

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 41 No. 6

The Second Sunday after Christmas/Eve of the Epiphany

January 5th, 2014

THIS SUNDAY – THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

5:30 P. M. – LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

Reception to follow in the Parish House. Nursery available.

We close out the Twelve Days of Christmas with an offering of word and music.

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday 6th January

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion;

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Communion

Tuesday to Friday (in Octave):

Daily Prayer 8:15am & 5:30pm

In addition, on Wednesday

(in Octave):

Litany 9:45 a.m.

Sung Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

ABIDING IN LIGHT (PART 1)

The lessons appointed since ancient times for the feast of Christmas speak of a threefold coming forth of the Word of God, which is also a threefold nativity of the Son of God. First, there is his invisible coming forth from the Father before the foundation of the world, which is his eternal begetting as 'God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God'; second, his visible coming forth from the womb of the Virgin Mary, in the fullness of our nature, which his begetting in time; and third, his invisible coming forth in the soul of man, for our spiritual regeneration, and our adoption as the children of God. And so the Church Fathers spoke aphoristically of the wondrous exchange celebrated at Christmas, that the Son of God became Son of Man, that the children of men might become the children of God. But this sonship must be thought of as the

coming forth of the word.

To speak of Christ as the Word of God is to set him in relation with the long history of God's word spoken through prophets and angels, but the epistle to the Hebrews alludes to this history only as a point of comparison. Christ surpasses them along, and belongs in a category all by himself: "God, who at sundry times and divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, in these last days hath spoken unto us by his *Son*". Both lessons speak of his Sonship as a unique and personal relation to God, in which he falls on the divine side of the fundamental distinction of Creator and creature - for the history of God's speaking has its beginning before mankind with the work of creation, as John's employment of the opening words of Genesis 1 underline: "*In the beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made." There is nothing that the Creator does, that the Son does not do; nothing that God is, that the Son is not.

The Word of God therefore exists before mankind, and before the creation itself. God's Word is spoken even when there is no creature to hear him. For the "word" that God speaks is (in Greek) a

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1 WEST MACON STREET

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, 1 W. Macon St., Savannah, GA 31401.

Table listing church staff and their contact information, including Bishop of Georgia, Rector, Priest Associate, Deacon, Business Manager, Parish Secretary, Financial Secretary, Christian Education Director, Parish Fellowship Director, Interim Choirmaster, Interim Organist, and Buildings Manager.

Senior Warden..... Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.
Junior Warden..... Mr. William Howard Helmken, Jr.
Clerk of Vestry..... Mr. R. Scott Howard
Treasurer..... Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford
Chancellor..... M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.

The Vestry: Esqs., M. Tyus Butler, Jr., John M. Hewson III, Joseph R. Ross, Jonathan D. Sprague, Drs. J. Davidson Carson, James S. McClellan, Roland S. Summers, Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. R. Bartley Turner, Messrs. Charles B. Compton, Jr., E. Brian Culver, John C. Helmken II, Wm. Howard Helmken, Jr., Mr. R. Scott Howard, Mr. William C. Rodgers, Paul D. Troxler, Floyd G. Whittington, Jr., Richard L. Wright.

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Dr. Edwin C. Shepherd

Table listing church office contact information: President, ECW, President, Chancel Society, President, Men of St. John's, Church Office, Fax, Parish House, Cranmer Hall, E-mails.

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 Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Robert Austin Vinyard, Esq. and William Willingham

The flowers at the altar are retained from Christmas. Continued from last week...

A Poinsettia was given to the glory of God and in loving memory of

Dr. and Mrs. Jules Victor, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Victor, Sr.

Mr. Edward Martin Christensen, by Elizabeth Wasden.

Kathryn Twigg Curran, by Elizabeth Wasden.

Mrs. Edna F. Fitzpatrick, by Elizabeth Wasden.

Loved ones by Dr. and Mrs. John H. West.

in thanksgiving for

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley A. Wasden, Jr., by Elizabeth Wasden.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Mrs. Rhett N. Willis

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf

Mrs. T. Herbert Guery III, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III

Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr.,

Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr., Mrs. Rhett N. Willis

Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. Leroy N. Suddeth

Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr., Mrs. John R. Reiter

Miss Katherine Reiter, Mrs. Adolphus J. Carter III

Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Mrs. John M. Hewson III

Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 Lawson Turner

10:30 John Osborne

Mikel Kelly, Jamie McClellan

Patrick Perrie, Henry Osborne

Hawkins Pindar, Joseph Saffold

5:30 Evensong

Mikel Kelly

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings

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

• Dr. Bergstrom Upper School, Fellowship Hall

• Fr. Dunbar: St. Mark, Reading Room

• Dr. Noble's class RESUMES TODAY

WEEKDAY STUDY GROUPS

• Monday Noon: Women's Study 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 "No meeting this week .

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

logos, which may also mean "reason" or "thought". As human words are the offspring of our minds, conceived and uttered externally in time, so the divine word is the divine thinking, the divine knowing, a self-comprehension so entire that the fullness of his being is present in it. God's knowing himself is the Son; as also his delighting in himself is the Spirit.

The Word by which God spoke the world into existence is not other than God or less than God: "my glory will I not give to another" (Isaiah 42:8). He is not of *like* substance with the Father (as one might say of an angel) but of the *same* substance - in the glorious Latinity of the dogmatic tradition, "co-equal, co-eternal, consubstantial". Whatever the Father is, the Son is also, and they are distinguished only by their relation to each other - "the Father made of none, neither created nor begotten; the Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten".

All this high-flown talk of God and his Word may seem remote and abstract, but even before we get to the Incarnation, it has this encouraging import. However dark and perplexing this world may be - and it often is - however deep inside the cave we may seem to be imprisoned, this teaching asserts that there is a world above - an Overland - where the sun shineth in his strength, a realm of supernal day. And that, as Puddleglum observes (and if you haven't read *The Silver Chair*, why not?), is reason enough to 'set out in the dark to spend our lives looking for Overland'. Yet Christmas celebrates even better news - which is that the Son of himself has left the realms of supernal day, and descended into our shadows to find us and lead us home:

...and here with us to be,

Forsook the courts of everlasting day,
And chose with us a darksome house of
mortal clay.

God's Word spoken from all eternity, is also spoken in time, that we may know him, and delight in him, also. GGD

(To be continued)

NEW VESTRY OFFICERS FOR 2014

Senior Warden — Mr Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

Junior Warden — Mr. Wm. Howard Helmken

Treasurer—Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)

Clerk—Mr. R. Scott Howard

Chancellor—Mr. M. Tyus Butler, Jr.

The Vestry meets the **2nd Tuesday of each month** beginning with 5:30 evening service.

WOMEN OF SAINT JOHN'S

The ECW Board will meet in the Parish House Monday, January 6th at 10:00 a.m.

The General Meeting is on Wednesday, January 8th following the 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion.

ECW'S SENIORS LUNCHEON

All ladies 70 and older are invited to join the ECW on Wednesday, January 15th, at 11:30 a.m. for a luncheon in their honor. Call the Church Office to make your reservation or if you need transportation.

MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL OYSTER RAVE *THE DATE*

OAST AND BARBEQUE
Saturday, January, 25th
1:00—4:00 p.m.

VESTRY NEWS

After the 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer service on Saturday, January 11th there will be an abbreviated January Vestry Meeting in place of the Tuesday Meeting in place of the Tuesday meeting, followed by a vestry orientation and lunch. The meeting should be finished by 2:00 p.m..

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... 106

*A continental breakfast is available in 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 AND SERMON**

CARILLON

HYMN #16 *Christians Awake, Salute the Happy Morn* Yorkshire

Sentences, Confession, Absolution and The Lord's Prayer3-7

Versicles and Responses7-8

VENITE #606 (*with Christmas antiphon*)..... 9

Psalm #93, 97 457, 460

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-9; 62:11-12 *insert*

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615, 619..... 10

Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7; St. Matthew 2:19-23..... *insert*

BENEDICTUS #638..... 14

Apostles' Creed..... 15

Versicles and Responses..... 16

Collect for the day 106

Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace17-20

HYMN #21 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*..... Forest Green

THE SERMON Fr. O'Brien

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *The Blessed Birth*..... Walford Davies

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

PRAYER and BLESSING

HYMN #40 *God rest you merry gentlemen* God rest you merryORGAN: *Choral Song* S.S. Wesley*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.***12 NOON—HOLY COMMUNION (Church as 8 a.m.)****5:30 P.M.—CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS—SITTERS AVAILABLE**