

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 44 No. 35

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

July 21, 2013

## CELEBRATING AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE (PART II)

For American Christians of Patriot conviction, there was no doubt that the achievement of national independence was the work of divine Providence. In this perspective, therefore, the “freedom wherewith Christ hath made us free” was both religious and republican. This conflation of religious and republican ideas of freedom is reflected in the gospel lesson proposed in 1786 for the observance of Independence Day, John 8:31-36: “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. .... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”.

Alexis de Tocqueville would remark after his visit to the USA in the 1830's: “two perfectly distinct elements that elsewhere have often made war with each other, but which, in America, ... they have succeeded in incorporating somehow into another and combining marvelously. I mean to speak of the *spirit of religion* and the *spirit of freedom*”. Paradoxically, therefore, this most secular of all nations has been from the beginning one of the most religious of all nations. Jefferson spoke of a wall of separation, dividing church and state, but it has been permeable from the beginning; and one might more truly speak of the interdependence of church and state.

This same interdependence of church and state, of religious and republican liberty, is also reflected in the Founding Fathers' insistence on the new republic's need for the virtue cultivated by religion. In his 1783 farewell letter to the governors of the states, Washington could say: “I now make my earnest prayer that God would... most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our Blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in those things, we can never hope to be a happy nation”. Tories and Christians in other countries had feared that the rebellion against the lawful Christian monarch could only lead to lawlessness, license, anarchy, and atheism. The American Patriots were insistent that American liberty must not degenerate in this manner. This view is reflected in the selection of the Epistle proposed in 1786 for the liturgical observance of Independence Day, Philippians 4:4-8: “Rejoice in the Lord always ... Be careful [anxious] for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your request be made known unto God.... Finally my brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things

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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 Mrs. Morgan W. Murray (Anne)

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. John Riley

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in honour of Mr. Ross Hunter Philbrick by Dr. Thomas Philbrick.

And to honor the 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Shirley and the late George Oelschig by their loving children and grandchildren.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III  
Ms. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III  
Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr.,  
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr., Mrs. Sam P. Inglesby

**ACOLYTES**

Volunteers Needed

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Ms. Sharon Morris

**ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.**

*Jeremy Taylor's "The Wedding Ring"* (Dr. Bergstrom, Chapel).  
*"From Roaring Lions to Resurrection Life"* Jack Wray, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor S. classroom, Cranmer Hall

**MEN'S STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUPS**

**Thursday 7 a.m. Judges, Samuel, Kings,** Reading Room (Dr. Bergstrom).

All other Women's & Men's Study & Discussion Groups are in summer recess.

*The Church Office closes at Noon on  
Fridays until Labor Day.*

**PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK**

**Monday July 22**

**ST. MARY MAGDALENE, PENITENT**  
8:15 & 5:30 p.m. *Holy Communion with  
Morning or Evening Prayer*

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday**

8:15 & 5:30 p.m.  
*Morning or Evening Prayer*

**In addition, on Wednesday**

9:45 a.m. *Litany*  
10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

**Thursday July 25**

**ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE & MARTYR**  
8:15 & 5:30 p.m. *Holy Communion with  
Morning or Evening Prayer*

**JANE'S CANNERS**

Jane's Canners are once again hard at work on Wednesdays making preserves for sale at the Bazaar. We need figs, apples, peaches, pears, mangos, peppers, onions, and sugar. If you can donate or help call Jane Pressly 233-6551.

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL**

are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things". The American Prayer Book of 1789 retained the petitions for Christian rulers in the Prayer for the Church, no longer specified as the British monarch and his council, but still that they might "administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue". That religion and virtue were purely private matters, to be excluded from the public realm; this was not part of the American patriot project for independence.

All these themes – of thanksgiving for the providence that conferred liberty on the American states, of prayer to live out and maintain this freedom in religion and virtue – are summed up in a notable composition, the prayer of thanksgiving proposed for Independence Day:

"O God, whose Name is excellent in all the earth, and thy glory above the heavens, who as on this day didst inspire and direct the hearts of our delegates in Congress, to lay the perpetual foundations of peace, liberty, and safety; we bless and adore thy glorious Majesty, for this thy loving kindness and providence. And we humbly pray that the devout sense of this signal mercy may renew and increase in us a spirit of love and thankfulness to thee its only author, a spirit of peaceable submission to the laws and government of our country, and a spirit of fervent zeal for our holy religion, which thou hast preserved

and secured to us and to our posterity. May we improve these inestimable blessings for the advancement of religion, liberty, and science throughout this land, till the wilderness and the solitary place is glad through us, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose. This we beg through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. "

In recent years, some have said that American freedom consists precisely in freedom *from* the public expression of religion, freedom from corporate obedience to the moral law, freedom as moral anarchy and atheism: but can this really be so? "Endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights", the people of this nation are also accountable to the "supreme judge of all the world"; may they find grace in Jesus Christ to live lives worthy of the freedom his providence has bestowed.

GGD

#### NEW SUNDAY CLASS

Dr. Bergstrom will teach a class at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel on Jeremy Taylor's classic short treatise on marriage, "The Marriage Ring". Copies available in Church office.

#### \*\*TRASH TO TREASURE\*\*

This year the Holly Days Bazaar will try a fun new activity for parishioners to showcase their craft and creativity! "Trash to Treasure" will be a contest for the best transformation or repurposing of an unwanted or unusable item. To learn more, please plan to gather at Erica Jarman's house on August 8th at 7pm! For more information please email [ericacjarman@gmail.com](mailto:ericacjarman@gmail.com) or [margaretnorthup@gmail.com](mailto:margaretnorthup@gmail.com)

**8:00 A.M. — HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL ..... Prayer Book, page 199  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

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

**9:30—10:30 A.M. —ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

(Chapel and 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**

HYMN #106 *The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns* ..... St. Magnus  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution, & Lord’s Prayer ..... Prayer Book, pp. 3-7  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 7-8  
 VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO #610 ..... 9  
 Psalm #92 ..... 455  
 First Lesson: Jeremiah 23:9-24 *Against false prophets* ..... 200  
 TE DEUM #613, 617 ..... 11  
 Second Lesson: Romans 8:12 & St. Matthew 7:15 ..... 200  
 BENEDICTUS #634 ..... 14  
 Apostles’ Creed ..... 15  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 16  
 Collect for the Day ..... 199  
 Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace ..... 17-20  
 HYMN #378 *Come, Gracious Spirit, Heav’nly Dove* ..... Mendon  
 THE SERMON ..... Fr. O’Brien

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Christ is Our Cornerstone*..... David Thorne

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

**PRAYER and BLESSING**

HYMN #357 *Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus!*..... In Babilone

ORGAN: *Prelude and Fugue in A minor (BWV 559)* ..... attr. Johann Sebastian Bach

*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 p.199.**