

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 45 No. 3

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2013

COME, LORD JESUS!

During Advent the Church's prayer may be summed up in one word, "Come". It is there in "Great O" Antiphons, which begin on December 16th with *O Sapientia*. Next Sunday they will be summed up in the processional hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", and - for good measure - the stirring German chorale, "Savior of the Nations, Come". Following Fr. Ralston, we often conclude worship in Advent with a prayer loosely based on Revelation 22:17-20: "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let everyone that heareth say, Come, Amen. Even so, quickly come, Lord Jesus. Amen".

What does it mean to pray for Christ's coming? Oliver O' Donovan offers a cogent reflection in a fine sermon entitled "Come!", from which I have taken the passages that follow. First he says, "Expectancy is predicated on experience. Without the experience we would not know what to expect or why to expect it ... So it is with the coming of Christ. The expectancy with which we pray "Come!" springs from his having come. The past even of Christmas forms the horizon of our future. Which is why the Advent season has a double aspect, looking back to Christ's coming to look forward to his coming again. (...)

"What does it demand of us to utter the prayer, "Come!"? (...) It demands detachment, and it demands enthusiasm - both together. (...) To use the two words that St. John would use at this point: it requires a detachment from the *world*, that system of unchallengeable conditions, that

great inarguable framework that lays down terms to us. And it requires an enthusiasm for *life*, which is the possibility that God constantly puts in front of us, life constituted by speaking and acting the truth. (...)

"The focal point at which the prayer "Come" will be demanded of us is the point of death. For here everything we have done in life is tested. Here it becomes plain whether we have learned to love life rightly, so as to look still more eagerly for a different life. (...) The dying Christian who sings "world, goodnight!" does so only in order to claim another world, the world of the resurrection, of Jesus Christ himself, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, who is even now coming. (...)

"But what needs to be on our lips supremely at the hour of death needs to be our prayer at every point in life. "Come!" is a prayer for a new world, and it constantly strains to see the anticipations of that new world given us in this one. It sets a bridle on our ambition, which would sell us bound and gagged to this world, and it carries our steps up out of the sump of despair into which this world would bring us.

"We must pray "Come!" over all our work (...). All our work, from planning a meeting to drawing up accounts, from the answering of emails to George Herbert's famous sweeping of a room, is a moment at which we pray to see Jesus come to us. (...) In the end we may doubt whether it makes much difference [what

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STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, the Office, 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 Mr. Lawrence L. Hearn III

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 Mahla Kent Wilson by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph K. Wilson.

And in loving memory of her husband, Marshall F. Campbell, Jr. and her grandson, Alexander Mueller Archie by Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr.

And in joyful and loving celebration of the birthday of Rence Schmidt by her loving husband, Peter Schmidt.

And in loving memory of Ray Schmidt and Peter Smyth by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schmidt.

The flowers at the Baptismal Font are given to the glory of God and in memory of Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. and in Celebration of the Christening of Clara Cheatham Hubbard by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. and Mrs. Frank S. Cheatham, Jr..

CHANCEL SOCIETY

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Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Philip F. Kirk
Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell
Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. Wm. Howard Helmken, Jr.

DAILY ADVENT SERVICES

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

ACOLYTES

8:00 Lawson Turner
10:30 Lindsay Pindar, Jaime McClellan
Hunt Wasden, Hawkins Pindar
Edwin Shepherd, Henry Osborne

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Mark D. Stevens

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 class will resume January 5, 2014.

WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

- Monday Noon: Women's Study St. Athanasius On the Incarnation, Dr. Bergstrom, Reading Room
• Tuesdays 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Offices of Instruction, 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 Life that is from above (Fr Dunbar)

Please note the correction of Fr. O'Brien's address in the masthead

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

we have done, whether well or badly]. But when we pray "come!" something else may occur, something that takes us beyond the thing done or made well or badly. A fire from heaven may descend to devour the sacrifice, opening up a communication of life such as cannot be accounted for by what we do, a passage from our work into the life of the resurrection.

"We must pray "Come!" over all our anxieties. (...) To pray for that other coming [i.e. Christ's] is to be freed from dependence upon this one [i.e. our worry], however important to our life in this world it may be. (...) We call Jesus to our side, and he puts that other coming in its proper place.

"We must pray "Come!" over all our failures. Our sense of being defeated, ashamed before the demands of life is the vice-like grip by which the world imposes its terms on us. The mutual disappointment in which we fail to be what we might have been to others, or they to us, is overtaken as Jesus comes to us, allows us to walk free of the world's terms and their shame, forms us into what we are given to be for him, and so also for others.

"We must pray "Come!" finally, over all our rest: over our holidays, even our retirement. For rest from labour is vacancy and emptiness, unless it is shaped and enlivened by vital expectation. Jesus comes to us, and we look forward, not to just more of the same, more labour, more rest, but another life, and to one who fills our future with his presence. (...)

"There is a sequel to our prayer, a positive answer to it, given us even before the prayer is uttered. *Yes, I come quickly!* [Revelation 22:20]. That is a promise for all our days and for the day of our death, which opens its horizon beyond our days, and beyond the days of this world's

history. Jesus has promised, *I come!*"

(From: Oliver O' Donovan, *The Word in Small Boats*, Eerdmans 2010).

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

*Morning or Evening Prayer
with Holy Communion*

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

Saturday 21st December

ST. THOMAS APOSTLE & MARTYR

9:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*

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 or other intention should read and by whom it is given*. **Poinsettia-\$30, Wreath or Garland \$80.**

ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION.

The barrel to receive donations of canned goods and unopened staples is in the Church School Building. Warm clothing, blankets, coats, (clean and in good condition) also received.

"RECIPES FOR A CANDLELIGHT DINNER"

Candlelight Dinner Cookbook available for pick up at Coffee Hour December 15th for those who ordered and a few extras for those who still would like to purchase one

Mr. and Mrs. Roland B. Williams
30 Houston Street
Savannah, GA 31401-2833

Third Sunday in Advent December 15, 2013

8:00 A.M. - HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel..... Prayer Book page 93 (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.—MORNING PRAYER, BAPTISM AND SERMON

HYMN #11 <i>The King shall come when Morning Dawns</i>	St. Stephen
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses	7-8
VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO (<i>with antiphon</i>) #606.....	9
Psalm #85.....	446
First Lesson: Isaiah 35 <i>The flourishing of Christ’s kingdom foretold by Isaiah.</i>	
ADVENT PROSE: (<i>Choir - the congregation may remain seated</i>)	
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 4:1 and St. Matthew 11:2.....	94
HYMN#10 <i>On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry</i>	Winchester New
THE MINISTRATION OF HOLY BAPTISM - Prayer Book, p. 273	
of Clara Cheatham Hubbard, infant daughter of	
Mr. and Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Jr.	
BENEDICTUS #638	14
Apostles' Creed	15
Collects for the Day	93, 90
Fixed Collects	17
HYMN #329 <i>How Bright Appears the Morning Star</i>	Frankfort
<i>Children up to 4th grade may exit after the cross for Jr. Choir.</i>	
THE SERMON.....	Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Rejoice in the Lord Always*..... Anonymous

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139

Prayer and Blessing.

HYMN #440 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*..... Aberystwyth

ORGAN: *Variation on Aberystwyth*..... Healey Willan

Everyone is invited to the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately following the 10:30 service.

If you are visiting, please make yourself known.

12 Noon—HOLY COMMUNION (Church) Collect, Epistle, Gospel p. 93 (90)