Third Sunday in Advent

December 16, 2018

The Parish Paper

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Vol. 50 No. 3 Third Sunday in Advent

December 16, 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

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

In addition, on Saturday,

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion, Chapel

Next Sunday, December 23rd FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion, Church 9:00 a.m. Advent Family Service, Chapel 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols, Church Noon Holy Communion, Chapel

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

"The Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come." "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:17, 20). In this prayer, the voice of the Spirit and of the Church, the bride of Christ, call on the Lord to draw near, and bring to fulfilment the redemption he has wrought for us. With their voice we are invited to join our own, as we do in the haunting Advent hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

Like much of the modern hymn repertoire, its current popularity begins in the 19th century, with its translation by one of the great hymnographers, John Mason Neale. Neale's convictions were Anglo-catholic

(he was a co-founder of the first Anglican nunnery since the Reformation). He was also a formidable classical scholar-compiler of a standard dictionary of classical Greek. Both aspects made him one of the great hymnographers of our tradition, specializing in translations from Latin and Greek, as well as fresh compositions. (There are 44 hymns by him in the 1940 Hymnal-including "Good Christian Men Rejoice", "All Glory Laud and Honor", and "Come ye faithful raise the strain"). He accomplished all this, despite suffering from chronic lung disease.

Neale published the first translation of this hymn in 1851. The original Latin text came from an 18th century Psalter published in Cologne, but it is based on the "Great O Antiphons" of ancient origin (Boethius seems to allude to them, and they were in wide use in the 8th century). These refrains addressed to Christ that begin with the vocative particle "O" were sung in the old Latin rites before and after the Magnificat on the last seven or eight days of Advent. In melismatic plainsong, they call on Christ in a rich range of scriptural images. Thus O Emmanuel, (originally sung on December 22nd), had this text:

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspec-tatio Gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.

THE PARISH PAPER OF

St. John's Church

ONE WEST MACON STREET SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

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

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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. R. Gilbert Wells

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. R. Scott Howard ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Jackson McClellan 10:30 a.m. Phillip Inglesby, Henry Osborne, Daniel Sills, William Sills, William Taylor, Haddon Watson, and Whit Watson

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marshall F. Campbell, Jr. and her grandson, Alexander Mueller Archie by Dr. and Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., 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. R. Gilbert Wells

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Robert J. Merritt, Jr.

ROAMING GREETER Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH:

Cranmer Hall – 3rd Floor

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:

God's Promise to David with Fr. Dunbar CH3-Reading Room

Collects Study with Father O'Brien, Will & Mary Helen Burdell, Green-Meldrim House (in the library)

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

YOUTH OF ST. JOHN'S

Mark your calendars for the Food+Fellowship Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 19th. The Youth of St. John's will meet at the Svihel's home for food, fellowship, and faith from 6-7:30 p.m. at 24 N. Parkwood Dr. Savannah, GA. While RSVP's are appreciated they are not necessary. You are welcome to bring a friend or two.

[O Emmanuel, Our King and our Lawgiver, the Desire of nations, and their salvation: come for our salvation, O Lord our God.]

"Emmanuel", of course, is a reference to Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23: "desire of nations" is Haggai 2:7: "our lawgiver" and "their salvation" alludes to a wide range of Scripture.

At some point after the 8th century (no one is quite sure when), they were versified into meter, and supplied with a refrain. It was Neale and his musical collaborator Thomas Helmore who first combined the translated text with the present tune, whose origins were a mystery for over a century. Neale said it was "adapted from a French Missal", though no one could ever locate this source. Some thought it was written by Helmore himself; but in 1966 an eminent Cambridge plainsong scholar and nun, Mother Thomas More (AKA Dr. Marion Barry) discovered the tune in Lisbon, in a funeral litany in an 15th century processional compiled for the use of Franciscan nuns. Dr Barry (Mother Thomas More) commented: "Perhaps it is a measure of Helmore's genius that he detected in this melody an appropriate Advent sound as well, one which conveys an unmistakable sense of solemn expectancy, not only for the Nativity of Christ, but also for his Second Coming Helmore was shrewd enough, also, to have been aware that an indubitable link exists between the theology of Advent and a

procession marking the passage from death to eternal life". In living and in dying, in joy and in sorrow, in work and in rest, we invite Christ's coming 'to make all sad things come untrue': "O Dayspring, Brightness of the everlasting Light, and Sun of Righteousness: come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death". GGD

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL/TREE TRIMMING Sunday, December 16th

Noon – 1:15 p.m. All children performing in the pageant will meet in the Fellowship Hall in Cranmer Hall for a light lunch after church. The children will change into costume and do a few run-throughs in the church.

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Children, youth and their families are invited to trim the Parish House tree and sing carols in the Green-Meldrim House. Lemonade and cookies will be provided.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

For anyone interested in giving a poinsettia, wreath, or garland as Christmas decorations for the Church., please submit your form by December 17th to be included in the December 30th Parish Paper. Forms submitted after December 17th will be included in the January 6th Parish Paper. Forms are available online, at the back of the church. in Cranmer Hall, and at the Church Office. 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.

MEN OF ST. JOHN'S

The Men of St. John's will meet this week on Tuesday, December 18th, but will not meet on December 25th or January 1st. Meetings will resume January 8th.



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