

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 51 No. 52

Sunday Next before Advent

Nov. 22, 2020

Vol. 51 No. 52

Sunday Next Before Advent

Nov. 22, 2020

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: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

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)

Mr. David Svihel will be preaching.

11 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER (IN-PERSON WORSHIP & LIVE-STREAM)

Mr. David Svihel will be preaching.

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

Available on St. John's Facebook 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: *Introspection*, Frederick Stanley Smith

Hymn: #137 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (St. George's Windsor)

Sunday Collect: BCP p. 225

Lessons: Psalm 85; Jeremiah 23:5; Saint John 6:5

Offertory Voluntary: *Andantino in A*, W. G. Alcock

Communion Voluntary: *Improvisation on Bunesan*, Charles Callahan

Hymn: #357 *Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus* (In Babilone)

Closing Voluntary (11 a.m. only): Chorale Prelude on
"Nun danket alle Gott.", Max Reger

WEAPONIZING THE CANONS

American mores around marriage changed dramatically over the last two decades, and in lockstep with them, so did the mores of the Episcopal Church: so much so, that there seemed little to say about the conviction last month of William Love, Bishop of Albany, New York, a conservative noted for his defence of traditional marriage, for violating the discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church when he banned same-sex marriage in his diocese in 2018. By agreement, he resigned, and though few were surprised by the outcome of his lonely stand, there is much cause for disquiet, as the Bishop of Springfield, Dan Martins, has argued in Covenant, the blog of *The Living Church*.

Bishops Martins and Love belong to Communion Partners, a small group of bishops opposed to same-sex marriage who remain in the Episcopal Church. At the General Convention that authorized same-sex marriage, a compromise was worked out in Resolution B-012: when a parish in their dioceses wishes to host a same-sex ceremony, the bishop can invite a colleague to assume authority over the situation. In banning same-sex marriage, Bishop Love refused the path offered by B-012 which the other CP bishops had accepted.

That's just background: what Bishop Martin addresses is the "weaponizing" of the canons against conservatives like himself, exposed by the conviction of Bishop Love. As he writes, the CP bishops "are repeatedly assured that we are valued members of the Episcopal Church, and that our voices need to be heard. (...) Nonetheless, the sequence of events leading up to Bishop Love's

... resignation, ... causes me to question the assurances we have been given in such abundance." He notes that Bishop Love was not charged on the basis of anything he did, but merely on the basis of a pastoral directive he wrote. As a result, there was no aggrieved party – the charges were brought by the office of the Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, famous for preaching at the royal wedding. The prosecution case relied on the "fiction" that the rites of same-sex marriage, authorized for trial use, have the constitutional authority of a revision of the Prayer Book – though the same Convention manifestly declined to engage in any such revision. Fourth, "and of utmost concern", the agreement that

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

**This Sunday, Nov. 22nd
Sunday Next before Advent**

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.

**Thursday, November 26th
Thanksgiving**

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*
(In-person worship by reservation only.)

**Next Sunday, Nov. 29th
The First Sunday in Advent**

*Service schedule to be announced
Friday, Nov. 20th, by email.*

THE PARISH PAPER
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.

The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar Rector
1 West Macon Street, 31401 (912) 429-3384
The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt Assisting Priest
Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
Mr. Wesley Perkins Assistant Conductor
Mrs. Angela Fisher Assistant Organist
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Mrs. John C. Nelson (Margaret) Adm. Assistant
Mrs. Jeremy J. Harvey (Heather) Comm. Coordinator
Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfiet Financial Administrator
Mr. David M. Svihel Minister with Youth
Mrs. Joseph Ross, Jr. (Sarah) .. Children's Ministry Director
Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager
Master of Ceremonies Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.
Verger Mr. B. Ray Summerell
Senior Warden Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip)
Junior Warden Mr. R. Leslie Johnson
Clerk of Vestry Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth)
Treasurer Mr. Holden T. Hayes
Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)
Chancellor M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.
Vice Chancellor Richard C.E. Jennings, Esq. (Skip)

The Vestry: Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter, Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip), Mrs. Sean F. Finnegan (Melanie), Mr. Holden T. Hayes, Mrs. R. Scott Howard (Betsy), Mr. R. Leslie Johnson, Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr. (Holly), Captain John K. Ross, Mr. Joseph Ross (Rusty), Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq., Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr. (Martha), and 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 Mrs. Mary Soule (Stuart)
President, Chancel Society Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's Mr. Sean F. Finnegan
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 CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
11 a.m. Mrs. Sean F. Finnegan

USHER CHAIR

Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.,
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. W. Lee
Belford, Mrs. William Lee Belford,
Jr., Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr.,
Mrs. Roland S. Summers,
Mrs. Michael N. Thompson, and
Mrs. Charles R. Youles

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry King McCormick, and Mr. and Mrs. L. Rogers Wells, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells.

And in loving memory of Mary Kemper Elkins Adams on her birthday from Dicky, Caroline, Ted, Reid, Dee, Katharine and Mary-Porcher.

And in loving memory of their parents, by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Johnston.

And in loving memory of Louis Woodbury (Ray) Schmidt on the 106th anniversary of his birth, by his daughter, Susan; and his son, Peter.

PARISHIONER GET-TOGETHERS

Reservations are open for **Sunday, Nov. 22nd** from 5–6 p.m. Hosted by Robert and Tru Helms in their home on Oglethorpe Avenue. RSVP StJohnsSav.org/gettogether.

ALL SAINTS EVENSONG

We invite you to offer your praise and prayers with us in the Choral Evensong for All Saints featuring the choir and musicians of St. John's Church. You may view this service at StJohnsSav.org/Evensong.

Bishop Love should resign looks rather like a “plea bargain”. Instead of a “slap on the wrist” (appropriate, given the absence of grievance) Bishop Love resigned by agreement, and the inference to be made is that the alternative was deposition from the ministry – a penalty reserved for serious crimes, such as priests convicted of sexual abuse.

“Putting this all together, a pattern of relentless urgency emerges. It's as if nothing can be allowed to even seem momentarily to eclipse the perceived moral imperative of achieving the goal of “all the sacraments for all the baptized,” no matter the cost.... Make no mistake: this is not about Bishop Love being held to account for violating his ordination vow to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church. It's about the weaponizing of the canons of the church for the purpose of prosecuting a single, focused agenda, an agenda which its supporters understand as a matter of gospel justice”, but which, as Martins also notes, “sits lightly to the authority of Holy Scripture, which every ordinand in the Episcopal Church confesses to be “the word of God”, and which has rent the worldwide Anglican Communion nearly completely asunder”. In contrast, Martins notes, the open practice of “open communion” proceeds without penalties, though prohibited by the canons of the Episcopal Church. In those matters, violation of the canons is tolerated – no charges are laid - but on same-sex marriage a merely verbal resistance incurs the threat of deposition. “It's never been about the impartial application of canon law; it's about the fulfillment of the dominant political will”.

Martins concludes with this appeal: “Over the last nearly two decades, we [CP bishops] have remained engaged in good faith with the Episcopal Church. We are Episcopalians! And we have remained Episcopalian at no small cost So, our message to those fellow

Episcopalians is: we are here. See us. We do not actually have power to harm you. We want to remain, we believe ourselves *called* to remain, despite our discomfort with where the mainstream of the church has gone. But we want to do more than remain. We want to flourish. ...What has happened in Albany makes us think you don't share that desire, that you are not willing to work with us in creating a space in which we *can* flourish. Are we wrong about this?” It's a very good question, and one to be asked not just by bishops.

– GGD

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

At the Annual Congregation General Meeting on Nov. 17th, new members were elected to the Vestry for a three-year term beginning Jan. 1st, 2021:

- Mrs. Benjamin W. Baxter (Cathy)
- Mrs. Paul M. Pressly (Jane)
- Mr. Robert L. Sparks
- Mr. Mark D. Stevens

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

Join us **Thursday, Nov. 26**, 11 a.m. for our in-person Thanksgiving Day Holy Communion, by reservation only. RSVP at StJohnsSav.org/in-person-services. This service will also be available on Facebook and YouTube for those unable to attend.

Advent Wreath Making

Saturday, Nov. 28 • 10 a.m. – noon
Garden mall by reservation only.
Come join us to make your family's Advent Wreath in the garden mall. We will have refreshments to enjoy and will provide all the supplies. If you prefer, you can use this time to come by and pick up your wreath supplies to do at home. Please use the appropriate reservation. *RSVP at StJohnsSav.org/advent*