

Special Thanksgiving Service At St. John's

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto God". And Thanksgiving Sunday is a pleasant time to remember that fact. In St. John's United Church on Sunday morning, Rev. John M. Smith used it as his text, with his Scripture lesson the words of Paul to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord alway." "I have learned in whatever state I am, therein to be content."

In the Old Testament there are many instances where the warriors, returning victorious from the field of battle, were joined by the women in a great outburst of praise and thanksgiving to God for the victory which He had given them. They made victory, the occasion of Thanksgiving to God. Nehemiah gathered his people together to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem as a protection against their enemies, and when the work was finished, the people all gathered in a great outburst of heartfelt praise and thanksgiving to God for His help and guidance in the rebuilding of the walls. They made accomplishment an occasion for Thanksgiving. When the Pilgrim Fathers, after great hardships, a cruel winter, much toil the following spring and summer, finally reaped a small harvest, their governor called for a day of Thanksgiving and Praise for God's goodness to them. They made the harvest an occasion for Thanksgiving to God for His blessings which had given them a harvest.

What is our Thanksgiving attitude? As Canadians we have a very great debt to be thankful for, they had comparatively little, yet their thanks was spontaneous. We have so much, an abundance of necessities, even an abundance of luxuries. How is our thanks? And for our extra blessings of Freedom: Freedom of religion, open worship, an open Bible, comparative peace. Do we take these for granted or have we the right Thanksgiving attitude towards them? There is no law to compel us to give thanks, nor have we any evidence that God will withhold His blessings. His gifts of sun, rain and harvest if we don't, but He must be sadly disappointed as would any earthly father, giving a gift to his child, and that child not having learned the natural attitude of giving thanks, yet would the father withhold his goodness. What could please God more than a natural outburst of heartfelt thanks, followed by a living desire to please Him and a thanksgiving attitude to our fellowmen, man to man and all to God.

It is good for us to give thanks unto God, even, ethically, showing good taste, good manners, creating a considerate attitude, smoothing out hurts and hard places and lifting life to nobler and better things. And emotionally too, it is good to acknowledge God's part and that of our fellowmen, rather than cater to pride in our own achievements or to that hurtful attitude of self-sufficiency. We uplift our own unselfish feelings, make our fellow human beings feel they have some worth and please God as we acknowledge His goodness, guidance and blessing. And then too as we take time out to give God thanks for the past, we have time to think of our hope for the future and to strengthen our faith for the remainder of life's journey. Mr. Smith told of a winding road climbing up one of the hills of Scotland where, half way up, some men had placed a stone seat with the inscription "Take a rest and give thanks." What a boon, even to rest, but what a blessing, time out to give thanks. And after the rest, and the thanks, hope restored and faith strengthened that the end of the journey will be reached in safety. "It is good for us to give thanks unto God."

Ernest Forgrave, Sunday School superintendent, told the children's story of a young lady and a youth dedicating themselves for missionary service, getting married after graduation, and working in China for 20 years. When the Communists came in they had to leave China, and leave behind their possessions, which included a piano they especially prized, made for them in Canada to suit the climate. When Mr. Forgrave sympathized with them on their losses, they said they really didn't mind, the Communists had allotted a room to their Chinese Christian friends and allowed them to use the piano, so in their thanks for that, they had ceased thinking about the other. They were sure the Chinese Christians would never forget what they had learned. The choir anthem was "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem" with Mrs. Kidney taking the solo part.

In the evening service, Mr. Smith outlined the life and sacrifice of David Livingstone. Born in 1813, at the age of 10, he was a victim of a blight of that time in British history, that of child labour and had to start work in a factory near Glasgow. A remark made by a Sunday School teacher, "Boys, I want you to make religion a part of your every day life," always stayed with Livingstone fostering his desire for an education, and directing his thoughts, into fuller service for God. He took his text books to work with him, studying in every spare moment, then at the age of 20, decided to give his life as a mission-

ary in China.

But God had some other place for him. A hitch in his efforts to get to China, put him in sympathetic touch with Robert Moffat, a missionary near the west coast of Africa, and a remark by Moffat gave Livingstone another great thought to direct his life. Moffat said that from his hut in Africa, he could see every morning the smoke of 1000 villages, where Jesus had never been heard of. Livingstone went to Africa always pushing further inward to the 1,000 villages, always ahead of him with a threefold objective always in mind. First, the evangelization of the black people, he never forgot that. Second, exploration to open up a way for improvement in their tragic living conditions; slaves in the belief that this would eventually overcome the curse of the slave trade which was blighting their lives, surer than military might could overcome it. Third, the abolishment of the slave traffic, and it was very largely the influence of Livingstone on the authorities in London, which finally brought about the end of this truly devastating thing. God can do wonders with the help of a humble, courageous, devoted man or woman.

Miss Audrey Bishop led in the service of praise. These beautiful words of Patience Strong seem very appropriate for this Thanksgiving time.

REMEMBER

Remember the flowers and not the weeds.
Remember life's best friendly words kindly deeds.
Remember the pleasure, forget the pain.
And only sweet memories will remain.
Remember the sunshine, forget the rain.
Remember your blessings, the boon, not the bane.
The prayers that were answered, the goal achieved.
The wishes fulfilled, and the gifts received.

JOINS OVC STAFF

Dr. W. R. Mitchell of Oakville, former veterinary officer with Halton Health Unit, has joined the extension staff of the Ontario Veterinary College staff at Guelph. Dr. Mitchell will work on calf-hood vaccination against brucellosis.

**THE OLYMPIC ELK
NEW DISNEY FEATURE**

Those who enjoyed three previous Nature Stories photographed by Walt Disney will look forward to seeing "The Olympic Elk" which plays as a special short attraction at the Roxy on Friday and Saturday.

The Disney series started with "Seal Island" which depicted life and habits of the seal. Next came "Beaver Valley" where the sliding otters stole the show from the featured beaver stars. Third in the series was "Nature's Half Acre" a truly wondrous filming of the insect world which we pass by unless we look closely.

The fourth short has been photographed in Olympic National Park off the coast of Washington and shows the elk herds begin their move to the high country. There they lead a life of ease during the summer.

In September the mating urge drives the bulls out of seclusion, and they begin rounding up as many cows as they can. The herd bull must then keep an eye out for other bulls who want to steal his harem. In the picture, one bull in particular finds it difficult to hold a large herd and a battle takes place when a rival moves in. While they are fighting, the other bulls split up the herd among themselves.

The challenger wins. It is an empty victory as there are no spoils, and the vanquished realizes that next time he should be satisfied with a smaller herd than he can handle.

**GARBAGE
Collection Change**

**ONCE-A-WEEK COLLECTION
NOW IN EFFECT**

COLLECTION ROUTE

MONDAY — Main St. North to Wildwood; all streets running off Main St. over White Bridge, Morris, Chapel West and East, and Victoria Streets.

TUESDAY — John St., College View, Rosetta, Caroline, Paper Mill Road, 9th Line, Water Street and Mill Street.

WEDNESDAY — All streets west of Main Street in Ward 3, and George, James and Draper Streets.

THURSDAY — Queen, McNabb, Emery, King, Union Murdock, Durham, Albert and Guelph Streets.

NO CONTAINERS OVER 60 LBS. PLEASE

Garbage must be wrapped and out by 7 a.m.

Liberal Convention

to choose a Liberal candidate for the next federal election.

Milton Town Hall - Saturday, Oct. 25, 8.30 p.m.

HON. WALTER E. HARRIS

Minister of Citizenship and Education will be guest speaker.

Everybody Welcome

Delegates only will vote

James C. Cunningham, president

Kenneth Y. Dick, secretary

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**TRAVEL
NOTES**



**The Coronation
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Cunard Line announces the special cruise ship
CARONIA
sailing from New York about
May 4th, 1953

— Ship can be used as a hotel in Southampton, with transportation to London and a grandstand seat included.

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