

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 44 No.19

The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Passion Sunday)

March 17, 2013

## MAKING PALM CROSSES

### FOR PALM SUNDAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>

9:30-11:00 AM Cranmer Hall:

*Young people are encouraged to take part.*

Bring your clippers or scissors.

## OBTAINING THE BLESSING (PART 3)

Sent by his father to seek a wife among his mother's kin; equipped with the covenant-blessing of God to Abraham and Isaac and the personal promise of God's protective and preserving presence - "I will be with thee" (28:15); Jacob arrives in distant Haran; and at first it seems his quest is going to be fulfilled very quickly. At the well where the local shepherds gather to water their flocks, he meets his cousin Rachel, and immediately falls deeply in love. Her father, his mother's brother, Laban, takes him in; and at the end of a month, Jacob offers him seven years' service for the privilege of marrying Rachel.

The seven years of service pass, "and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her" (29:20); the wedding is transacted; but Laban substitutes his older daughter, Leah, for Rachel; and in the morning, "behold, it was Leah". When Jacob protests, Laban merely answers, "It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn" (v.26). Jacob - the younger brother who had impersonated his older brother, had deceived his own father, and had stolen the rights of the firstborn - is now paid back in kind. The deceiver is deceived, and the father (-in-

law) tricks the trickster son (-in-law); the rights of the firstborn are upheld against the claims of the younger. Laban, an unscrupulous manipulator, offers Jacob a deal: he can marry Rachel too, provided he agrees to work another seven years; and Jacob, in his inordinate infatuation with Rachel, agrees. The self-reliant striver has been humbled by love.

Chastisement falls upon Jacob and his wives for their bigamy, as he finds himself caught between them in a procreative competition. Rachel has Jacob's love (29:30), but God honours Leah with a fruitful womb (29:31); each wants what the other has, and each blames Jacob for what they lack. Thus Jacob has what he thought was his heart's desire, and yet it is less than his heart desires. In the suffering that follows *eros*, Jacob learns the limits of his wisdom.

Chastisement, however, is blended with blessing: Jacob acquires a large family, the beginning of the people God promised to raise up from Abraham's seed - twelve sons in all, by his wives, Leah and Rachel, and their handmaids, Zilpah and Bilhah, who functioned as surrogate mothers at times when the wives were unable to conceive. Laban is determined to keep Jacob in a state of useful dependency; but Jacob outsmarts him in the breeding of livestock; and when Laban's sons become envious, the Lord breaks a long silence with a command

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*President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers*  
*President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Richard L. Wright*

**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, as hospitals are reluctant to give out any information.

**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 Mr. Edwin H. Culver

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

David and George Barrow

The flowers at the altar on Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving of Mr. and Mrs. Harrell Charles Murray and Miss Ernestine Murray by Dr. and Mrs. Morgan W. Murray.

In memory of Dr. George Newton Eaves by Mr. David and Dr. Lucinda Schultz.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf  
Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. Thomas E. Johnson  
Mrs. Nicholas K. Farley, Mrs. John R. Reiter  
Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons, Mrs. D. Brian DuFour

**Daily Lenten Services**

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Neil H. Victor  
Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague, Mrs. W. Howard Helmken  
Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf

**ACOLYTES**

**8:00** Lawson Turner  
**10:30** Chris Dixon  
John Osborne, Charles Perrie  
Mikel Kelly, Patrick Perrie  
Hunt Wasden, Hawkins Pindar

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

**SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30 A.M.**

*Adult Confirmation, Newcomers, &-Refresher Class* — Reading Room, Dr. Bergstrom & Fr Dunbar

*Sin & Judgement in Shakespear* — Conference Room, Dr. Noble

*For UPPER SCHOOL "Your Questions—God's Answers"*, 1st Floor, Cranmer Hall with Fr. O'Brien & Mr. Walter Strong.

**MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Tuesdays 7 a.m. Parish House Dining Rm (enter by kitchen), *Church Fathers*, Fr. O' Brien  
Thursdays 7 a.m. *Acts of the Apostles*, Reading Room with Fr. Dunbar.

**WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Mondays Noon- 1p.m. *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians*  
Reading Room, Dr. Bergstrom  
Thursdays 9:15a.m. *Pope Benedict's Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week* Reading Rm, Fr. O'Brien

**THURSDAY AT NOON - MEN'S FORUM**

*Good Food for Body and Soul.*  
*Guests welcome. Donation suggested.*  
*March 21<sup>st</sup> Jeremiah the Prophet*  
*(Fr. Dunbar)*

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

and a promise of protective presence (like that he gave Jacob at Bethel, 28:15), bidding him "return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee". Jacob enlists the support of Rachel and Leah against their father (31:1-16) in a speech in which, for the first time, he testifies to the presence and protection of "the God of my father", who has been "with me" in all the trials to which Laban had subjected him (31:5). It is a striking appeal on the part of Jacob, the self-reliant striver.

Jacob outwits his father-in-law and leaves with wives, children, servants, and livestock (31:17-24); Laban and his sons discover the ruse and pursue him; but when Laban accuses his son-in-law of bad faith, Jacob stands up for himself, and forces Laban to acknowledge him as an equal (31:25-55), in a covenant or pact of amicable separation. Once again, the turning point in Jacob's argument is the favour of his father's god: "Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away empty" (31:42). Claiming the God of Abraham and Isaac as his vindicator against the injustice of Laban, Jacob for the first time puts himself clearly and explicitly within the covenant of his fathers, and acknowledges his dependence upon his protecting and providential care. For the first time, he shows awareness of what it means to be heir of the blessing, confessing faith in the Lord.

*Eros* has driven Jacob into the duties and obligations of marriage and family; through them he has been humbled, but also prospered, as a husband, a father, a provider, a man with courage and clout. Aphrodite is mighty, and eros makes fools of us all; but matrimony

sanctifies, though not without suffering. The two effects are not unrelated. In the process the self-sufficient, self-reliant striver has come to acknowledge as his own God the God whose promised blessing he has sought. GGD

*To be resumed after Easter*

### **SPECIAL OFFERINGS IN LENT**

*All unpledged offerings at weekday services in Lent will be reserved for the relief of those in need at home and abroad. This Lent the Sunday School is collecting Peanut Butter for the Second Harvest Backpack program.*

### **PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK**

#### **MONDAY – FRIDAY:**

8:15 A.M. *Morning Prayer & Holy Communion*

5:30 P.M. - *Evening Prayer & Holy Communion*

#### **IN ADDITION ON WEDNESDAY**

9:45 AM *Litany* 10AM – *Sung Eucharist*

#### **SATURDAY**

10:30 AM *Holy Communion*

### **EASTER LILIES**

To give a lily for the decoration of the Church at Easter, send a check for \$35 payable to *St. John's Chancel Society* and marked "*Easter Lily*" to the Church Office. Please indicate the intention of the gift (memorial, thank-offering, etc.)

### **GRADE SIX CONFIRMATION**

#### **Palm Sunday afternoon, March 24th**

Class and teachers will leave immediately following the 10:30 service for the Wylly River House in Levy, S. C.; and will return to the church parking lot at 6:00 pm (*courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.*). Fr. Dunbar will examine the students on the Catechism. Chaperones: Mr. Carter Hubbard (912-658-2871); Mrs. Barbara Hubbard (912-657-2637); Mrs. Holly McClellan (912-247-2040).

**8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION** (*No organ during Lent*)

Collects, Epistle, and Gospel (*The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted until Easter*)..... 132, (124)  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**9:30 A.M.—12 NOON NURSERY** (*Cranmer Hall*)

**9:30 A.M.—ADULT, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN’S CLASSES** (*Cranmer Hall and Chapel*)

**10:30 A.M. –Pre-school—3 year olds through Kindergarten** (*Cranmer Hall*)

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

CARILLON

HYMN #340 <i>We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died</i> .....	Breslau
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer .....	Prayer Book, pp. 3-7
Versicles and Responses.....	7-8
VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO #608 .....	9
Psalm #40 .....	390
First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:1-19 <i>The Calling of the Prophet</i> .....	<i>insert</i>
BENEDICTITE #744.....	Hymn Book p. 835
Second Lesson: Hebrews 9:11 and St. John 8:46.....	132, 133
BENEDICTUS #634.....	14
Apostles’ Creed.....	15
Versicles and Responses.....	16
Collect for the Day .....	132, (124)
Fixed Collects and Other Prayers .....	17-20
HYMN #60 <i>With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh</i> .....	Babylon’s Streams
<i>1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir will exit following the Cross.</i>	
THE SERMON .....	Fr. O’Brien

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Drop, Drop, Slow Tears*..... Orlando Gibbons, arr. Ernest Bullock  
 Presentation of Alms: #732, *All Things are Thine*

PRAYER and BLESSING

HYMN (*Insert*) *The Royal Banners Forward Go*.....Gonfalon Royal  
 ORGAN: *Fugue in F minor*..... Charles Burney

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*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House 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** (Chapel - Collect, Epistle, Gospel—same as 8 a.m.)