St. George's Anglican Church LOWVILLE Ontario Canada

BY GEORGE

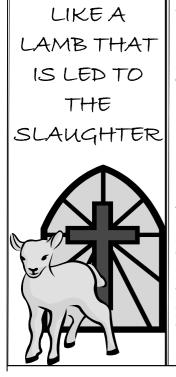
Volume 26 Issue 2 **LENT 2010**



A MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC)

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the Lent. forty-six days leading to Easter, serve as a seasonal reminder that

we are enslaved by stuff. Dayby-day, moment-by-moment, we all make choices that enslave us to oppressive task-These taskmasters masters. demand loyalty and homage. The Bible calls them 'idols' false gods of our own making.

Our hearts are idol-making machines. We take good things and make them into gods, worshipping them with our time and money. Not many of us have stone or wooden statues in our homes that we kneel before and to which we say our daily prayers. But make no mistake; we worship at the altars of True freedom is not the absence self, wealth, pleasure, leisure

Live free!

The season of and power.

The relentless pursuit of self, wealth, pleasure, leisure and power promises freedom. Their mantras include, "If you only knew how good you are" and, "Fulfillment will come with the next promotion, the next relationship, or vacation." So we buy into the lies, wasting our lives chasing after empty things and worshipping taskmasters who promise freedom but only deliver greater slavery and oppression.

Our sermon series this Lent season is entitled. Live Free. We will take the next five weeks to identify the idols in our lives and to dethrone them, replacing them with Christ and His kingdom rule.

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of consequence, but the freedom to be who we were truly meant to be. True freedom is not found in pursuing more stuff, but in slavery to Christ "whose service is perfect freedom" (Book of Common Prayer, Collect for Peace). True freedom comes with submission to Christ. St. Paul said, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). True freedom, freedom from the false gods we worship, is a gift from God in the person of Jesus.

This Lent we will displace the false gods of self, wealth, leisure, pleasure and power with the One True King. We will smash the idols and give Jesus the right to tell us what to do.

I pray that we will all surrender to freedom. Surrender to Christ!

Ray David Glenn

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Matthew 13:44 Ah, holy Jesu, how hast thou offended, that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesu, hath undone thee!

'Twas I, Lord Jesu, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

Lo, the good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;

For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.

For me, kínd Jesu, was thy incarnation, thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation; thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesu, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee, think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

> Johann Heermann, 1630 A.D. Trans. Robert Brídges, 1899

Individual Members of St. George's Reaching Out



During Epiphany, members of St. George's were invited to share with us their own "Reach Out" activities. Response was so encouraging; for so many of us, our Christian participation is much more than Sunday morning Church; that for the sake of Jesus, the Gospel, and love of others, we are involved personally with our time, energy, love, concern , money and prayers. A 'hands on' commitment! Not just lip service!

As there were over 70 items on the list of activities and organizations, this is only a brief summary.

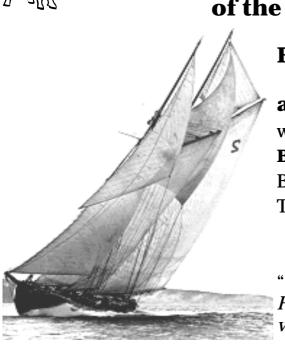
- Different areas of intercessory prayer for nations, people groups, individuals such as the sick, missionaries, leaders of our church, neighbours, family members, leaders of our nation, the Anglican world wide communion, and our own prayer chain.
- Specific organizations such as ANiC and ACNA, IVCF, IFES, McMaster Chaplaincy, Focus on the Family, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Crossroads, Kidsability, LIFE International, Gerry and Brenda Kean Ministries, Shifra Home for Teen Mothers, Salvation Army, Drummond House Waterdown, St. Matthew's House, Mennonite Economic Development, Freedom Villages, Guide Dogs Canada, Milton Hospital, Mt.Nemo Seniors Home, Maplehurst Alpha Programme, Allendale Milton, Halton Women's Place, the Deck in Milton, Cause Canada, Gospel for Asia, Extendacare, World Vision.
- Missionaries serving in Canada, Europe, North, South and Central America, Africa (i.e. Malawi, Zimbabwe, Madagascar) the Middle East, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar.
- Personal involvements in church plants, Bible studies, Toronto Centre Project, offering one's home for church groups, neighbours in need or crisis, new Canadians.

Thank YOU for your participation in this witness. It reflects our commitment to reaching out for Jesus.

Your REACH OUT Committee

"he was crushed for our iniquities"

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"Leaning into the Wind of the Holy Spirit"

February 26-28, 2010

a Conference

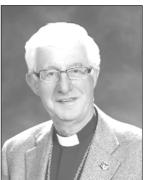
with speaker **BISHOP MALCOLM HARDING**, Bishop Suffragan (retired) of The Anglican Network in Canada

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit falls upon you and you will be my witnesses."

Acts 1:8

CONFERENCE LEADER

Bishop Malcolm was ordained a priest in Dauphin, MB in 1973. He was elected Bishop of Brandon in 1992. He retired in 2001. In November, 2007, he relinquished his ministry with the Anglican Church of Canada and was received by Bishop Don Harvey of ANiC and then served as Bishop Suffragan until July 2009. Since then he has made himself available for teaching on parish renewal and church growth.



In addition, Bishop Malcolm has a masters degree in social work and has worked professionally in that field. He has also served as Ambassador for Anglican Renewal Ministries

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, February 26, 2010

7:00 pm – 9:30 pm: The Call to Christ

Saturday, February 27, 2010

9:00 am – 9:30 am: Worship and Scriptures 9:30 am – 10: 15 am: The Call to Christian Community

10: 45 am– 11:30 am: The Call to Servant Ministry

LUNCH

1:15 pm - 2:30 pm: The Making, Marks and Ministry of a Christian Disciple

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Person, Power and Release of the Holy Spirit (Spiritual Gifts and Spiritual Warfare)

Sunday, February 28, 2010

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm: Beware of Spiritual Junk Food Time of Ministry and Prayer

WHERE: Crossroads Centre, 1295 North Service Road, Burlington, ON, L7R 4M2

A children's program will be available on Saturday, February 27, for children ages 3 to 10. Margaret Hunt will be planning and supervising the day. If you have children who would like to attend, please indicate their names and ages on the back of your registration form. If you need help with babysitting in your home on Friday or Sunday evening, please discuss it with Margaret Hunt. We will make every effort to accommodate your needs. This is a very important weekend for the future of our parish and we hope that you prayerfully will consider attending.

REGISTRATION: Cost is \$40. Registration forms are available in the town square on Sundays.

Contact: Margaret Hunt, Donna Rigo, Pam Bales, Betty Pristol, or St George's office: 905-335 6222





The Feast of St. Valentine

February 14th has come and gone for another year. Twas for most only a time for chocolates, roses, cards and candlelight dinners—a time to rekindle romance and family loves. But originally this feast was about a whole lot more: about an early Christian who gave all for Jesus.

Have you noticed what has happened to specifically Christian festivals in our western culture? The child in the manger has been replaced



with Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and Santa Claus. The risen Christ of Easter is being eclipsed by a bunny with chocolate roosters and candy eggs. Thanksgiving is being edged out by a gluttonous banquet whose centre-piece is not a Provident God, but a turkey. The feast of St. Stephen, the church's first martyr is forgotten in a frenzy of Boxing Day sales and sports events. And there's Good Friday. Big box stores may remain open in most places, but they must close for Labour Day. Canadian consumerism scorns the life of self-lessness and self denial demonstrated by God-on-a-cross.

And the saintly Valentinius has been elbowed out, been upstaged by a chubby cherubic god Cupid. His image is of a little guy with a quiver full of arrows flung over his shoulder, a bow in hand ready to infect the world with romance.

Now before some conclude that I'm some sort of bitter old grinch let me inscribe the following waiver. I like candy canes. I've sent roses and chocolates to my wife for years and my parents before that. I buy chocolate bunnies and eggs for my great nieces and nephews. On occasion I've even availed myself of a bargain on December 26th. Our family tradition involves a baked ham and scalloped potato dinner on Good Friday. And yes, even I indulge in pumpkin pie and roast turkey at Thanksgiving (with Joan's incredible stuffing!).

But that is not the point. At Christmas, the Virgin Birth means more to me than tinsel on a tree. I give gifts because God gave His only begotten Son in huge generosity to planet earth. On the feast of Stephen, I reflect on the brief though incredible life of the first Christian martyr and the benevolence of an ancient king named Wenceslas.

On Good Friday I'm captivated by the crucified Lord, not what's cooking in the oven. Easter is a time of great joy (not because I'm high on sugar from the eggs) for Christ conquered death, hell, and the grave. Thanksgiving Day banquets are just a sign of God's bounty. I'm more thankful for family than for the dressed up bird on the table.

So in this month of February, let me review one of the greatest reasons for the feast

By George

of St. Valentine. It honours a life of a Jesuit disciple of Jesus in the early centuries of Christianity; Valentinius lived during the reign of Claudius II in the 3rd century AD. His life was characterized by loving deeds of mercy. He was bold in his faith as his name signified ('valens' worthy). He performed miracles in the powerful name of Christ, whom he proclaimed with intense passion.

Because of his compassion, he united Christian couples in marriage, though he was forbidden to do so by law. He did this because Christians simply would not submit to the heathen practices surrounding matrimony in that day. He also provided aid to others being persecuted. Consequently he was himself imprisoned.

While in jail, he prayed for his jailer's blind daughter whose sight was restored. While there, the emperor began to show him favour—till he made "a grievous error". He tried to convert Claudius. He was sentenced to be beaten with clubs and stoned. When that didn't finish this lion of God, he was beheaded outside the Favian Gate on February 14, 270. On the eve of his death he penned a farewell note to the jailer's daughter signing it, "from your Valentinius". With this signature he drew a heart as he did in all letters he wrote to those in need who received aid from him.

Christian leaders, in an effort to stamp out pagan rituals, subsequently replaced the festival of Lupercalia with a day to honour Valentinius. Lupercalia was a degrading festival of human love. St Valentine evolved into the patron saint of engaged couples, troubled marriages, love and lovers. He was also venerated by those with plague, travelers, and bee keepers.

Superstitions aside, this man performed countless anonymous acts to alleviate poverty. He was used by God in power evangelism—the gospel accompanied by the miraculous. His refusal to renounce his faith in the face of a horrific death is an encouragement to all who fear persecution and face martyrdom for their allegiance to Jesus as God and Lord.

Unfortunately the pagan outlook of many Canadians is returning. St. Valentine's feast is returning to the lewd practices of Lupercalia. But for those whose lives are committed to the gospel, he is a motivator to all who take an uncompromising stand for righteousness.

So along with cards, chocolates and romance—no, above all that— let us re-instate time to be inspired by the example of those like St. Valentine who "loved not their lives unto death" for Jesus' sake.

As we begin Lent let us determine, by God's grace, to walk before heaven and an unbelieving world in a manner "worthy" of the name we bear—Christian!

Ken Bombay



WINTER FUN DAY

On January 16th we celebrated our first St. George's winter family fun day. It was an amazing day! Over 40 people from both services attended on a balmy Saturday. There were little ones like William, Theresa and Nathan who toddled around the house, children in costume like Philip, Ada, Eve, Joelle, Felix and Avery running around the house. Teens on skates challenging those with more experience (even Jim Carlson got into the game playing goal). There was an indoor crowd that enjoyed scrabble (Margaret and Elaine play a mean game of scrabble).

Skating was popular with people skating



or playing hockey on the 20' x 70' rink from 2pm until 9pm. From beginners on bob skates to expert hockey players (like Matthew Glenn), everyone had a place. With the thaw we thought that tobogganing would be out, but Dave Wilson came to the rescue by bringing a trailer load of snow with him when he came. Many enjoyed sledding on a day when no one else in the area could have done it.



As always the food was fantastic, we all had our fill and more. A roaring campfire with marshmallows followed dinner.

It was a lovely chance to get to know new people and have fun doing it. A great event for the young and the young at heart, we would love to see all of you next year.

We would like to thank Dave Wilson who came and helped to prepare the rink many times in the week before the event. If the rink had not been so well made it wouldn't have survived the thaw. Dave also had a hand in the bonfire, and the lighting, and the toboggan run. I would also like to thank Karen Wilson who took charge of the kitchen. She organized, prepared and cleaned up for us, which made everything flow smoothly. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Watch for another St George's winter family fun day in 2011.

Shelley Loveless

ESL Volunteers Wanted!

St. George's is planning to start an ESL (English as a Second Language) program in Milton this fall, to serve the growing immigrant population. We are looking for a number of volunteers, with a variety of skills including: English teaching and coaching, help with set-up and snacks, children's program for ESL students' children, behind the scenes support, rides for ESL students, and prayer support.



If you are interested please contact Kelvin Loveless between services, by email at <u>kelvin loveless@yahoo.ca</u> or by phone at (905) 331-2054.

Soups Up!!

The children, along with their friends at St. George's, are collecting cans of soup for their project this Spring for St. Matthews House. Please pick up a couple of cans when you shop in the coming weeks and watch for the "Soup Wagon" to arrive!

Thank you for your anticipated support.

"he was crushed for our iniquities"

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Rift-

What's Happening at St. Paul

It is always a delight and wonder to see how the Lord guides and provides.

The door-to-door Christmas Eve invitations were a blessing to us; although it did not result in any neighbours attending a service, we all felt the presence of the Lord was with us and He blessed the contacts that we made. Who knows how many people chose to attend another church because we encouraged them to celebrate Christmas Eve and gave them a gift? We are satisfied that we did the Lord's work on that crisp Saturday!



John Knox Christian School, 795 Highway 8, Stoney Creek (Fruitland)

In faith we prepared enough pasta and salad to feed a small army for our first Alpha opening night, and were disappointed that the folks who said they would come did not, and that there were no walk-ins, as often happens. We ran for 3 weeks, and then decided to pack it up and start again after Easter with more lead-time and advertising.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Don Harvey to worship with us on January 17th, for an early celebration of the Conversion of St Paul, and the 17th anniversary of Bishop Don's consecration as a Bishop in the Church of God. 40 people came to celebrate with us.

Since Christmas we have been pleased to welcome 3 new members who have moved into the area recently and who came looking specifically for an ANiC church to attend. Our "ASA" (average Sunday attendance) is now a solid 11. Praise the Lord!

Thanks to the gifts and talents of our own Zandra Pennylegion we have launched our own website <u>www.StPaulABC.ca</u>. We pray that this will be a valuable tool to let people know who we are and what we are up to.

Our Wednesday night Bible study group completed our study of Romans just after Christmas and we decided to return to our practice of a modified "lectio devina" style of study and prayer. This has been a powerful tool that has been a great blessing to the development of our leadership team and to our relationships with each other, with the Word, and with our Lord Jesus. In the first few sessions after what might have been considered disappointing experiences on Christmas Eve and with Alpha, we found the Lord once again teaching us patience, and now showing us that we need to practice perseverance. One member shared a devotional that talked about missionaries in Africa waiting 14 years for the first convert, and missionaries that no one in the community would speak to apart from telling them to "go home", who stuck it out and saw great revival after 12 years. Surely we can hang around Stoney Creek and see what the Lord will do there! We are confident that the Lord has a great work for ANiC in Stoney Creek and with joy and love we continue our ministry there.

We are so grateful for the love, prayers and support of our St. George's family.

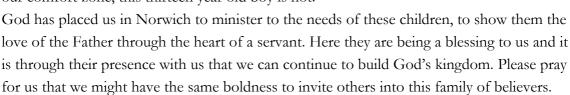
Your brothers and sisters at St. Paul ABC

Church of the Messiah News

O our God, will you not execute judgement on them? For we are powerless against the horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. 2 Chronicles 20:12

In our Bible study over the past few weeks we have been reading about Jehoshaphat and his reliance on the Lord. Jehoshaphat really understood that he had no power to control anything but that in all his trials he was to keep his eyes on God. As the body of Christ, we

have been learning that same lesson from the children of Norwich, who come faithfully every week despite the weather or their circumstances. Jesus tells us that we are to become like little children and it is through these children that we can see the truth of this. One thirteen year old boy has shown how easy it is to invite others to join us; over the past three weeks he has brought someone new every week. This is what one could call 'come and see', inviting people to come and meet Jesus. And while we may be uncomfortable stepping out of our comfort zone, this thirteen year old boy is not.



As a growing congregation we have been greatly blessed by the prayers and support from St.George's and the leadership of Ray David. We are especially thankful for the 'church plants' summit day when he led a day for the leaders of St. Paul Bible Church, the Toronto Project and Church of the Messiah. We met and prayed and praised God together and shared our experiences with each other. It was good for us to hear what God has been doing in all three locations. As Peter said when he made our presentation for (Continued on page 12)

"he was crushed for our iniquities"



(Continued from page 11)

Church of the Messiah at General Synod, "these are not red balloons on a map but Tongues of Fire". God is truly working in and through all three church plants building His kingdom. I came away from that time together feeling refreshed and eager to continue on with the journey.

Church of the Messiah has also been greatly blessed by the donation of a communion set and altar linens given to us by Rev. Ken Bombay. We have been hoping to have an opportunity to thank him for his generous donation and we are now looking forward to seeing him on February 21, 2010. Peter will be away attending a Church Planting Summit in Plano, Texas and while we will miss the wonderful teachings that Peter provides us, we are thankful for this event and for the opportunity for Peter to participate. As a congregation within ANiC we are greatly blessed to have such resources available to us. Nonetheless, the First Sunday in Lent will be a day of celebration as we gather together to thank God for providing for us through the servant heart of Rev. Ken.

With the end of Epiphany and the approach of Lent also come annual vestries, and for us, our very first vestry as a church. Peter asked us to prepare our vestry reports so we could have them printed and distributed prior to vestry. As we considered all the reports that needed to be submitted, we once again recognized that God had really been working within this small congregation. Our final vestry report consisted of twelve pages including: Street Ministry, Warden's Report, Altar Guild, Mission, Sunday School, Bible Study, Library, Priest in charge's report, Music report, Prayer Ministry, Synod Reports and a Financial Report. Immediately after Morning Prayer we heard 'Pastor Peter's Charge', had a Brunch Break, and our Vestry.

Since we are still in our infancy, there were no elections but we did announce some appointments for various ministries. Peter also showed us what a 'self sustaining' budget might look like; and while we are not there yet, God will surely work among us. As with

(Continued on page 13)

Jehoshaphat, we need to recognize that we can do nothing of ourselves, and then keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

As a church and members of the Body of Christ, we have recognized over the past months that God has called us to reach out to the children; to move out of our comfort zone; to rely on Him as he works in and through us. There have been many challenges along the



way, but as with Jehoshaphat, the horde was coming; but as they recognized their own limitations and kept their eyes on the Lord, there was victory. I believe that God will also provide us a victory if we only recognize that we are powerless; it is not about our abilities but about what God can do in and through us. Please pray for us over the coming days that God will give us servants' hearts and that we will keep our eyes fixed on Messiah Jesus.

Sheilagh Roloson Warden





THOUGHTS FROM THE "ONE YEAR BIBLE"

This year our congregation has been encouraged to read through the whole Bible in one year. Reading the whole Bible causes one to think differently.

"Now this is what you shall offer upon the altar: two lambs a year old day by day continually. One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer in the evening: . . . It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak there to you. There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory." Exodus 29: 38,39, 42, 43

It always seemed to me very hard to understand how the temple could fall into disuse and decay and that all the people could fall away from the living God, especially when there was to be worship daily. The real answer is that daily worship was quickly neglected and soon abandoned; not only so, but the prescribed meeting with God was replaced with the emptiness of idolatry.

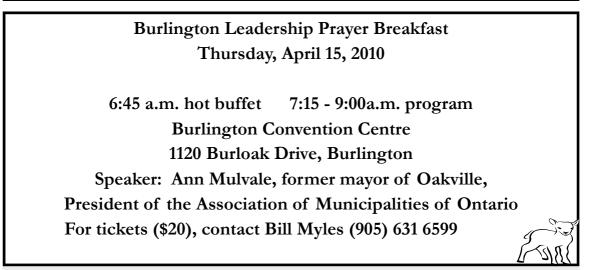
It strikes me that in our day too, it is in the day-to-day worship where the battle with steadily encroaching paganism is won or lost. If worship is not established as a daily reality in our homes, then sporadic attendance at church will do little or nothing to stem the tidal wave of worthless empty paganism. We need day-after-day meeting with God, hearing Him speak, just as it was in Exodus 29. If you are a praying mother or grandmother, you are blessed! God certainly hears you; you will not be denied. If you, as a father, are taking up your responsibility of reading the Bible to your children and praying for your family, leading them to the Lord, you are making a true and lasting investment.

Anglican worship is deeply rooted in both the Old and New Testaments. The morning and evening offering was a recognition of sin. The daily offering was God's provision of grace to a sinful people; the redeeming sacrifice was the only basis for them to draw near to God. We Anglicans, blessed by our "orthodox Anglican Heritage" know well that we draw near to God, only by the gracious redeeming sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. Every service, morning prayer, evening prayer, the communion, is built on this foundation: confession of sin, forgiveness in Christ, fellowship with God through Jesus, and life in Him. We follow the Biblical pattern: morning offering, evening offering, morning prayer, evening prayer.

And there is the meeting with God, hearing Him speak. Anglican worship is Scripture based. There is no other worthy foundation. God speaks through His word. The Book of Common Prayer, (Canada, 1918), in the "Order How The Rest of Holy Scripture Is Appointed To Be Read" states first that "The Old Testament is appointed for the First Lessons at Morning and Evening Prayer so as the most part thereof will be read every year once. The New Testament is appointed for the Second Lesson at Morning and Evening Prayer, so as the most part will be read every year twice." According to our heritage, we Anglicans believe in reading the Bible through every year.

We have the honour of joining the angels and all of heaven in worshipping God with thanksgiving and praise. In the catechism, the question "what is the work of the Church in the world" has this answer: "the work of the Church in the world is to offer to God on behalf of all men the worship which is his due; to make known to all men the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and to unite all men to God in one family." The continual offering morning and evening reminds me of the obligation we have to offer continually day-by-day acceptable worship to God through Christ . "Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name" [Hebrews 13:15]. "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and perform your vows to the Most High". "The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me" [Psalm 50: 14, 23]. If our lips every grow silent and fade away, "the rocks will cry out"!

Mary Ann Masters



St. George's Anglican Church, Lowville, member congregation of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Anglican Church in North America

Rector : Rev. Ray David Glenn Pastoral Assistant: Rev. Ken Bombay Honorary Assistants:

> Rev. Deacon Garth Hunt Rev. Greg McVeigh Rev. Peter Parent Rev. Keith Stodart

Worship Pastor: Bryan Hunt Ministry Coordinator: Naomi Neeb Church Secretary: Donna Rigo

Crossroads Centre Chapel, 1295 North Service Road, Burlington 9:00 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion, and Sunday school

10: 45 family service, nursery and Sunday school

6:30 p.m., evening service at Milton Bible Church, Main Street, Milton

church office: 1-905– 335 6222 email: office@stgchurch.ca Web Site: www. stgeorgeslowville.org By George editors: J. Masters, M. Masters email: mmasters@bserv.com Come let us join our cheerful songs With angels round the throne; Ten thousand thousand are their tongues; But all their joys are one.

'Worthy the Lamb that died,' they cry, "to be exalted thus'; 'Worthy the Lamb,' our lips reply, 'For he was slain for us.'

Jesus is worthy to receive Honour and power divine; And blessings, more than we can give, Be, Lord, for ever thine.

Let all creation join in one To bless the sacred Name Of him that sits upon the throne, And to adore the Lamb.

Isaac Watts, 1707

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