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ST. JOHN'S CHOOSES EIGHT NEW ELDERS

J. D. G.
On Sunday morning at St. John's United Church, for the fourth Sunday in Lent, Rev. John M. Smith had for his sermon subject "Redemption," with his text from the First Epistle of John: "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This is a real experience of life, our own, or often quite evident in other lives around us. It follows repentance, our act of confession and turning from sin to God; redemption is God's act of acceptance of our repentance, forgiving our past failures and cleansing us from our unrighteousness. It is a gift from God, it cannot be bought. And what a change it makes! Many a man or woman has been careless of how they lived, seeking life their own way, not attending or interested in the church and its teachings; not much help, even unpleasant, in their home life; lowering the society in which they live, rather than uplifting it, evidently out of harmony with God and man. Then there is a change, often gradually; they realize they are meant for something better than the way they are living, that they need some power, higher and nobler to help them meet the problems of true living, and they start finding it, often in the God they learned a little about in Sunday School, and soon find His love and forgiveness. There is a change in their way of living, and their attitude to life; a happier home, a real interest in God's house a lift to the community. These are some of the fruits of redemption, after confession and turning to God, who is always faithful and just to forgive and restore the harmony and concord between Himself and His creation.

Where do we learn of it? From God's word, the bible is full of God's provision for our redemption through His Son Jesus, our Saviour through His Cross, and vindicated by His resurrection. And we learn through the Church, redemption has been the essence of its theme and function from the start and still is. And probably we learn much from the faithful witness of other believing humans living a consistent helpful unselfish Christian life, acknowledging God as their Heavenly Father, Jesus as their Redeemer, and knowing they have the Comforter from God to guide and sustain them.

And it is through the Lenten season as it takes us through the scenes of the first Good Friday and Easter that we should appreciate all that has been done to make our redemption real and vital, and from which we should grow in spiritual resources and witnessing. The world needs redemption as much as we do, but it is only through us, with God's help, that it can be led into it, and with it, peace and goodwill among men.

The flowers on the Communion table were placed to the memory of Mr. Jack Whitney by his wife and family.

The Choir's anthem was: "The Ninety and Nine" with solo parts by Mrs. G. Kidney and Mr. T. Faran. The Junior Choir sang the Offertory.

The Message, by Patience Strong Every year God sends a message to the weary world, And across the earth the spring's bright banners are unfurled, He writes it in the woods and fields, and on the windy hills; With rosy buds, and greening leaf, and gold of daffodils.

After invocation by Rev. John M. Smith, the evening service was conducted by members of Session, under the theme: "Honouring God," based on the verse in 1st Samuel: "The Lord saith, Them that honour me, I will honour." W. Deans and N. Burns, took Joseph as their example of faithfulness to God, doing what God had taught was the right, regardless of consequences. Their hymn was: "I'm not ashamed to own My Lord." Alfred Tost sang: "I am not ashamed of Christ," concluding this part.

The second group of A. Zeravlev C. McNamara, and G. Farnell, showed the courage of Daniel in honouring his God, however tragic the consequences appeared to be, and how God very manifestly honoured and cared for him as he had with Joseph. Their hymn was "Soldiers of Christ arise." Gary Teeter sang "Dare to Be a Daniel."

The third group of Dr. McAllister, A. MacLaren and George Ward had Jesus as the supreme example, showing His steadfast faithfulness, courage and loyalty to God, His Father, so that even with the Cross facing Him, His purpose was still "Not my will, but Thine," and we know how God honoured and vindicated Him in the triumph of the resurrection and in all His influence since. Their hymn was: "Thy way, not mine, O Lord," with a duet by Jean and Margaret Bird, "The Stranger of Galilee," as a summary of this group. The senior and the junior choirs under Mr. Laird led the service of praise with the Senior choir singing the anthem "Glorious to Thee, My Lord, this Night." Closing hymn: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus, I feel would take my Stand."

The gathering retired to the Memorial Hall for a social hour, Miss Sandra Scott, Miss Pat Willson, Miss Marion Cartwright and the Junior

Halton, Peel Visitors Watch Oakville Initiation

At the last meeting of LOL 3234, Oakville, held March 18th some sixty members and visitors saw the Oakville lodge initiate a new member and receive the certificate of another member. The Royal Arch degree was conferred on two more brothers by Peel County officers.

Among Peel members present were Wor. Bro. Block, deputy grand master of Ontario West; Joseph Allen, county master, Robert Drury, DCM and Sam Curtis, district master of Derry West and several members of Port Credit LOL.

Halton County visitors were Wor. Bro. Jack Fox, county master and Masales, past county master of Acton, county chaplain Bro. A. Carter, Georgetown, Wor. Bros. Ernie Wilson, district master, Thist, master of LOL 2385, P. Hall, PCM G. Pascock, PCM and N. Boyle, PM of Milton; Wor. Bros. James McLennan, master of LOL 163, Jack Wilson, PCM, Low Sampson, IPCM, H. Price, PM and G. Lyon, PM of Hornby; and two members of Bronte Lodge.

The evening ended with a fine lunch provided by the Oakville members. Choir under Mr. Norman Laird, sang the numbers they are preparing for the Davenport Festival of Sacred Music. A film-strip entitled "Life in Korea Today" was shown, illustrating the devastation of war, in property, church buildings, maimed lives, hunger, homeless orphans and refugees. An odd bright spot was where some help from America and Canada, some of it from Georgetown United Sunday School, had lifted and encouraged, children probably especially, and given old and young a new hope for the future.

The eight new elders elected to the Session after morning service, were introduced by Rev. J. M. Smith, along with their wives, adding a fresh enthusiasm to the future work and hopes of the church. They are: V. A. Stein, E. Forgrave, A. Prouse, J. Runham, G. Urquhart, W. Kinrade, R. Broomhead, and J. Watson.

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