

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 53

First Sunday in Advent

December 2, 2018

## UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

### ◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

#### Monday-Friday

*Holy Communion with  
Morning & Evening Prayer*  
8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m., Chapel

#### In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*, Chapel  
10:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### In addition, on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> — CONCEPTION

10:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### Next Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church  
9:00 a.m. *Advent Family Service*, Chapel  
10:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Church

### ◆ WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S ◆

#### Board Meeting, Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 a.m., Green-Meldrim House

#### General Meeting, Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

after 10:00 a.m. Chapel, Green-Meldrim House

## THE URGENCY OF NOW

In the four Sundays before Christmas the Church keeps the season of Advent, which is, as the name indicates, a season that looks to Christ's coming to the world. His coming has more than one aspect: as Bernard of Clairvaux said in the 12th century, in Advent "we think not only of the coming whereby he came to seek and save the lost, but also and no less of that other coming, whereby he will come and take us to himself" – his second coming. Moreover, he says, "there is another, a third coming between those two... In the first Advent he was seen on earth and walked with men. In the second, 'all flesh

shall see the salvation of our God,' and 'they shall look on him whom they pierced'. But the intermediate advent is a hidden one, in which only his chosen see him, in themselves, and so their souls are saved. In the first, he came in flesh and weakness; in the middle one he comes in Spirit and in power; in the final coming he will come in majesty and glory. ... So this intermediate advent is a sort of road, by which we travel from the first to the last." The point therefore, is to see the present time in light of Christ's past coming in humility, and his future coming in majesty.

That is the teaching that Cranmer with consummate art turns into prayer in the collect (CALL-ect) that he composed for the first Sunday in Advent.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal...

As Geoffrey Cuming, notes (in an essay from which I freely quote), the antithesis of first and second comings is worked out in four points: (1) "in the time of this mortal life" - "in the last day"; (2) "thy Son Jesus Christ came" - "when he shall come again"; (3) "to visit us" (viz. 'in saving mercy' cf Luke 1:68 "he hath visited and redeemed his people") - "to judge both the quick and the dead"; (4) "in great humility" - "in his glorious majesty".

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Position Open ..... Children's Ministry Director  
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**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. Edwin H. Culver

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. R. Scott Howard

**ACOLYTES**

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne  
10:30 a.m. Jackson McClellan, Edwin Shepard,  
William Taylor, Haddon & Whit Watson,  
and Malcolm & Wesley Worsham

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory of Sally O'Donnell Whittington; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George O'Donnell; and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Cook by Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Sr. and sons; Floyd, Jr. and George.

And in loving memory of Lt. John Woodward Sognier, Jr. by Dr. and Mrs. Morgan W. Murray and Dr. and Mrs. William E. Osborne.

And in honor of Mr. and Mrs. W. Lee Belford on their wedding anniversary by their loving grandson, William Lee Belford, III, and his parents.

**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,  
Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr., Mrs. Wiley A.  
Wasden III, Mrs. Charles B. Compton, Jr.  
and Mrs. Thomas McCay

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. R. Kran Riddle

**ROAMING GREETER**

Mrs. Gary M. Schubert

**SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH:**

Cranmer Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Middle School** – David & Kalista Svihel  
**High School** – Rick Wright & Martin Sullivan

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:**

*God's Promise to David* with Fr. Dunbar is moving from Chapel to CH3-Reading Room  
*Collects Study* with Father O'Brien, Will & Mary Helen Burdell is moving to library of the Green-Meldrim House (enter through kitchen)

*The Gospel According to John* with  
Jack Wray – CH3-Room 309

**MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

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

Thursday *Jeremiah* with Fr. Dunbar,  
7:00 a.m., CH3-Reading Room

**WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Thursday *A Glastonbury Romance* with  
Fr. O'Brien, 9:15 a.m., CH3-Reading Room

Moreover, these antitheses are arranged in a chiasmus (an arrangement of words in an ABba pattern), with one antithesis ("humility" and "majesty") set within another ("visit" and "judge"). These carefully balanced clauses are introduced by a quotation from the ancient Epistle of the day (Romans 13:11-14), which already contains a further pair of antitheses: (5) "that we may cast away" - "the works of darkness"; and (6) "and put upon us" - "the armour of light".

It's what Cranmer does with these six antitheses that demonstrates his art. As Cuming notes, he could perfectly well have cast his material in strict collect form, and it would have looked something like this:

Almighty God, whose blessed  
 Son Jesus Christ, in the time of  
 his mortal life, came to visit us  
 in great humility, and in the last  
 day shall come again in his glorious  
 majesty to judge both the  
 quick and the dead: give us grace  
 that we may cast away the works  
 of darkness and put upon us the  
 armour of light, that we may rise  
 to the life immortal...

This, or something like it, would have been, as Cuming says, "lucid, but tame". Instead Cranmer relates the past and future events to the present, by emphasizing, with the word 'now' (also borrowed from the day's epistle lesson) that we are 'in the time of' the First Coming. "So he plunges straight into the petition ("Almighty God, give us grace...") and encloses the comparison of the two Comings in another striking chiasmus, which makes its effect despite its members being separated by two or three lines of vivid

imagery: 'now in the time of this mortal life... we may rise to the life immortal.'" The antithesis of 'humility-majesty' is set within that of 'visit-judge', which is in turn within that of 'mortal-immortal'.

The effect of these antitheses set (like chinese dolls) within this chiasmic form (ABCcba) is to define "now" as a time of decisive importance. In present decisions - in the use of our present time, this very moment, now, not some indefinite time in the future - do we forge an eternal destiny. At the beginning of the Church's year - another rotation of the annual cycle - we are put in mind of the vital importance of grasping hold of the grace that is available to us in this time. There is no mistaking the practicality and urgency of that invitation. To jump from the 16th century to the 19th, John Keble catches it in his poem for this Sunday in The Christian Year:

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.

GGD

### ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Will meet **Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
 at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (1st  
 floor, Cranmer Hall). The Bible study  
 will be The Lord's Prayer followed by  
 thanksgiving and intercessory prayers.

### CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Forms are now available online, at the back  
 of the church and at the Church Office for  
 anyone interested in giving a poinsettia,  
 wreath or garland as Christmas decorations  
 for the Church. Poinsettias are \$30 each.  
 Wreaths and Garlands are \$80 each. Send  
 forms with a check (payable to **St. John's  
 Chancel Society**) to the Church Office.  
 Call (912) 232-1251 with any questions.

Light in our Darkness:

*Discovering the  
 Hope of Advent*



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel

**8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 90  
*Decalogue (p. 68) & Exhortation (p. 85). The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted in Advent.*  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**NURSERY** for birth - age 3 (Cranmer Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor) from 9:15 a.m. till 12:15 p.m.

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

**10:30 A.M.—SUNG EUCHARIST, SERMON & CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

HYMN #1 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ..... Stuttgart

**ANTE-COMMUNION**

Collect for Purity..... Prayer Book, page 67

The Decalogue ..... 68-69

KYRIE ELEISON: #702 ..... John Merbecke

Collect.....90

Lesson: Isaiah 1:1-4,16-20 [not printed] & Epistle: Romans 13:8 .....90

HYMN #9 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding* ..... Merton

The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 21:1.....91

The Nicene Creed.....71

Welcome, Announcements, and Blessing of Advent Wreath Candles ....Father Dunbar

HYMN #566 *Jesus Calls Us*..... Galilee

*After blessing of candles, children (K--Grade 5) may exit for Children’s Church*

Sermon .....Father Dunbar

**OFFERTORY**

Sentence & ANTHEM: *Enter Not Into Judgment* ..... Thomas Attwood  
 Psalm 143, Vs. 2

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 ..... Old Hundredth

Prayer for the State of the Church .....74

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation, Confession and Absolution .....75

Sursum Corda #734.....76

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #704..... John Merbecke

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation .....80

The Lord's Prayer and Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*) .....82

AGNUS DEI #706..... John Merbecke

HYMN #329 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* .....Frankfort

Motet: *Lo, In The Time Appointed* .....Healey Willan

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) .....83

The Blessing (*kneeling*).....84

HYMN #3 *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying* ..... Sleepers Wake

VOLUNTARY *Sleepers, Wake!* (BWV 645)..... 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**