

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Transfiguration of our Lord (Trinity X)

August 12, 2012

PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH

One of the things I have over the years grown to appreciate and love in the classical Prayer Books is the "Prayer for the Church". It is one of the two "long prayers" which require and repay a special effort on the part of the worshipping congregation.

Consider its place in the Order of Holy Communion. We hear the Ten Commandments (or the Summary of the Law), which lay out the parameters of community with God and neighbour. Yet to hear them is to know we fall short: "Lord have mercy upon us" we respond with repentance, and in prayer for his transforming grace: "incline our hearts to keep this law". That's the work of the Law – to move us to repentance, to a hunger and hope for grace, whereby we might enter more fully into, and be sustained in community with God and neighbour.

Then, in the Epistle and Gospel lessons, that gift of God's grace in Christ which is the ground of true community is proclaimed. To hear and receive that word of grace in the gospel is the work of faith.

Third, in the Offertory we hear sentences of Scripture moving the repentant and faithful congregation to good works, works of love and charity, specifically the giving of alms and oblations for the relief of the poor and the work of the Church – for faith without works is dead (James 2:20); and though we are justified by faith alone apart from the works of the law, the faith which justifies is a faith that is active in love (Galatians 5:6). In those who repent, believe, and are active in works of love, we

begin to see the community which God creates and sustains by his grace.

We offer God alms and oblations; we are active in good works; but these only go so far; and so with them we also offer (as the Word of God teaches) "prayers, and supplications ... for all men" (cf. 1 Timothy 2:1). There is a universal horizon to our charity – "all sorts and conditions of men", "every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Rev. 5:9) – a horizon far beyond our capacity to supply. The "serenity prayer" would counsel us to accept the things we cannot change, but the word of God challenges us to turn everything over to God, to ask him to accept, bless, prosper and multiply what we can do – and to supply and provide what we cannot do.

Comber notes that in this prayer, we show "that our charity extendeth further than our alms can reach; for the benefit of these is received only by a few of our neighbours, but we ought to love all the world, especially our Christian brethren, even those who do not need or cannot profit by our gifts: and how can we express this better, than by recommending them all to the mercies of God, who is able to relieve them all, and of whose bounty all have need: which excellent duty ... at this holy sacrament is most proper, because we here behold the universal love of Jesus, and are declared lively members of his mystical body, and conjoined in the strictest bonds of union with all our

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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

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ross Haire

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for St. John's, family and friends by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.

And in loving memory of Dr. Albert J. Kelley and Mr. Charles B. Compton by the Compton family.

The flowers at the altar in the Chapel on Wednesday, August 15th are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 13th Anniversary of the Ordination of The Rev'd Craig E. O'Brien.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard Sr., Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Ms. Anne Mingledorff, Mrs. David A. Young
Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. George Fawcett
Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 Clayton Compton
10:30 Chris Dixon
Charles Perrie, Mikel Kelly
Patrick Perrie, Hunt Wasden,

COFFEE HOUR

Mrs. G. Edward Warner

SUNDAY MORNING 9:30 A.M.

ADULT CLASS (CHAPEL)

Articles II-V of the Thirty Nine Articles
(the Rector)

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

Men's Bible Study & Discussion Groups
(READING ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, CRANMER HALL)

Tuesday 7:00 a.m. – Colossians.

Thursday 7:00 a. m. — Acts of the Apostles,
with Fr. Dunbar

BAZAAR BUSINESS

The **canners** need fresh veggies and fruits (figs, peppers, pears, peaches, apples, mangos, etc) sugar, mint, pecans and half-pint jars. Jane Pressly 232-6551.

Storage unit available for **White Elephant** and **Treasurer Room**, contact Betsy Howard at 398-1326 or betsyd6@aol.com

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Office closes at Noon on Fridays.
Monday through Thursday 9—4:30 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

fellow Christians..." In this Prayer we ask to receive in answer to prayer the community of Salvation which his Word promises and his Law commands.

We do not, however, pray explicitly for 'the world' - which in Scripture refers commonly to those who reject God and are on course for ruin. Do worldlings not need our prayer? Most certainly - that "thy ways may be known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations" - that they may be gathered into the Ark of salvation, the Church that is "in" the world but not "of" the world, not "conformed to this world" and its wisdom, but rather "transformed" by the wisdom of God. It is the Church, and not the world, in which the saving promises of Christ are to be claimed and known, and it is in the Church that all the elect people of God are gathered, being one flock under one shepherd. God's love for the world is this, that we not remain in the world and its rebellion against God and rejection of his grace but that we are incorporated in the Church and made partakers of his mercy in Christ.

But what is the Church? It is that which is constituted by the very grace we first pray for: it is that society of those who are so inspired with the "spirit of truth, unity, and concord" that they both "confess thy holy Name" and also "agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love". This is a prayer that the "church may be directed into all truth by the Spirit of truth (John 14:7; 16:13; 1 John 2:27), and so be preserved from heresy. Second, that all the members thereof may agree in the same judgment, and combine in the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3), and so be secured from schism (1 Corinthians 1:10). Third, that the affections [i.e. passions, feelings] of all persons in this body may be joined in perfect concord,

and tied in the bonds of love and peace (Ephesians 4:3), for the prevention of hatred, wrath, and emulation [rivalry]... Truth without unity is weak and troublesome, unity without truth is dangerous and mischievous, and both without charity are insignificant and cannot last long" (Comber).

The Church we pray for is first a *spiritual* community, united in truth and love. Without love we cannot hold the truth, and without truth our love goes astray, and a unity not of truth and love is merely a power structure, a solidarity in sin. So this prayer for "the universal church", is also a prayer for every particular church, "denomination", diocese, and parish, in which the "universal church" is present. Is it possible for us to live together without anger, malice or envy but in godly love? without schism or heresy but in unity built upon the infallible truth of God's holy word, and its determination of all necessary things? Is it possible for us to build a common mind amid the diversity of temperament, taste, opinion, interests, and outlook? We can but ask. GGD

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday- Friday (Chapel)

8:15am & 5:30pm

Morning or Evening Prayer

In addition, on Wednesday 15th August

FEAST OF THE DORMITION

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE

Closed this week, due to renovations.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday August 15th, the Feast of the Dormition, is the 13th anniversary of Fr O'Brien's ordination as priest: for the faithfulness and fruitfulness of his ministry we give thanks and pray.

8:00A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel.....247, 203

A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30-10:15 A.M.— ADULT & CONFIRMED YOUTH CLASSES (CHAPEL & CRANMER HALL)

9:30-10:15—Pre-School through 6th Grade Summer Program (Cranmer Hall)

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

Jr. Choir—grades 1st through 4th

10:30A.M. — SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON

HYMN # 153 *Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies*.....Ratisbon

ANTE-COMMUNION

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

The Decalogue 68

KYRIE ELEISON: #710..... Healey Willan

Collect and Epistle247, 203

HYMN #119 *O Wondrous Type* Wareham

The Holy Gospel 248

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN #346 *Fairest Lord Jesus* St. Elizabeth

Children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.

SERMON.....Fr. Dunbar

OFFERTORY

Sentences

ANTHEM: *Ye Servants of God*.....Henry Coleman

Presentation of Alms #139

Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution.....75

Sursum Corda #734, Proper Preface76, 77

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711..... Healey Willan

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

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

AGNUS DEI # 712..... Healey Willan

HYMN # 207 *Here, O My Lord*..... Langran (#433)

MOTET: *Hail True Body* Plainsong

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713 Healey Willan

The Blessing (*Kneeling*)..... 84

HYMN #396 *The Church's One Foundation* Aurelia

ORGAN: *Psalm XIX*.....Benedetto Marcello

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.

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