

William O. Ware Lodge of Research

Installation of Officers

October 30, 2019

Good evening and welcome.

My name is Dan Kemble, and in just a few minutes I will be the newest Past Master of William O. Ware Lodge of Research.

Thank you for joining us this evening for our annual installation of officers. I hope that you enjoyed dinner this evening. Let's show our appreciation to our chef, Worshipful Bro. Larry York, and his lady, Tammy.

Installations are happy times. We celebrate new beginnings and new goals. We have ample reason to celebrate this year, with the election of Worshipful Bro. Tom Nitschke to the office of Master of our Lodge of Research. Worshipful Bro. Tom is capable, he is qualified, and he is ready to lead. I look forward to his leadership, as I am sure the rest of you do as well.

Roughly twelve months ago, we met here for another of our annual installation of officers. At that time, we began to examine and to celebrate the life of the man for whom our Lodge of Research was named, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master William O. Ware.

Upon being installed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky on October 17, 1957, M. W. Bro. Ware posed three questions to the Craft:

What is Freemasonry?

What Does Freemasonry Mean to Me?

What Do I Mean to Freemasonry?

In the past twelve months, we have explored those themes.

What we have determined, I think, is that Freemasonry is a genius system whose objective is to teach men to subjugate their passions and desires, and, in so doing, achieve their potential for a more fulfilling life and draw nearer to their Creator, the Grand Architect of the Universe. By encouraging Masonic research, providing wholesome Masonic education and offering an opportunity for like-minded Brothers to exchange thoughts and ideas, William O. Ware Lodge of Research seeks to facilitate the pursuit of the true aim and purpose of Freemasonry.

As this year in the life of our Lodge draws to a close, we again look to Past Grand Master William O. Ware, who, in his closing address to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky spoke these words:

“It is my firm conviction that, unless we, as members of this Ancient and Honorable Fraternity, become firmly grounded in the true meaning and intent of the Fraternity, i. e., educated to its real meaning, we shall never see the Fraternity accomplish that for which it was founded.

“The thought was expressed thirty-six [now ninety-seven] years ago by W. L. Wilmshurst, an English Masonic student and author, in the following words (which are as apt today as the day they were spoken):

“ ‘What seems now needed to intensify the worth and usefulness of this great Brotherhood is to deepen its understanding of its own system, to educate its members in the deeper meaning and true purpose of its rites and its philosophy. Were this achieved the Masonic Order would become, in proportion to that achievement, a spiritual force greater than it ever can be so long as it continues content with a formal and unintelligent perpetuation of rites, the real and sacred purpose of which remains largely unperceived, and participation in which often means nothing more than association with an agreeable, semi-religious social institution.

‘The future development and the value of the Order as a moral force in society depend, therefore, upon the view its members take of their system. If they do not spiritualize it, they will but increasingly materialize it. If they fail to interpret its veiled purport, to enter into the understanding of its underlying philosophy, and to translate its symbolism into what is signified thereby, they will be mistaking shadow for substance, a husk for the kernel, and secularizing what was designed as a means of spiritual instruction and grace.

‘It is from lack of instruction, rather than of desire to learn the meaning of Masonry that the Craft suffers today.’ ”

In quoting the writer Wilmshurst, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Ware correctly identified the critical need in Freemasonry: that Freemasons immerse themselves in the philosophical foundation of the Order. That need remains just as crucial in 2019 as it was in 1958 when PGM Ware addressed the Craft and in 1922 when Bro. Wilmshurst wrote his famous book, *The Meaning of Masonry*.

To my Brothers at William O. Ware Lodge of Research, to my Brothers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Kentucky, to Masons wheresoever dispersed, I urge you to put aside those things that are but distractions, and direct our focus to our unfinished work – instructing our Brothers in the true history, philosophy and meaning of this noble Fraternity.

Please allow me to express my thanks to William O. Ware Lodge of Research for allowing to serve as Master for the past twelve months. Without any doubt, indeed, with no hesitation at all, I can say that serving as Master of the Lodge of Research has been the most rewarding experience of my forty years in Freemasonry. Thank you for the opportunity to have served.

Allow me to express my thanks to my wife, Holly, for her indulgence of my passion for Masonic study and discussion. Holly is traveling on business this evening and sends her regrets for not being able to be her. She also sends her congratulations to you, Tom, on your installation as Master of William O. Ware Lodge of Research.

Saying thank-you is a dangerous thing. I do not want anyone to feel left out of my heart-felt thanks to the Lodge of Research. There are, however, five men here this evening that I wish to recognize for special thanks.

Worshipful Bro. Rob Smith, perhaps more than anyone else present, you are responsible for putting William O. Ware Lodge of Research on its current path. Thank you, Bro. Rob, for your vision and your leadership.

Most Worshipful Bro. Keith Dreier, Past Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Treasurer of our Lodge of Research, Worshipful Bro. Dave Cassesa, Secretary of our Lodge of Research, thank you for restoring financial integrity to the Lodge of Research. These two men took office in the most difficult of circumstances, following the theft of Lodge funds by someone who betrayed the trust placed in him. Most Worshipful Bro. Keith and Worshipful Bro. Dave, your honesty and transparency has allowed our Lodge to again have confidence that its finances will be managed properly.

Worshipful Bro. Dave, thank you for the countless hours you have spent with me devising, refining and executing our plans for the Lodge of Research for the past year. Without your assistance, I would have strayed off-course many times. Thank you, Dave.

Worshipful Bro. Ed Tanner, thank you for your service as Chaplain of the Lodge of Research. Thank you for always being a source of good counsel and for your encouragement over the course of my Masonic journey. Thank you, Ed.

Worshipful Bro. John Bizzack, thank you for sharing your expertise in ways that have taken the Lodge of Research to new levels. From your work with our website, to the publication of our survey results, you have shown us just what this Lodge is capable of being. Thank you for your enthusiasm and for making us think. Thank you, John.

It is my pleasure to present to you, Most Worshipful Bro. Geary F. Laird, Grand Master of Masons in Kentucky, for the purpose of installing the officers of William O. Ware Lodge of Research for the ensuing year.

Fraternally,

Dan Kemble
Master, 2018-2019