

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 43 No. 32

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

July 8, 2012

## WELCOME

At this Sunday's Coffee Hour after the 10:30 service please welcome to St. John's **Jeremy and Jackie Bergstrom**, with their children Nathanael and William.

Also, in the absence of Dr. Taylor, who is on vacation, Dr. **Irene Feddern** is our guest organist.

## RECESSIONAL

The Queen's recent Jubilee, and the national holidays of my native and adopted countries, have put me in mind of one of the most famous poems of the English language, Rudyard Kipling's 'Recessional', written for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

At the height of the British empire's global power, Kipling had risen to fame as literary exponent of the imperialist ideal. Naturally, he was urged to compose an ode for publication on the day of the Jubilee (June 22<sup>nd</sup>), but he judged unworthy some stanzas he had begun, and went away for two weeks to watch the Fleet on manoeuvres. On his return he threw the lines he had written in the trash. After a friend retrieved them, they were revised and published the next day (July 17<sup>th</sup>) in *The Times*, where they created an instant sensation. As the title indicated, the poem was a coda to the imperial celebration, and a reflection on its significance. Far from the jingoistic jingle his critics expected, Kipling's Jubilee ode was a sober antidote to national self-congratulation.

God of our fathers, known of old,  
Lord of our far-flung battle line,

Beneath whose awful Hand we hold  
Dominion over palm and pine -  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

The title's allusion to liturgical ceremony, and the hymn-like structure of the poem, are the first hints to Kipling's approach. (It was soon adopted as a hymn, as in the 1940 Hymnal at #147). The language too is suffused with Biblical allusion, especially Deuteronomy, the "recessional" of Moses, a retrospective exhortation made at the end of Israel's sojourn in the wilderness. Kipling's refrain, "lest we forget" later passed into common usage as a reference to the war dead; but its origin is the warnings of the prophet against the forgetfulness of God's mercy and justice, against idolatrous pride and disobedience to his law: "Beware" lest in "thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage". "If thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish" (Deuteronomy 8). The remembrance enjoined here is of God's kingdom, and of the inevitable passing away of human empires, and their pride:

The tumult and the shouting dies;  
The Captains and the Kings depart:  
Still stands thine ancient sacrifice,  
An humble and a contrite heart.

**THE PARISH PAPER**  
OF  
**St. John's Church**  
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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.

**HOSPITAL VISITATIONS**

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

**ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE**

Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site:  
[www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org)

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 Dr. J. Davidson Carson

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. John Riley

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert V. Martin, Jr. by his family.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Miller, Sr. and Mrs. Louise Duskin Dillard by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Dillard III.

And in loving memory of Miss Sarah Alexander Patterson Summers by her family.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Wm. B. McNeal II, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard Sr.  
Ms. Anne Mingledorff, Mrs. Philip F. Kirk  
Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague, Ms. Jeannie McMillan,  
Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish Jr., Dr. Linda Ann H. McCall

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** Clayton Compton  
**10:30** Lawson Turner  
Chris Dixon  
*Volunteers requested!*

**COFFEE HOUR**

Mrs. Robert .J. Merritt

**TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING**  
**Men's Bible Study & Discussion Groups**  
**In the Reading Room, Cranmer Hall**  
**Tuesday 7:00 a.m. – No meeting July 10th**  
**Thursday 7:00 a.m.— No meeting July 12th**

**CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS**

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday  
**Office closes at 12:00 noon on Fridays.**

*Fr. O' Brien will be on vacation July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
through July 9. The Rector is out of town  
July 11th - 17th.*

**THIS SUNDAY – 9:30 CLASS**

Fr. Dunbar—*To be announced*

**BAZAAR NOTES**

- **Jane's cannors** are working away in the Cranmer Hall Kitchen on Wednesdays after 10 a.m. church service. All gifts of any kind of fruit, nuts, figs, zucchini, squash, etc. are appreciated.
- Storage unit available for **White Elephant** and **Treasurer Room**, contact Betsy Howard at 398-1326 or [betsyd6@aol.com](mailto:betsyd6@aol.com)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

Far-called, our navies melt away;

On dune and headland sinks the fire:

Lo, all our pomp of yesterday

Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!

Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,  
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

With sound exegetical instincts honed by much reading of the King James Version, Kipling connected Moses' warning with the prophets' oracles against the pagan empires of Nineveh and Tyre, and the psalmist's teaching against empty ceremony: "the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (51:17). (Compare also Isaiah 57:15: "a contrite and humble spirit"; and The Song of the Three Children 1:16: "in a contrite heart and an humble spirit let us be accepted".)

The psalmist's teaching is key to understanding the (still controversial) fourth line of the fourth stanza.

If, drunk with sight of power, we loose

Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,  
Such boastings as the Gentiles use,

Or lesser breeds without the Law -  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget - lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust

In reeking tube and iron shard,  
All valiant dust that builds on dust,

And guarding, calls not Thee to guard,  
For frantic boast and foolish word -  
Thy mercy on Thy People, Lord!

The "lesser breeds without the Law" is often read as a reference to non-whites, but the poem itself indicates they are those whose "heathen heart ... puts her trust / in reeking tube and iron shard", whose idolatry of power tramples moral duty. Kipling is more likely making reference to the militarism of Wilhelmine Germany or Czarist Russia

than to the Asian and African peoples of the Empire. Kipling's prayer is that "thy people" be delivered from such idolatries of human power.

Much has changed in the interim: global empire has shifted (as Kipling himself foresaw) across the Atlantic, the Fleet which polices the sea-lanes of the world is now American: but the themes of 'Recessional' are as relevant to the one as to the other. Neither flag-wrapped chest-thumping nor poisonous national self-loathing, Kipling's poem is a lasting guide to a chaste and sober love of country, founded in the fear of God. GGD

#### PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

##### Monday to Friday

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

*Morning or Evening Prayer*

##### In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

*The Church office closes at Noon on Fridays during the summer.*

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>—20<sup>TH</sup> \* 9 A.M. - NOON**

*Open (free of charge) to children 3 years old (and potty trained) through to those who have completed 1<sup>st</sup> grade and are moving into 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Register Now! Volunteers Welcome.*

#### SIGN UP FOR A SUMMER MORNING!

Parents &/or Grandparents are asked to sign up for one Sunday this summer, to teach a simple story-lesson to the Pre-School/ Kindergarten class at 10:30 a.m. Sign-up sheets will be in Cranmer Hall beginning this Sunday or call Maryan Harrell 232-8887 or 272-7925.

**8:00 A.M. — HOLY COMMUNION**

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel.....195  
*A continental breakfast is available Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**9:30-12:00 (Noon)—Nursery (Cranmer Hall)**

**9:30-10:15—Classes for Adults & Confirmed Youth (Chapel and Cranmer Hall)**

**9:30-10:15—Pre-School through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Program (Cranmer Hall)**

**10:30—Activities for Pre-School & Kindergarten (Cranmer Hall)**

**Jr. Choir for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grades (Cranmer Hall)**

**10:30 A.M. — MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON**

PRELUDE:*Benedictus*..... Rowley  
 HYMN #157 *Father, We Praise Thee* ..... Christe Sanctorum  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer..... Prayer Book, pages 3-7  
 Versicles, Responses ..... 7-8  
 VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO #610..... 9  
 Psalm #34.....380  
 First Lesson: I St. Peter 3:8 .....195  
 BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE #623 .....11  
 Second Lesson: St. Luke 5:1 .....195  
 BENEDICTUS #634 .....14  
 Apostles' Creed .....15  
 Versicles and Responses .....16  
 Collect for the Day .....195  
 Other Collects and the Grace..... 17-20  
 HYMN #147 *God of Our Fathers* .....Melita (#512)  
 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.  
 THE SERMON..... Fr. Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences  
 Anthem: *God My Shepherd Walks Beside Me*..... Johann Sebastian Bach  
 Soprano Soloist: Lucy Sheils  
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)  
 Prayer and Blessing  
 HYMN #566 *Jesus Calls Us*..... Galilee  
 ORGAN: *Processional on Meltita*..... Callahan

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*Everyone is invited to attend the **Coffee Hour in Cranmer Hall** immediately after the 10:30 service.  
 If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

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**12 Noon HOLY COMMUNION in the Chapel. (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as 8 a.m.)**