

## EPIPHANY AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S

One star, one candle, a flood of song which makes all hearts one, are symbols of the spirit of Epiphany at the first service of that season at St. Augustine's.

Seldom has there been a year when all seats were not filled with men and women, with college students, and small children.

One bright star shines from above the altar. The three kings, faithful pictures of the men of old, go before the choir, proceeding to offer their gifts and their songs to the Christ Child. A single candle burns on the altar, in the shadow of the evergreens. This candle symbolizes the Child, the Perfect Light.

Hundreds of people stand in awe, aware of nothing in the little stone chapel but the absolute communion of the Epiphany spirit, the manifestation of Christ. Every breath becomes a note of praise, and the tiny candle burns on, calmly, peacefully.

When the hymns are sung, the children's voices become louder than the choir. This is their way of showing that they, too, belong.

From the symbolic light, a flame is taken which in turn is given by the three kings to lovely slender tapers held in the hands of every person.

The choir is a picture of old England as the tapers light their faces. The girls in capes and Canterbury caps, the boys, regularly vested, stand in the aisle, while the congregation passes out between them as they sing.

Once outside, the college girls form themselves into a cross, holding high their lights. In this manner they march around the campus singing hymns of the season until the tapers are burned out.

When man himself can praise with such reverence and beauty, think how great the blessings of the God who is the source of infinitely more and deeper love!

## MUSIC AND LIFE

Music has often been regarded by many as a beautiful, highly emotional medium for the expression of the aesthetic sublimities to which the human soul can aspire. As such, it most certainly occupies a very definite place in the human equipment for the combating of life's complexities, for without a means of expressing itself, the soul withers and dies, much as a rare flower does when deprived of necessary stimulation. But few people have ever viewed music in the light of an everyday essential, a vital cog in the ordinary human mechanism; when an effort is undertaken to reveal this relationship, the puritanical adherents to the art immediately

become horrified at the prospect of literal desecration of that which is sacred. In total disregard of such bigoted circumscription, however, let us briefly note some practical connections which serve to bind music's transcendent characteristics to life's eternal mysteries.

First, let us consider the three fundamental essentials upon which all music is based, namely: rhythm, better known as definite pulse; melody, the succession of pleasant auditory sounds; and harmony, applying to definite arrangement as to pattern and euphonious regularity.

Having observed these elements in their own realm, our next task then,