

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 45 No. 2

Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2013

THIS SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M.

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ADVENT

5:10 P.M. MUSIC FOR ADVENT

Soloist. Lucinda Schultz

Child care available.

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

That the person confessed by his disciples as Christ and Son of God was a man conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary, belongs to the earliest evidence we have for the Christian faith. For the scriptures of the New Testament all emerged not only within the lifetime of eyewitnesses to the ministry of Jesus, but within communities in which such eyewitness was treasured. The possibility therefore of some kind of "mythological" fabrication is ruled out: what we have is the historic testimony of those who knew Jesus, and knew his eyewitness disciples.

From early times, the Christian church cherished these scriptures as "canonical", supplying the rule ('canon') of faith for catholic Christianity; and they relied on them to defend the faith against those who asserted that Jesus was less than fully human or less than fully divine. And it is this defence and proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, above all in the 4th and 5th centuries, that supplies the reason for the adoption of the feast of Christmas by almost the entire Christian world (except in Armenia, where they content themselves with Epiphany only). In a world in which Christianity competed with pagan, Jewish, Manichean, and heretical religious views and practices, the feast of Christmas celebrated the faith that Jesus

Christ was both fully God and fully man.

The confession of Jesus Christ as God and man (as articulated in the Nicene Creed of 325 A. D.) has deep biblical roots, above all in St. John's gospel: for it is the prologue to John's gospel (1:1-18) which affirms explicitly that Jesus is the eternal Word (or Son) of God, who (while remaining God) was "made flesh" (became a human being). The confession is also grounded in profound reflection on the reality of salvation in Christ. Because he is the Saviour, he must be fully God, for only God can save: because he is the saviour of all mankind, he must be fully man, for what he does not make his own is not saved.

The reason for the feast of Christmas is clear enough: the reason for its date is (however) obscure. Why December 25th? The date is not recorded in Scripture, and so perhaps it was chosen for other reasons. One theory is that Christmas replaces a pagan festival. The feast of Sol Invictus (the unconquered Sun) was instituted by the pagan emperor Aurelian in the year 274. Appropriately, this pagan festival was appointed for the first day after the winter solstice (December 21) on which the lengthening of days was apparent - December 25. In the next century, the Christian church claimed that date for its own faith, to proclaim Jesus Christ as the "sun of righteousness, who arises with healing in his wings" (Malachi 4:2).

In recent years, another theory has found favour. In ancient times (it is

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St. John's Church

1 WEST MACON STREET

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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 and recordings of Services and Sermons are to be found on our web site: www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Dr. Roland S. Summers

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. R. Scott Howard and Mr. James Ivy

The flowers at the altar on are given to the glory of God and in living memory of loved ones by Mrs. William E. Hutchinson, Jr.

and in loving memory of Josephine Kennedy Osborne by her family.

And in loving memory of John Gerard Bradshaw and Jolana Swift Bradshaw by Mr. and Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr. and family.

and on the occasion of the birthday of Max Cooper Hamilton by Mrs. Patti Cooper.

The flowers at the altar on Thursday December 11 are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lt. John Woodward Sognier, Jr. by Dr. and Mrs. Morgan W. Murray and Dr. and Mrs. William E. Osborne.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.

DAILY ADVENT SERVICES

Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Neil H. Victor
Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague, Mrs. W. Howard Helmken, Jr
Ms. Anne Mingledorff.

ACOLYTES

8:00 volunteer needed
10:30 Lawson Turner
Jamie McClellan
Hunt Wasden, Hawkins Pindar
Edwin Shepherd, Henry Osborne

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. John D. Northup III
Special Cake at Coffee Hour to Honour the 100th Birthday of Mrs. Vivian Howard

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION

- Dr. Bergstrom Upper School, Fellowship Hall
• Fr. Dunbar: St. Mark, Reading Room.
Jack Wray: Daniel 3rd floor classroom
• Dr. Noble's Sunday class will not meet the month of December. Class will resume January 5, 2014.

WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

- Monday Noon: No meeting this week
• Tuesdays 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Study of Sunday lessons, Parish House Dining Room (enter by kitchen), with Fr O'Brien
• Thursdays 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study, on Judges, Reading Room (Fr Dunbar)
• Thursdays 9:15 a.m. Women's Study, on The Imitation of Christ, with Fr O'Brien
• Thursday at Noon: Men's Forum "Good Christian Men Rejoice" - Celebrating the Love that is from above (Dr. Bergstrom)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

thought) the creation and recreation of the world, through Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection, were said to have all taken place on the same day, Passover, which in a non-Jewish calendar approximated to March 25th (the date we still keep as the feast of the Annunciation). Thus the feast of Christ's birth is observed exactly nine months after the commemoration of his conception on March 25th.

There is something to be said for both theories, and until proved otherwise, I think we should take both as true. The former harnesses the annual solar cycle to proclaim the time of grace. The latter ties Christmas firmly into Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension; for it is the same humanity assumed from Mary, that dies, rises, and ascends to the Father's right hand; the same humanity into which we are incorporated by his Spirit, as members of his Body the Church; the same body which is made present in bread and wine to those who confess faith in Christ true God and true Man. GGD

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND TROLLEY TOUR – Friday, December 27th. Join us at 7:00 in Cranmer Hall for desserts, hot chocolate, and a little mulled wine before we take an hour trolley ride throughout the historic district. Please bring your favorite dessert. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 12 to 6, children 5 and under are free. RSVP by 23rd to Caroline Hayes 232-8887 or chayes@stjohnssav.org. **Space is limited.**

WREATHS, GARLAND AND POINSETTIAS

To give a Poinsettia, Wreath or Garland for the decoration of the Church, please send a check to the Church Office, made out to **St. John's Chancel Society**. Please include with the check a note of *how the memorial should read and by whom it is given*. **Poinsettia--\$30, Wreath or Garland \$80.**

PERFECT ATTENDANCE LIST

6th Grade Confirmation Class:

September: Sam Forkner, Pace Hargrove, Jackson McClellan. *October:* Jackson McClellan. *November:* Sam Forkner

Kindergarten-1st Grades:

November: Mary Duvall Sumner; Nathanael Bergstrom

2nd-3rd Grades:

November: Emiline Baxter; Ashlyn Forkner; Sarah Jane Schulze

ADVENT PARISH KALENDAR

Monday - Friday (Chapel)

8:15am & 5:30pm

Morning or Evening Prayer

With Holy Communion

Monday 9th December

CONCEPTION BVM (trans.)

In addition, on Wednesdays

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

Saturday

9:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Please join the friends and families of *The Children's School at St. John's Church* in celebrating the holiday season with a festive fundraiser for the school, **Saturday, December 14, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** in Cranmer Hall. Our *Breakfast with Santa* guests will be able to visit and have their picture taken with Santa Claus, enjoy a hot breakfast, bid on silent auction items, and enjoy other holiday-related activities. For tickets visit <http://www.stjohnspreschool.org/breakfast-santa-2013/>

"RECIPES FOR A CANDLELIGHT DINNER"

is a full-colour hardback with photography by Tim Coy, menus (based on Candlelight Dinners past) and table decorations designed by Tracey Inglesby. Cost: \$50 ea, with payment in cheque or cash due at the time the order is placed. For delivery in December, please place order before November 28th with Dorothea Coy at 944-1653 or email: dcoy4@icloud.com

8:00 A.M. - HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel Prayer Book page 92 (90)
A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30-10:15 A.M.: ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Cranmer Hall)

10:30 A.M.-END OF SERVICE: PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

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

10:30 A.M.—SUNG EUCHARIST AND SERMON

HYMN #11 *The King shall come when Morning Dawns* St. Stephen

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity Prayer Book 67

Decalogue and Kyrie Eleison (Hymnal #702) 68, John Merbecke

Collects of the Day 92, 90

Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 *Christ's universal Kingdom of Righteousness and Peace*

Epistle: Romans 15:4 92

HYMN #8 *O Word, that Goest Forth on High* Rex Glorioso

The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 21:25 93

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN #329 *How bright appears the Morning Star* Frankfurt

1st through 4th grade children enrolled in Jr. Choir exit after cross.

SERMON Dr. Bergstrom

OFFERTORY

Sentences

Anthem: *Teach me, O Lord* Thomas Attwood

Presentation of Alms, Doxology #139

Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession, Absolution 75

Sursum Corda (Hymnal #734) 76

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #704 John Merbecke

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation 80

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

AGNUS DEI #706 John Merbecke

HYMN #197 *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* Picardy

MOTET: *Adoramus te* Palestrina

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) 83

The Blessing (*Kneeling*) 84

HYMN #5 *Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending* Helmsley

ORGAN: *Sleepers Wake, a Voice is calling* Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Everyone is invited to a Special Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately following the 10:30 service, in honour of Mrs. Vivian Howard on her 100th Birthday. If you are visiting, please make yourself known.

12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Church) Collect, Epistle, Gospel p. 90

5:10 p.m. Music for Advent; 5:30 p.m. - CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ADVENT