



SAINT JAMES' IN THE CITY

ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL

EVER ANCIENT | EVER NEW

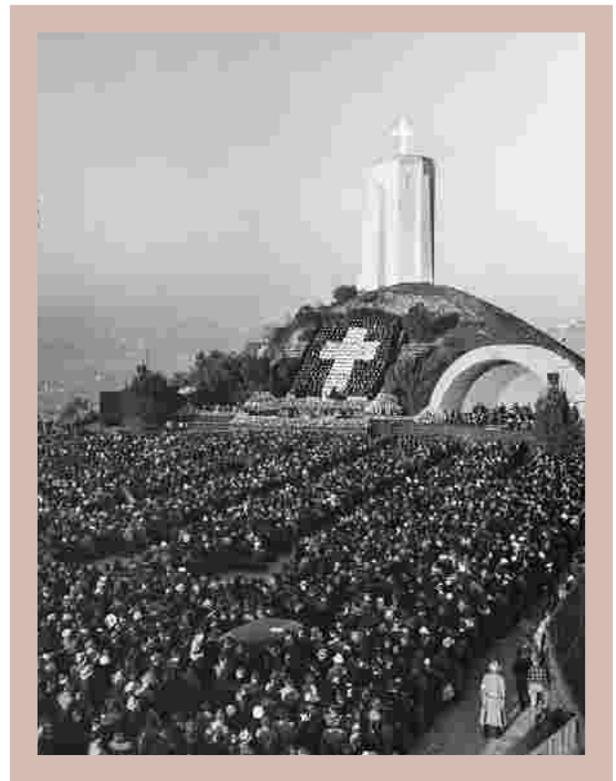
THE FIRST 100 YEARS



Church Attendance

By the 1940's, Saint James' had become a powerhouse church. The minutes of the annual meeting held on Jan 17, 1940 report, "Mr. Miller gave to the members present a statement of the general condition of the Parish, including certain statistics regarding the growth in number of members, marriages, etc. during the past year. He stated that Saint James' is one of the fifty parishes of the Episcopal Church with a membership in excess of 1000 members." Attendance for the Easter service that year was so great that sound equipment was brought in to the Parish House to broadcast the service to the overflow crowds.

1940 was an uncertain time. America had yet to enter the war, but the reports from Europe were ominous. One year later, the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, America would be forced to enter the war on two fronts. Church attendance continued to climb during the war years and after. During the 1950's, church attendance was at an all time peak, but those numbers wouldn't sustain. New challenges awaited American churches in the 1960's when the civil rights and equality movements, as well as the war in Vietnam,



Easter Sunrise Service, 1940, at Forest Lawn Memorial Park

polarized public opinion and divided many parishioners, especially the post war children with their idealistic values from the traditional values of their parents. By the end of the century churches were searching for ways to reconnect with an alienated generation.