

# THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, September 16, 2018

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist, Sermon & Children's Church



## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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### SAVANNAH

*The Truth of the Bible*  
*In the Beauty of the Anglican Tradition.*  
*Believe. Worship. Love. Serve.*

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

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**For Guests and Visitors.** We extend a warm welcome to guests and visitors worshipping with us. If this is your first visit to Saint John's, please let us know by filling out the visitor card in the pew and dropping it in the collection plate. All are invited to join us in the Parish House immediately after the service for the abundant and delicious refreshments at Coffee Hour. We look forward to getting to know you!

**Children's Nursery** for birth - age 3 (1st floor), is available from 9:30a.m. till 12:15 p.m.

**Children's Church** Children (age 4 - rising 5th grade) begin in church with their parents, and may follow the cross to Cranmer Hall.

**Interactive Worship.** The congregation participates actively in worship, and this booklet is a guide to taking part in it. For many parts of the service it will refer you to one of the two books in red bindings in the pew racks – the **1940 Hymnal**, and the smaller **1928 Prayer Book**.

**Receiving Communion.** Those visiting with us from other churches who are baptized and admitted to communion may receive the sacrament. Unless prevented by reason of infirmity, please kneel at the altar rail. To receive the host, place right hand over left, palms upward, and lifted to about chest level. To receive the chalice, hold head erect, and place hands on base or bowl to guide it to your mouth. If you prefer, leave the host visible in your open hand and the minister will dip it for you, and place it on your extended tongue. **If you are not receiving Communion, you are welcome to receive a Blessing:** to do so, kneel and cross your arms over your chest.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN SAVANNAH

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Founded in 1841, the first rector, Stephen Elliott, was also the first bishop of Georgia, and he consecrated the present church on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1853. In 1943, one of Savannah's historic mansions, the Green-Meldrim House, became its Parish House and Rectory. Later, Macon Street in the block between the church and Green-Meldrim House was closed and laid out as the present garden Mall. Cranmer Hall, the Christian Education building, was renovated and enlarged in 2004. St. John's is one of a handful of parishes in the Episcopal Church that continues to worship using the classical Book of Common Prayer (in its 1928 edition). We are committed to transmitting unimpaired to our posterity the historic Faith and Order it sets forth, within the fellowship of the Anglican Communion.

## HOW WE WORSHIP AND WHY: DIVINE SERVICE

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Worship is a two-way street. We speak to God in praise and prayer - but we also *listen* to him. "Hear, O my people, and I will speak" (Ps. 50:7). God speaks to us through the liturgy, and especially in a richly Biblical liturgy like the old Prayer Book. He speaks to us through its set forms (like the Absolution, or Blessing) and through passages that are read from the Bible (not only the Epistle and Gospel lessons for each Sunday and feast day, but also the Law, Offertory sentence, the Comfortable Words, and the words of Christ over the elements in the Lord's Supper). God also speaks to us through sermons. Not everyone *likes* sermons, but if the preacher knows his business, his discourse is a word from God to us; one that takes a teaching of the Bible, opens it to our understanding (so that we grasp its full meaning and implications), applies it to our particular circumstances, and moves us to embrace its challenge and promise. If a preacher knows his business, the Word of God is an arrow to the heart. That's not something most Christians can easily do for ourselves (though reading sermons, or other books of sound Christian teaching, can sometimes come close.) Not every sermon does this, of course - even champion athletes have bad days, and not every preacher is a champion - but that's no reason to dismiss preaching. Whether or not we *like* sermons, they are indispensable to worship. Because worship is not a monologue. "Today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Psalm 95:8).

If you have questions or topics for this feature, please send them to the rector [gdunbar@stjohnssav.org](mailto:gdunbar@stjohnssav.org)

# THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

September 16, 2018

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist, Sermon & Children's Church

*Nursery Infants to age 3 - 9:15 a.m. til 12:15 p.m.*

*Please silence all electronic devices. In the time before the service begins, we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of thy faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Amen.

HYMN (*all stand*) #344 *O Love How Deep* .....Deus Tuorum Militum

## THE ANTE-COMMUNION

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The Collect for Purity (*all kneel*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 67

The Summary of Law (*all kneel*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 69

KYRIE ELEISON: (*all kneel*) Hymnal #710 ..... Healey Willan

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect (*all kneel*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 212

The Epistle (*all sit*): Ephesians 3:13 ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 212

HYMN (*all stand*) #272 *Thou, Whose Almighty Word* ..... Moscow

The Holy Gospel: (*all stand*) St. Luke 7:11 ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 212

The Nicene Creed (*all stand*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 71

**I BELIEVE in one God** the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. *Amen.*

<b>Welcome and Announcements (<i>all sit</i>)</b> .....	Father Dunbar
<i>Children up to Grade 5 may exit following the cross for CHILDREN'S CHURCH</i>	
<b>HYMN (<i>all stand</i>) #369 Come, Holy Spirit</b> .....	St. Agnes
<b>Sermon</b> .....	Father Dunbar

## THE OFFERTORY

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### Sentences (*all stand*)

<b>ANTHEM (<i>all sit</i>): Blessed are the Pure in Heart</b> .....	Walford Davies
Text: Keble	

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see our God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs,  
their soul is Christ's abode.

Still to the lowly soul  
He doth Himself impart,  
and for His cradle and His throne  
chooseth the pure in heart.

<b>Presentation of Alms: (<i>all stand</i>) #139 Doxology</b> .....	Old Hundredth
<b>Biddings and Commemoration of the Departed:</b>	

<i>Minister.</i>	Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
<i>Answer.</i>	And let light perpetual shine upon them.
<i>Minister.</i>	May they rest in peace.
<i>Answer.</i>	Amen.

<b>Prayer for the Church (<i>all kneel</i>)</b> .....	<i>Prayer Book</i> , p. 74
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## THE HOLY COMMUNION

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<b>Invitation, Confession (<i>said by all, all kneeling until Blessing</i>)</b> .....	<i>Prayer Book</i> , p. 75
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**ALMIGHTY God**, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<b>Absolution and Comfortable Words</b> .....	<i>Prayer Book</i> , p. 76
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Sursum Corda ..... Hymnal #734 or *Prayer Book*, p. 76

*Priest.*           The Lord be with you.  
*Answer.*        And with thy spirit.  
*Priest.*           Lift up your hearts.  
*Answer.*        We lift them up unto the Lord.  
*Priest.*           Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*Answer.*        It is meet and right so to do.

The Proper Preface ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 77

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711..... Healey Willan

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Amen. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 80

The Lord's Prayer (*said with the congregation*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 82

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*) ..... *Prayer Book*, p. 82

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

AGNUS DEI #712..... Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world  
*Have mercy upon us*  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world  
*Have mercy upon us*  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world  
*Grant us thy peace.*

HYMN #453 *Jesus, All My Gladness*..... Jesu, meine Freude

**Motet (*all sit*):** *To Thee, O Jesu* (Austin Kent, soloist) .....Joseph W. Clokey

To Thee, O Jesu, I direct my eye, to Thee my hands, to Thee my humble knees; to Thee my heart shall offer sacrifice; to Thee my thoughts, who my thoughts only sees; to Thee myself and all I give; to Thee I die; to Thee I only live.

Text: Sir Walter Raleigh

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*said with the congregation*) .....*Prayer Book*, p. 83

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*all stand*)** (*Hymnal #713*).....Healey Willan

**The Blessing (*all kneel*)** .....*Prayer Book*, p. 84

**HYMN (*all stand*)** #479 *Love Divine* .....Hyfrydol

**VOLUNTARY:** *Trumpet Tune in D* (Sarah Eliasoph, Tympani) ..... Georg Philipp Telemann

*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.*

*If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

**12:00 P.M. (Noon)—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel - as at 8:00 a.m.)**

**ST. JOHN’S IS PODCASTING:**

You can listen to St. John’s Sunday lessons and sermon on your smartphone, any time you like, using the free Podbean App: search for St. John’s Church Savannah, Ga. If you need help using the app visit the Church website at [www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org), pick up a how-to leaflet at the Church, or call the church office at 232-1251.

**PRAYER REQUEST BOXES**

To encourage praying with and for one another, parishioners are invited to submit Prayer Requests (supplication or thanksgiving) to the Prayer Boxes set up in the narthex and at the Chapel entrance. These will be collected and prayed for during the monthly meeting of the St. John’s Prayer Circle (to which all are welcome) – second Wednesdays after the 5:30 evening service, in the Cranmer Hall Fellowship Room. (To keep prayers up-to-date, prayer requests must be renewed each month).

*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:22*

# THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

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8:00 a.m.	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Church)
8:45 a.m.	Continental Breakfast (Fellowship Room, Cranmer Hall)
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Nursery</b> for children up to Kindergarten
9:30 a.m.	<b>Adult Classes:</b> 2 Kings Class with Father Dunbar (Chapel) Collects Study with Father O'Brien and Will & Mary Helen Burdell (Cranmer Hall 3rd Fl. - Reading Rm.) The Gospel According to John with Jack Wray (CH3-309) <b>Youth Classes:</b> Middle and High School with David Svihel (Cranmer Hall - 3rd Fl.)
10:30 a.m.	<b>Sung Eucharist, Sermon and Children's Church</b> (Cranmer Hall) <b>Nursery</b> for children Newborns to Kindergarten until end of the service.
Noon	<b>Holy Communion</b> (Chapel)

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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**The altar flowers on this Sunday are given to the glory of God:** And in memory of loved ones by Mr. and Mrs. Warren L. Traver.

And in loving memory of Peter Meldrim Coy and Sally McAdoo Coy by Mr. and Mrs. Timothy E. Coy.

And in loving memory of Jo Francis Deal and Edward John Derst, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Derst III and family.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Helmken and loved ones and in thanksgiving for St. John's Church by Mr. and Mrs. W. Howard Helmken, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Gary M. Schubert.

*If you would like to offer flowers for the Altar, please call Mrs. Robert (Mary) Burnett at 912-351-9622. After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-in: if you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please call Mrs. John (Margaret) Wylly at 912-656-6235.*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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**Chancel Society:** Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. James C. Pedrick, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry, Miss Amara DeRienzo, Mrs. William E. Dillard III, Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillian, Mrs. Michael J. Schubert

**Coffee Hour Chairman:** Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr.    **Roaming Greeter:** Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

**Usher Chairman:** Mr. E. Brian Culver & Mr. Edwin H. Culver    **Vestry Offering Chairman:** Mr. R. Gilbert Wells

**Acolytes:** Philip Inglesby, Jack McClellan, Jacob Perkins, Finn Repella, Edwin Shepherd, William Taylor, Haddon Watson, Whit Watson

*Women parishioners of St. John's Church are invited to serve Christ and his Church in the St. John's Chancel Society, taking care of the linens, silver, flowers, vestments, and preparing the altar for services on Sunday and weekdays. For more information, contact the President, Mrs. Roland (Sylvia) Summers at [raltonspeaches@yahoo.com](mailto:raltonspeaches@yahoo.com) or through the church office at 912-232-1251.*

## WORSHIP THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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**Monday to Thursday:** 8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. *Morning and Evening Prayer*

In addition, on **Wednesday:** 9:45 a.m. *Litany* & 10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

In addition, on **Thursday:** 5:30 p.m. *Evening Prayer & Holy Eucharist*

In addition, **Ember Friday, St. Matthew, Apostle & Martyr:** *Morning and Evening Prayer With Holy Communion*


In addition, **Ember Saturday,** 10:30 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

**Next Sunday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The 17th Sunday After Trinity: 10:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer, Sermon & Children's Church*


# FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S

**WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER** To stay up-to-date with our weekly Church email, send your name and email address to: [information@stjohnssav.org](mailto:information@stjohnssav.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



FAITH AND REASON AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



**FIVE TALKS BY JON SPRAGUE**  
**Join us for these Upcoming Talks**  
**Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11**  
**6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.**

♦Interested but not sure you can come to all?  
The first four talks can stand alone – the fifth is where the themes are pulled together. Come to all, or come to one.

♦Free Admission

“Jon Sprague’s passionate interest in science and his commitment to the Christian faith is evident in these intelligent, informed, and illuminating explorations of questions so many struggle with today”  
– Fr Gavin Dunbar, Rector

## Are You Connected?

Due to this week’s weather this event will be rescheduled.



## MEN OF SAINT JOHN'S

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### MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

**Tuesday Men's Breakfast**, with Father O'Brien, 6:45 a.m., Parish House

**Thursday Men's Bible Study** *Jeremiah* with Father Dunbar 7:00 a.m. Reading Room, Third Floor Cranmer Hall.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Annual Steak Dinner November 1<sup>st</sup> - Look for complete details coming soon.**

## WOMEN OF SAINT JOHN'S

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### WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday book study, "The Spire" by T. H. White with Father O'Brien. 9:15 a.m. in the Reading Room.

### HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR — APRON ORDERS

The final order for personalized Holly Days Bazaar aprons will be placed today, September 16. The total cost of the apron is \$21.40. To order, please contact Nita Ann Klein at 912-927-4270 or nak618@gmail.com.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Holly Days Bazaar November 7-8**

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES OF SAINT JOHN'S

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### FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

**9:30 a.m. Nursery for infants and toddlers** (1st floor Cranmer Hall). Supervised fellowship for potty-trained

**Three-year old's - 5th grade** (2nd floor Cranmer Hall)

**10:30 a.m. Nursery for infants and toddlers** (1st floor Cranmer Hall) Fellowship, lesson, and music for potty trained 3 years old's – Kindergarten (2nd floor Cranmer Hall)

**Children in 1<sup>st</sup> – 5th grade** will attend church with their parents and follow cross over to Cranmer Hall for a lesson and fellowship time (2nd floor Cranmer Hall)

\*All children are to be picked up at the conclusion of the 10:30 service.

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

All parishioners, aged 16 and over, are encouraged to volunteer as a teacher's aide or Cranmer Hall building supervisor. For more information, please contact Melanie Finnegan at [melanietfinnegan@gmail.com](mailto:melanietfinnegan@gmail.com).

### JOIN ST. JOHN'S CHILDREN FACEBOOK

To see announcements, weekly lessons, and photos of our children throughout the year, join our Facebook page, St. John's Children.

## YOUTH OF SAINT JOHN'S

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### MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### YOUTH FALL RETREAT

**Save the Date: Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.** The Youth at St. John's Fall Retreat at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island. Complete details and registration information coming soon.

## MUSIC OF SAINT JOHN'S

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### MISSION WINDS CLARINET QUARTET

The United States Air Force Band of the West will be holding a free concert on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. here at St. John's. Please plan to attend.

### BRASS FOR MICHAELMAS

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the brass at Michaelmas on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, please make checks payable to St. John's Church marked "brass" in the memo line, and add (if desired) a note as to intention (thanksgiving or memorial).

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

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New Adult Sunday School Class “The Gospel According to John” with Jack Wray begins this Sunday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m. They will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl. of Crammer Hall in Room 309. This course will be a thorough study of the Gospel of John, the differences in John’s Gospel and the three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), the passages included in John but not in the synoptics, and vice versa.

The purpose of this study is to see how the differences in these books help us develop a clearer picture of who Jesus was, and who He is today in our lives often filled with confusion, disturbances, and misunderstandings.

All are invited to join.

**THE CHILDREN’S SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN’S HAS OPENINGS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS**  
If you have any questions or would like to register your child for the upcoming year please contact Laura Mattocks at 912-232-1225

## STANDING NOTICES

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**DOCENTS NEEDED FOR CHURCH TOURS**  
We are in need of three more docents interested in this outreach project. Contact: Jack Wray at jcwray12@gmail.com or 912-596-2950 if you are interested.

## WELCOMING TALENTS

Put your welcoming talents to good use and sign up to be a Roaming Greeter at Coffee Hour. Your mission: to make every newcomer at St. John’s go away feeling really welcome. No training necessary; just attentive, warm and friendly interaction with our visitors. Helpful tips to identify visitors will be provided! Please email Elizabeth Schubert at banklady10@bellsouth.net to sign up.

## THIS WEEK’S DAILY PSALMS & LESSONS

The list of this week’s daily psalms and lessons is available on the website, and in the weekly e-newsletter. Paper copies are available by the Church door and in the Chapel.

## DOCENTS NEEDED FOR THE GREEN-MELDRIM

We need docents and door keepers for the Green-Meldrim House! Please call Jane Pressly, 912-233-6551, janepressly@aol.com or Martie Thomas at 912-598-4299, martiecampbell@bellsouth.net if you are interested.

## THIS WEEK’S DAILY PSALMS & LESSONS

The list of this week’s daily psalms and lessons is available on the website, and in the weekly e-newsletter. Paper copies are available by the Church door and in the Chapel.

## FOR ACCESS TO THE CHURCH DIRECTORY USE THE CHURCH LIFE APP

To access the Church Directory, create your St. John’s Access ACS members login by going to [www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org). You may also go directly to the Access ACS login at:

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/memberlogin.aspx?sn=158821>

After you create your St. John’s members login, download the Church Life app on your phone or smart device to access the Church Directory. If you have any questions or your email address is not recognized, please call the church office at 912-232-1251

## PARISH PAPER ESSAY

### SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM (2)

The last two Sundays (Trinity 14 and 15) have set before us a choice - to live by the Flesh, in self-gratifying greed, or to live by the Spirit, in grateful service; to live by fear, in the service of Mammon, or by faith, in the service of God; in godless anxiety, or in godly ambition. When we live by faith in God's fatherly goodness, we are set free to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness", in the confidence that his providence will not fail us. That is our Stewardship theme: "Seeking God's kingdom, for ourselves, our church, and our neighbor".

But what is "God's kingdom"? We may think of a "kingdom" as a territory ruled by a king, and of God's kingdom as a place in the clouds. But in the Bible a kingdom is not a place but a power; it is kingship in action: it's what a king does. He saves and defends his people from their enemies. He upholds justice by his judgments. He preserves their possession of the land that is their inheritance. So the kingdom of God is not a remote place in heaven, but a present activity of God here on earth. The good news of the gospel is that God's kingdom is coming, "on earth as it is in heaven", and is already come in the words, works, and person of Jesus. In his works of power ("miracles"), we see the power of God's kingdom to save an afflicted people from defilement, disease, demon-possession, and death. In his acts of judgment, we see the power of God's kingdom to establish justice among men, by forgiving sins, reconciling sinners, putting down the mighty from their seats and exalting the humble and meek. In bestowing on his people the Spirit, we see the power of his Kingdom to impart an inheritance better than land - the gift of God himself, who in taking his people as his possession, gives himself to be theirs: "My beloved is mine, and I am his".

But who is this people that he saves and blesses? It is a community constituted by the faithful response to the gospel proclamation of the Kingdom. True, the gospel meets with rejection as well as reception;

but in the cross and resurrection the Kingdom triumphs. For there the King takes upon himself the death our sins deserve, that he may give us the life that only his righteousness deserves, and so he wins to himself a people gathered out of all sorts and conditions of men, to be his witness among all nations. That witness is necessary, because the consummation of the Kingdom - when "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ" (Rev. 11:15) - is not yet. So the Kingdom is present, but hidden, proclaimed by the witness of our words and works, yet known by faith alone. Grounded in grateful memory of its first coming, we look with expectant hope for its final revelation. Until that day, grateful hope informs all that we do, and all that we suffer; for it is the coming of God's kingdom that everything we do or suffer is rescued from futility. It is the one thing - the "pearl of great price" - for whose sake all other things are worth doing or suffering. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord".

In summary, that is what we mean by God's kingdom. Like any summary it is both abstract and general, nebulous and vague. In the pages of the New Testament, however, we see it fleshed out in life. In this Sunday's gospel (Luke 7:11-17), we see what the Kingdom's coming means for a widow on her way to bury her only son, and what it means for her friends and neighbours, and what it means for the people who hear the news of what happened. Such is the dynamism of God's Kingdom: it creates an ever-widening community of praise which cannot be contained, but overflows, until its glory fills the earth. Drawn into that community of praise, we too have been invited to *seek first God's kingdom*, and to flesh out what it means for ourselves, our church, and our neighbours is what we will be considering in the next few weeks.

GGD

# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

## *Worship in the Anglican Tradition*

*Parish Chartered in 1841 Church Consecrated in 1853*

325 Bull Street On Madison Square OFFICE: One West Macon Street 31401

***Our Mission: Saint John's Church is building a community in Christ  
That is grounded in historic faith and reverent worship  
And is committed to sharing the life-transforming truth of the Gospel.***

www.stjohnssav.org Office: 912.232.1251 Fax: 912.232.5559 Parish House: 912.233.3845

Bishop of Georgia.....The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase  
Rector - The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar.....(912) 429-3384 gdunbar@stjohnssav.org  
Priest Associate - The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien .....(912) 308-4441 cobrien@stjohnssav.org  
Assisting Priest - The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt .....(912) 777-9968  
Organist/Choirmaster - Mr. R. Steven Branyon.....sbranyon@stjohnssav.org  
Business Manager - Mrs. Janice W. Woods.....(912) 232-1251 jwoods@stjohnssav.org  
Administrative Assistant - Mrs. John C. Nelson (Margaret) .....(912) 232-1251 mnelson@stjohnssav.org  
Communications Coordinator - Mrs. Jeremy J. Harvey (Heather).....(912) 232-1251 hharvey@stjohnssav.org  
Financial Administrator - Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfet (refer financial inquiries to Mrs. Woods) .....(912) 232-1251  
Minister with Youth - Mr. David Svihel.....dsvihel@stjohnssav.org  
Children's Ministry Director - Position Open  
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Treasurer - Mr. David C. Barrow III; Assistant Treasurer - Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford;  
Chancellor - M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.; Vice Chancellor - Richard C. E. Jennings, Esq.

The Vestry: M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq., Dr. J. Davidson Carson, Mrs. Christian M. Arden-Joly,  
Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy, Mrs. Gary M. Schubert, Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr.; Messrs. David C. Barrow III,  
Edwin H. Culver, R. Gilbert Wells, Mr. Holden T. Hayes, Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter, Mr. John M. Wilson III  
Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpiller,  
Roland B. Williams, Esq.

President, Women of St. John's.....Ms. Laura Reid  
President, Chancel Society.....Mrs. Roland S. Summers  
President, Men of St. John's.....Mr. Martin R. Sullivan, Jr.