

# Installation of the New Pastor, rev. Peter Wipf

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**INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PASTOR,  
REV. PETER WIPF,  
at the German speaking Swiss Church,  
St. Mary Woolnoth, E.C.3.,  
on Sunday, 15th November, 1959.**

St. Mary Woolnoth, the City Guild Church near the Bank, which has been graciously allocated to the German speaking community of the Swiss colony, was filled to capacity on the morning of November 15th by an expectant congregation.

The occasion was to welcome and install the new Pastor, the Rev. Peter Wipf, who had accepted the call of the Consistoire to exchange the living of Luchsingen (Ct. Glarus) with the pulpit of St. Mary in London. Since the Rev. Hans Spoerri had left us for Switzerland, it had taken the Consistoire a considerable time to have found a permanent successor. During the interval the Church was served, first by the Rev. Emil Spoerri and then by the Rev. Karl Huber, with the invaluable assistance of the Rev. Miss Doris Voegelin, Vicaress, who did yeoman service over all this long time.

The community was glad and thankful that at last the search for the right man to succeed the Rev. Hans Spoerri had been found and the large congregation at the Installation Service sufficiently proved how anxious every one was to offer their new Pastor a warm welcome and best wishes for many years of successful and blessed ministry in London. This welcome is extended with equal warmth to Mrs. Wipf and the children.

To come back to the Service at St. Mary's, it was 11 o'clock when a small procession entered, formed by H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Olivier Béguin, President, and Mr. F. G. Sommer, Vice-President of the Consistoire, the Rev. W. S. Allam, Vicar of St. Mary's and his Curate, the Rev. Claude Reverdin of the Eglise Suisse, the Rev. Miss Doris Voegelin and the new Pastor, the Rev. Peter Wipf.

Miss Voegelin welcomed the congregation with a few well chosen words and then invited them to sing the first hymn, No. 38 (Ihr Knechte Gottes allzugleich). There followed a prayer and then reading of various, apposite passages from the holy scriptures by the Rev. D. Voegelin and C. Reverdin.

An organ solo preceded the Installation of the new Pastor, the Rev. Peter Wipf, by Mr. F. G. Sommer, Vice-President of the Consistoire, who spoke most impressively and with great earnest, making every one conscious of the solemnity of the occasion. The Rev. Wipf gave his reply and affirmation in a clear and resonant voice.

After the installation the congregation sang hymn No. 240 (Sei Gott getreu von Jugend auf) after which the Swiss Ambassador, M. Armin Daeniker, brought greetings and good wishes to the congregation and to Pastor Wipf in particular from the Embassy and the home country. He told the Rev. Wipf that he was undertaking a great and responsible task, but he would like to assure him that the Embassy valued the moral and social work carried on by the Swiss Church in London (especially among the young people) very highly indeed and that the Pastors could at all times rely on the whole-hearted co-operation and support by the Embassy in all their undertakings.

The Ambassador was followed by Monsieur O.

Béguin, President of the Consistoire, who spoke in French and who gave the Rev. Wipf a very warm welcome and every encouragement in his great task and his many new duties.

After another hymn (No. 186, O heiliger Geist, O heiliger Gott) during which the new Pastor had ascended the pulpit, he announced his Text:— St. John, X, verses 14 & 15, reading:— "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me, (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father) and I lay down my life for my sheep", on which he preached a most powerful sermon. His analysis of the text and his fluency in delivery were very impressive and the congregation followed the preacher with rapt attention. After the termination of the sermon there followed an interlude on the organ and a prayer by the preacher.

The next hymn was No. 44 (Nun danket alle Gott) which was sung with real fervour by the large congregation. Mr. F. G. Sommer then gave out the usual notices and announced in particular that on Sunday, November 29th, there would be held an Anglo-Swiss Service at St. Mary's, which was going to be televised and he hoped that there would again be a record attendance.

The customary collection having been taken, the new Pastor and the congregation were addressed by the Rev. W. S. Allam, Vicar of St. Mary Woolnoth who, after opening in perfect German and French, relapsed into English, extending to the Rev. Wipf a very warm welcome indeed. He also expressed his pleasure at seeing the Church so well attended and said how glad he had been to assist at this joyful occasion and uplifting service. The wonderful way in which the Vicar expressed himself must have gone straight to the heart of all those present, who surely were grateful for his warm sentiments and the way in which they were put to the congregation.

It was the Vicar who intoned The Lord's Prayer and gave the Benediction, which brought this impressive Installation Service to a close. When the congregation filed out of Church, the Rev. Miss Voegelin introduced the members to the new Pastor, whilst Mrs. F. G. Sommer kindly acted in a similar capacity by introducing her friends to the young and charming Mrs. Wipf.

Certain is that every one who attended will wish this devoted young couple God's blessing on their great new undertaking and on all their work for the Glory of God.

W.D.

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