God and keep his commandments, and that these and all other blessings may be ours.

I am thinking this morning of our poor people in the various war-torn countries. We hear almost daily from some source from people who have not enough food to nourish their bodies as they should be nourished, people who are wearing the same clothing they wore when the war broke out and have no way of replacing it, people whose homes have been blown to bits by bombs and destroyed by the great war. Those people this morning, many of them, knowing where we are, are praying that they too may be inspired. We are blessed, brethren and sisters, and I pray that we may appreciate our blessings and live to be worthy of them, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

President George Albert Smith:

It has been customary to read the financial statement here in this meeting, and President J. Rueben Clark, Jr. will now read that statement to you and make such explanation as he may see fit.

President J. Reuben Clark Jr.:

My brothers and sisters: Figures are never very interesting, though I am bound to say they are more interesting when they indi-