

# The Great Invitation

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Zurich Sermons

Emil Brunner

Translated by Harold Knight

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James Clarke & Co.

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## Preface

Since it became known that, accepting the invitation of the International Christian University of Tokyo, I would be going to live in Japan for some years, our cathedral congregation has expressed a wish that I would have published a number of sermons by way of compensation for oral preaching in the pulpit.

Printed sermons have always and increasingly seemed to me inadequate. For preaching is essentially a living occurrence which can only very imperfectly be crystallized in writing. For that reason I have up to the present carefully avoided the publication of sermons. But perhaps in this instance the special circumstances will justify a departure from the rule. It is a question here of sermons which without exception were preached in the Fraumünster in recent years.

Since my own time was fully taken up by the completion of a theological work and preparations for my new post, my son, H. H. Brunner, Dr. Theol., Pastor of Marthalen, offered to relieve me of the editorial work involved, and produced from my various notes and shorthand manuscripts both a printable and authentic text. I cordially thank him for this unselfish labour.

I dedicate this volume of sermons to the Fraumünster on the occasion of the jubilee celebrating its eleven hundred years of history. To look back on such a long period of church life makes one realize, with peculiar vividness, that each of us preachers is only one of many hundred links in the chain which binds our present-day worship of God with that of the apostolic communities. May this venerable and beautiful house of God for long be a place where the Word of God is faithfully preached and a believing congregation unites to praise God to its own spiritual fortification and comfort.

Zurich, August 1953.

Emil Brunner

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