

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 40

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 2, 2018

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

Monday – Public Holiday

No services – Office Closed

Tuesday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

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*

Saturday, September 8th

THE NATIVITY

OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*

Next Sunday, September 9th

TRINITY 15

10:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*

SINNER

In last Sunday's sermon on the Good Samaritan, I argued that we could not be neighbours to one another until we knew how Christ had been neighbour to us; more specifically, that only as we know how he loved us, his enemies, who despised and rejected him, could we love our enemies also. The only possible basis for neighbour-love that fulfills God's law, is faith that has accepted Christ's neighbour-love for us, as an utterly unmerited mercy. If we don't see his action to us as free grace, undeserved love, then we will take it as entitlement, and it will not motivate us to show the same love to people we think undeserving of our kindness. We might do so, of course, but then as a demonstration of our superiority, an act that serves ourselves and our pride. Only the gospel provides a genuine basis for altruistic action, in

gratitude for undeserved grace.

I did not have time to deal with an objection, however, and it is an objection that must be addressed. For someone might say, I haven't despised or rejected Jesus. I *like* Jesus. And with this objection, the door is kept open to self-serving self-justifying Pharisaism. ("I have lived a good life, I *deserve* to be treated well", etc.). So let's take a closer look at this claim.

Who is Jesus? According to the New Testament, he is the incarnate Son of God; as such he is both Savior and Lord. To receive Jesus as friend, to love Jesus for who he is, is to love him as God, Lord, and Savior. If we do not receive and love him as he is, then we do not love him. What would a great chef think, if you brought peanut-butter sandwiches to eat at his table? What would a spouse think, if we sought sexual intimacy from someone else? What would a commanding officer think, if we followed another officer's orders? If we do not obey Jesus as Lord, if we do not call on him as Savior, and put our whole trust and confidence in him alone for our redemption, then far from loving Jesus, we have despised and rejected him. We have not, perhaps, done it intentionally, or without a full awareness of our intentions: but the contempt and rejection is just as real, and the harm it does to us as grievous. If you turn to medical help to a quack, have you not despised and rejected your doctor? And will you not suffer the consequences? To be sure, rejection comes in worse forms, when motivated by malice, fear, or pride, and we may be glad if that is the case – yet we have rejected him nonetheless.

What comes to light in this objection is our capacity to deceive ourselves. Nature

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ONE WEST MACON STREET

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

www.stjohnssav.org

To receive the Parish Paper by email (on Fridays), send name and email address to information@stjohnssav.org

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. DunbarRector
1 West Macon Street, 31401(912) 429-3384
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate
423 E. Gaston Street 31401(912) 308-4441
The Rev. J. Patrick HuntAssisting Priest
Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Mrs. James G. Sharpley (Lisa)Parish Administrator
Mrs. Daniel J. MahfetFinancial Administrator
Mr. David Svihel. Minister with Youth
Position Open. Children's Ministry Director
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President, Women of St. John'sMs. Laura Reid
President, Chancel Society Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's Mr. Martin R. Sullivan, Jr.

Church Office(912) 232-1251
Fax(912) 232-5559
Parish House(912) 233-3845
Cranmer Hall(912) 232-8887
E-mails (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary. Please call the Church Office to notify the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital or hospice.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed

10:30 a.m. Mr. R. Gilbert Wells

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. E. Brian Culver & Mr. Edwin H. Culver

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne

10:30 a.m. Philip Inglesby, Jacob Perkins,

Finn Repella, Edwin Shepherd William Sills

William Taylor Haddon Watson Whit Watson

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Byron and Catherine Cocke, and in loving prayer for their children, Finn, Eugenia, Symmes, Estella & Saint.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Radford by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Roller.

And in loving memory of Donna Lynn Patterson and Charles Edwin Patterson by Karen Elaine Patterson.

And in loving memory of Frank Perdue Lee by his family.

And in honor of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Fawcett and Mr. and Mrs. Billy S. Summerell by Mr. and Mrs. B. Ray Summerell.

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. Jeanne W. McMillian, Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Mrs. William C. Rodgers

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. David A. Reid

ROAMING GREETER

Mrs. C. Douglas Foran

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH:

CRANMER HALL-3RD FLOOR

Upper & Middle School is NOT meeting this Sunday - David Svihel

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:

Collects Study With Father O'Brien and Will & Mary Helen Burdell. CH3-Reading Room
Father Dunbar's Class on 2 Kings - Chapel

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- Jeremiah with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m. Third Floor Cranmer Hall

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday Book Study: T. H. White's "The Once and Future King" with Father O'Brien 9:15 a.m.,
CH3-Reading Room

PRAYER REQUEST BOXES

Encouraging prayer with and for one another. 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).

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Wednesday, September 12th, 6:30 following the Evening Prayer service in Cranmer Hall

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

equips us with instinctive responses that serve our bodily welfare. Pain makes us pull our hand back from the hot stove; thirst, to drink water. Without these instinctive responses, we would come to great harm. Yet the natural capability to know sin has been deeply impaired by the sin we inherit from Adam, and we are prone to self-deception and denial about how great is our need for grace, and how little we deserve it.

We have of course the great gift of the law, which exposes our sin as transgression and trespass, injustice with which God cannot make peace, acts which in true justice he must prosecute with the full vigor of his impartial judicial wrath. That should burst our bubble of complacency! In the knowledge of the law, we have knowledge of our sin, its gravity and punishment, and in knowledge of our sin, we have powerful motivation to seek God's grace on the terms it is offered by the gospel, and to receive it not with greedy entitlement but with grateful love.

But in our post-modern pragmatic bubble even the use of the law is impaired; for it is sometimes (though never consistently) denied that there is any law, any moral order that God must uphold by his judgments, or anything to fear from his wrath, or to hope for from his favor. Even thieves acknowledge the moral order their actions deny, when they object to being stolen from. And what is the moralistic shaming culture of our day, but a distorted quest for justice? And how can there be a moral order that has no cause and no effect, no lawgiver and no judge, no first author or final reckoning? Our denial of this reality is nothing else than magical thinking: 'la la la la la, I can't hear you...'. Our desire to deceive ourselves is very great, and immensely dangerous. Keble's lines from the *Christian Year* stick with me:

*But what are Heaven's alarms
to hearts that cower
In wilful slumber, deepening every hour,*

*That draw their curtains closer round,
The nearer swells the trumpet's sound?
Lord, ere our trembling lamps
sink down and die,
Touch us with chastening hand,
and make us feel Thee nigh.*

To be "woke" is now the fashionable pose; but what we need is awakening. GGD

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

CHILDREN'S CHURCH OPENING DAY:

Join us to celebrate at 10:00 a.m. in Cranmer Hall.

YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL BARBEQUE:

All youth 6th – 12th grades and parents are invited to join us after the 10:30 service as we start our new year together.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE BEGINS:

9:30 a.m. *Adult, Youth, and Confirmation classes* (3rd floor Cranmer Hall). *Nursery for infants and toddlers* (1st floor Cranmer Hall). Supervised fellowship for potty-trained *3 years 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 1st – 5th grades* 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.

SCIENCE & TRUTH

Is there room for God in our understanding of reality? Five Talks by Jon Sprague Thursdays Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11 at 6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

- **Childcare is Available by Prior Registration Only:** Register online at www.stjohnssav/grow.org or contact the Church Office 912-232-1251.
- **Interested but not sure you can come to all?** Come to all, or come to one.
- **Free Admission**

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL Prayer Book, page 209
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

Summer Children’s Nursery for birth - age 3 (Cranmer Hall, 1st floor),
 is available from 9:15a.m. till 12:15 p.m.

9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER, SERMON & CHILDREN’S CHURCH

HYMN: #287 <i>Give Praise and Glory Unto God</i>	Elbing
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses	7-8
VENITE: #609.....	9
Psalm #74	430
First Lesson: 2 Kings 5:1-19 <i>The cleansing of Naaman the Syrian</i>	
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615.....	10
Second Lesson: Galatians 5:16 & St. Luke 17:11.....	209
BENEDICTUS#634.....	14
<i>During this canticle Children (age 4 - rising 4th grade) are invited to meet Melanie Finnegan at the church door for Summer Children’s Church in Cranmer Hall.</i>	
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Responses	16
Collect of the Day	209
Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers.....	17-20
Welcome and Announcements	The Rector
HYMN: #276 <i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	Nun Danket
Sermon	Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences	
Anthem: <i>O Lord, Support Us All the Day Long</i>	Carl Schalk
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)	
General Thanksgiving (<i>said by all</i>) and Aaronic Blessing.....	19
HYMN: #302 <i>O That I Had a Thousand Voices</i>	Mentzer
VOLUNTARY: <i>Prelude and Fugue in e minor (BWV 533)</i>	J.S. Bach

*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.)