

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 51 No. 42

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sept. 13, 2020

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THIS SUNDAY FROM ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION (IN-PERSON WORSHIP)

By reservation only. Visit StJohnsSav.org or call 912-232-1251.

9:30 A.M. – ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: ST LUKE'S GOSPEL

Will meet via Zoom with Fr. Dunbar.

Email mnelson@stjohnssav.org for connection information.

9:30 A.M. – YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Will meet via Zoom with David Svihel.

Email dsvihel@stjohnssav.org for connection information.

9:30 A.M. – CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

A short video lesson will be posted to St. John's Children's Facebook group at www.Facebook.com/groups/StJohnsSavChildren.

10:30 A.M. SERMON (LIVE-STREAM ON FACEBOOK)

11 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER

(IN-PERSON WORSHIP & LIVE-STREAM)

In-person worship by reservation only. Visit StJohnsSav.org or call 912-232-1251.

Available on St. John's Facebook page at

www.Facebook.com/StJohnsSav and YouTube.com/channel.

Have your Prayer Book ready.

Additional resources will be in Friday's email.

Morning Prayer begins on page 6 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

Opening Voluntary: Partita on "Christe Sanctorum....." Matthew Machemer

Hymn: #276 *Now Thank We All our God*.....Nun Danket

The First Lesson: 2 Kings 5 *The cleansing of Naaman the Syrian.*

The Second Lesson: Galatians 5:16 and St. Luke 17:11.....209-210

The Collect.....209

Offertory Voluntary: Two Reharmonizations on "Dundee"..... David N. Johnson

Communion Voluntaries: *Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured*..... Alexander Schreiner

Children of the Heavenly Father..... Edward Broughton

Hymn: #302 *O That I Had a Thousand Voices*..... Mentzer

Finale: from Partita on "Christe Sanctorum"..... Matthew Machemer

HOLY COMFORT

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned..." (Isaiah 40:1ff). "*Comfort*" is one of the great words of the Bible and Prayer Book, and one of the great themes of the Gospel. Foretold by the prophets, fulfilled by Christ, it is administered to the faithful in the Church by the one whom Christ taught us to call "the Comforter", that is, the Holy Ghost.

In current usage, "comfort" refers most often to the experience of an easy chair or a soft bed, and a "comforter" is the quilt that keeps you warm. This usage of the word "comfort" is only distantly related to its root, which is the Latin word "fortis", meaning "strong". (Think fortitude, fortify, and fortress.) To be comforted is to be strengthened against adversity, and in the midst of griefs and sorrows, to take heart.

An apt example of this meaning of the word comfort is to be found in the Bayeux Tapestry, that remarkable 11th century embroidery record of the Norman conquest of England. In one scene we see a column of soldiers, at the end of which rides Duke William's brother, Bishop Odo, prodding the stragglers with a big stick. Underneath there is a Latin motto, which may be rendered literally, "Bishop Odo comforts the soldiers". Comfort here is not ease, but a big stick prodding us

forward into battle!

The comfort foretold by the prophets, however, was something better than a stick in the ribs. What strengthens the prophets against fear and despair is the promise of God's coming to save and deliver them from judgment and captivity. As one old divine puts it, "To the gospel it belongs to comfort those who are distressed and cast down, to quicken those who are slain and actually dead, to cheer the mourners, and, in short, to bring all joy and gladness; and this is the reason why it is called 'the

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S This Sunday, Sept. 13th – Trinity 14

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*

(In-person worship by reservation only.)

9:30 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*
(Please note new time.)

10:30 a.m. *Sermon*
Live-stream on St. John's Facebook

11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*
In-person worship by reservation only
and on St. John's Facebook and YouTube.

Mid-week Live-stream Services

Monday, Sept. 14th – Holy Cross Day

11 a.m. *Morning Prayer with
Ante-Communion*

Wednesday, Sept. 16th – Ember Day

9:50 a.m. *Litany*
10 a.m. *Ante-Communion*

Next Sunday, Sept. 20th
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
*Service schedule to be announced
Monday, Sept. 14th, by email.*

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OF
St. John's Church
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

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly with a bonus edition for Christmas by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

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The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar Rector
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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.

Services may be limited for now,
but your Church ministry is not on hold.
Please continue to support St. John's
financially.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
11 a.m. Mr. Holden T. Hayes

USHER CHAIR

Mr. Mark D. Stevens

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland
Mrs. William E. Dillard III
Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan
Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Herbert Mather, Mr. William P. Thompson, and Mr. Robert M. Thompson by Mrs. William P. Thompson.

In honor of the life of Col. Lindsey P. Henderson, Jr. from his loving family.

In loving memory of Mr. Andrew Gay Labrot by Mrs. Andrew Gay Labrot and his children.

In honor of Father Gavin Dunbar's birthday.

In loving memory of Mary Lou Hague and all of those lost on September 11, 2001 by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph H. Kulp II and family.

SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Holly Days Bazaar will be November 11 – 12th.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MASKS

If you or anyone you know needs a face mask, please don't hesitate to contact Martha Sullivan at 912-663-6221 or msullivan73@comcast.net.

Gospel', that is, good news". In that word of comfort, the faithful were exhorted not to lose heart, but to endure. In that word of comfort, the word of future hope, there is reason for present joy.

The human soul faces enemies to its happiness and security within and without. Without lurk many devastating griefs and sorrows, which affect us even when we do not experience them directly, through the fear and anxiety they awaken. The enemies within are even more destructive of our happiness: our fatal capacity for self-delusion, the self-destructive perversity of our wills, the burden of guilt. The natural response of the soul which carries this burden is to seek its happiness in the world, and in its goods – power, prosperity, pleasure, fame. Yet such projects in the end fall short; above all, because even in the world that the successful man that makes for himself he finds the darkness and disorder of his own soul writ large.

Where do we find true comfort when it is not to be found either in the world or in the soul itself? Archimedes said about the action of a lever, "give me but one firm place in which to stand and I will move the earth". But where is the soul to find that one firm place in which to stand? We may say, "in God", but God's favour cannot be taken for granted (we do not and dare not presume), nor (despite our constant attempts to do so) can we extract a firm place from him in virtue of our accomplishments. If God is to provide for us this firm place, he will do so by grace alone, by the sheer gift of his generosity, unmerited, and undeserved. The nature of our comfort is set forth with admirable and Trinitarian completeness in the opening question and answer of the Heidelberg Catechism:

"What is thy only comfort in life and death? **Answer.** That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him".

Now that is comfort! In our own Prayer Book, the idea of comfort is perhaps most strongly expressed in the part of the Holy Communion which we know as "the Comfortable Words". After a searching confession of sin, and the pronouncement of absolution, the priest says, "Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith"; and then rehearses four sentences of scripture, beginning with Matthew 11:28 and John 3:16: "Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. So God loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". From the lips of Christ himself, through the word of scripture itself, by the words of the Lord's representative, we hear unmistakable assurance of the remission of sins and the pardon of sinners, which will then be confirmed in us by the sacrament. In these words we find outside ourselves, and outside the world, the "firm place" in which to stand and move the earth, the soul's true comfort in the face of all that threatens its desire and hope for happiness.

— GGD