

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Third Sunday after Trinity

June 16, 2013

DECLARING PEACE (PART III)

In the euphoria of the "Constantinian moment", as the Roman empire's persecution of the church turned overnight to favour, it seemed to observers like Eusebius of Caesarea, the early 4th c. church historian, that the future horizon of unprecedented peace proclaimed in the gospel was being realized in the present, in the rule of the Christian emperor.

One hundred years later, after the sack of Rome by the Goths in 410, Saint Augustine gave another account of the peace that Christians might look for. In *The City of God* he interpreted the whole of human history as "a tale of two cities": the city of God, the new and heavenly Jerusalem, united by love of God to the point of contempt for self; and the city of this world, the earthly city, Babylon, united by love of self to the point of contempt for God. Both cities seek an earthly peace - the wholeness and harmony of body and soul, of human beings in fellowship - but each city seeks this peace with a different end in view. The only end sought by the citizens of the earthly city is an earthly peace, and it is necessarily a limited and transient good. The body falls apart; the soul is beset by temptations; the social harmony it attains is at best a kind of compromise about the necessities of mortal existence, not a deep concord of minds united by the love of a common good. Tragically, in their love of earthly peace and its goods, and the

fear of losing them, they forget the goods of heavenly peace.

The citizens of the heavenly city also seek the peace of the earthly city, and comply with its laws and customs (Jeremiah 29:4-7) except insofar as they are contrary to the law of God. But they do so as "strangers and pilgrims" making use of the goods of the earthly city as means to attain another, greater peace. The end they seek is the eternal peace when "God shall be all in all" (1 Corinthians 15:28) - "the perfectly ordered and completely harmonious fellowship in the enjoyment of God, and of each other in God" (19.17). In the resurrection of the body, in the final deliverance of the soul from temptation, in the vision of God, in the deep and perfect concord of minds among those who share love for God, man's desire for peace shall be fulfilled. Even now, "this peace the Heavenly City possesses in faith while on its pilgrimage, and it lives a life of righteousness, based on this faith, having the attainment of that peace in view in every good action it performs in relation to God, and in relation to a neighbour" (19.17).

It is this Augustinian view - of the church in pilgrimage through this world towards a true peace that lies beyond the world - which shapes the historic Prayer Books. Thus the first part of the Lord's Supper, the Ante-communion, concluded (in 1552 and

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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 John M. Hewson III, Esq.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. John H. Forbes

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and loving memory of Jennifer Liscomb Ross by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Russell Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Russell Ross, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Boskiack.

And in loving memory of Dr. Robert Adair Burnett by Mrs. Robert A. Burnett, Wendy, and Decie.

In loving memory of William Finn Summerell by Mrs. Timothy E. Coy.

And in loving memory of Jesse L. Fulenwider, Jr. by his family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan
Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III
Mrs. Rhett N. Willis, Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.
Ms. Jeanne H. McMillan, Mrs. Sanford G. Simmons

ACOLYTES

8:00 Kameron Sallee
10:30 Lawson Turner
Lindsay Pindar
Mikel Kelly, Turner Stevens
Jamie McClellan, Hawkins Pindar

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Hooker on Salvation. Fr. Dunbar, Chapel.
Sin and Judgment in Shakespeare's History Plays—Conference Room. (David Noble).

"From Roaring Lions to Resurrection Life" Jack Wray, 3rd Floor S. classroom, Cranmer Hall

MEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Thursday 7 a.m *Judges, Samuel Kings,* Reading Room (Fr. Dunbar)

WOMEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS

Monday: Noon 1st Corinthians (Dr. Bergstrom) - Reading Room, Cranmer Hall
(till end of June)

The Church Office is closed Fridays after 12 till Labor Day.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

in 1662) with the prayer "for the whole state of Christ's church *militant here on earth*" (the last four words were omitted in the American prayer book) – and not also (as in the 1979 Prayer Book) for "the world". This prayer asks for the universal Church to be inspired by "the spirit of truth, unity, and concord"; for the faithfulness of the Christian prince, magistrate, and pastor in the duties of their offices; for the Christian people's faith and service of God; for the comfort of those in adversity. It attends not to a city defined solely by earthly ends, but to the needs of the heavenly city in its earthly pilgrimage.

If we were seeking an earthly realization of *shalom*, this would be the logical place for a declaration of the Lord's peace (as it is in the 1979 Prayer Book). Instead, the older Prayer Books summon the congregation to reconciliation with one another and with God. Turning inwards and upwards in repentance, the worshippers are translated by absolution from the confession of sin to the confession of praise. Their hearts, now liberated from the intolerable burden of sin, are lifted up in thanksgiving to the Lord, which they render together with "angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven". Thus elevated from the visible to the invisible, from the earthly to the heavenly, they may participate by faith in the benefits of Christ's sacrifice, namely communion with God, and with one another, as "heirs through hope of everlasting life". As such they join with the angels in singing "glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will toward men". It is only then that the peace

of God is declared, as the congregation is dismissed. It is as citizens of the heavenly city, in communion with God and one another in Christ through faith, that we receive the peace of God, which secures and guards our "hearts and minds", undistracted and undisturbed by strife within or without, "in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord".

We look not for the delusory peace of an earthly paradise. There is a greater and more lasting peace to be found beyond the world, a peace which "passeth all understanding", because it is the peace that God has in himself. In this pilgrimage the happiness of this peace is ours much more by future hope than by present reality; yet it will endure and increase, when the goods of earthly peace have long since passed away. GGD

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 15TH—19TH * 9 A.M. - NOON

Open (free of charge) to children 3 years old (and potty trained) through to those who have completed 1st grade and are moving into the 3rd grade. Register Now! Volunteers Welcome.

VACATION CHOIR CAMP

July 22-29th (9a.m.—5p.m.)
Camp Cost (Field Trips) \$105.00
Contact Dr. Taylor 232-1251

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer
8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*
10 a.m. *Holy Eucharist* (said)

8:00 A.M. — HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel 192
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30 A.M. —ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Chapel, Conference Room & Cranmer Hall)

9:30 A.M. – Noon— PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN SUMMER PROGRAM

(Cranmer Hall –activities for children during the 9:30 education and/or 10:30 service times)

10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

CARILLON

HYMN #155 *New Every Morning is the Love* Melcombe

Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book pages 3-7

Versicles, Responses 7-8

VENITE #610 9

Psalm #9 351

First Lesson: 1 St. Peter 5:5-10 192

TE DEUM #613, #617 11

Second Lesson: St. Luke 15:1-10 193

BENEDICTUS #634 14

Apostles' Creed 15

Versicles and Responses 16

Collect for the Day 192

Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace 17-20

HYMN #378 *Come Gracious Spirit* Mendon

1st through 4th grade children may exit following the Cross for Junior Choir.

THE SERMON Fr. O’Brien

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *From the Rising of the Sun* Frederick A. Gore Ouseley

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN *All My Hope in God is Founded* *See Insert*

ORGAN: *Allegro Maestoso, fr. Sonata II* Delix Mendelssohn

Everyone is invited to attend Coffee Hour in the Green Meldrim House immediately after the 10:30 service.

If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.

12 Noon —HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel) - Collect, Epistle, Gospel BCP pp 192.