

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Third Sunday after Trinity (Sunday after Independence Day)

July 6, 2014

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

This Sunday after Independence Day we give thanks to God for the blessings of freedom and peace which we - both citizens and resident aliens like me - enjoy in these United States of America, and in prayer that "we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of [the Lord's] favour and glad to do [his] will". GGD

ARTICLES OF RELIGION IV

So far we have briefly considered the Articles as whole, and especially what one might call the "ecclesial" character of their thought. Far from being the expression of isolated national or denominational opinion, they subordinate themselves under scripture to the *consensus fidelium* of catholic antiquity and contemporary reformed churches, and seek to comprehend as many Christians as possible in one church without compromising doctrinal essentials. This deference to the wider community of faith in space and time is also reflected in their systematic character, as they treat of all matters under consideration in logical relation with one another and with first principles. The Articles articulate the fundamental principles of theological community, and provide the basis for spiritual unity in the church.

The care of the Articles to ground

themselves in the historic faith of the Church appears in the first five articles. Rather than beginning with the controversial matters of contemporary debate (the nature of the gospel), or methodologically with the doctrinal authorities for determining these questions (the sufficiency of scripture) - all of which are addressed in subsequent articles - they begin with the uncontroverted ancient consensus concerning the Trinity and the Incarnation: they begin, that is, at the beginning, with that which is first in reality, and not that which is most pressing in the moment, or that which is first in theological method. God first, and everything else, however important, in relation to God.

The first Article is titled "concerning faith in the Holy Trinity". Before discussing the Trinity, however, the first Article addresses the divine Unity. They begin with the knowledge which man may have of God by nature, but which is obscured by man's rejection of the truth and consequent enslavement to idols (Romans 1:19-25), and which was therefore reaffirmed by the Law and the prophets of Israel and recorded in the Scriptures of the Old Testament. In line with the ancient Christian tradition,

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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 Dr. J. David Carson

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. John D. Riley

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Paul Godfrey Hass by Dr. Thomas Philbrick;

and in memory and honor of all the service men and women who have fought and who are still fighting to keep this great country free to be the United States of America, and still One Nation under God.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland
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Mrs. T. Herbert Guery III, Mrs. Robert A. Bumett
Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Mrs. John Ross
Mrs. Patti Cooper

ACOLYTES

8:00

10:30 Mikel Kelly

Hunt Wasden, Jamie McClellan
Finn Repella, Jackson McClellan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Edward J. Derst III

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

St. John's Gospel Fr. Dunbar, Reading Room

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday 7 a.m., *Samuel*, Fr. Dunbar, Reading Rm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CANCELLED

The Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 14th—18th has been cancelled.

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR (11/12 & 13)

Volunteer Needed to run *Food Order & Preparation*. Great job for a man or a woman. Primary focus: ordering foodstuffs, picking them up, and *chopping chicken*. Training and support provided. For more details, call Erica Jarman 398-0138.

CANNERS AT WORK!

Wednesday mornings at Cranmer Hall, and planning for a stellar cellar for sale at the November Bazaar. We are looking for donations of: figs, pears, apples, pecans, sugar, mint, mangos, peaches, bell peppers, and Vidalia onions.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

however, this teaching of the Old Testament concerning the unity and transcendence of God is set forth in language largely borrowed from Greek philosophy - the "Middle Platonism" that prevailed in the early Christian era, and so the first part of the Article is a conflation of Hebrew teaching in Greek language:

There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible.

This use of Greek philosophical language worries some Christians both conservative and liberal, but for the early Church it was a godsend, providing the language they needed to clarify in thought the teaching of the Scriptures. In the providence of God, the Greek philosophers had developed a precise conceptual language for expressing the core testimony of the Old Testament concerning God - as found, for instance, in the first two commandments: that God is not many, but one; and that God far transcends every image, mental or physical, which man may make of him.

The world we know is full of things that come to an end; but God has no end and no beginning, he is "everlasting". The world we know is full of things that are limited spatially by their bodies, of things analysable in terms of their constituent elements, of things subject to other forces that in themselves; but god is "without body, parts, or passions". The key term is

"infinite". We are "finite", limited. God is "infinite", unlimited. Whatever bounds our imagination may put on God (because we are used to thinking only of things that are bounded in one way or another), those bounds must be removed. (O' Donovan, *On the Thirty Nine Articles*, 1986, p. 19).

Far from "putting God in a box" - the common complaint made about philosophical theology - such language does the very opposite. In the negations of every limit, this language allows for God to reveal himself on his own terms, and not on those of men. The images fabricated by men are denied, precisely so that God may reveal himself - first through the word of the prophets, and finally in his own true image, the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ. GGD

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. *Sung Eucharist*

SIGN UP FOR A SUMMER MORNING!

Parents & Grandparents are asked to sign up for one Sunday this summer, to teach a simple story-lesson to the Pre-School/Kindergarten class at 10:30 a.m. Sign-up in Cranmer Hall or call the **SUMMER NURSERY AND PRESCHOOL COORDINATOR**, Mrs. Morgan (Anne) Murray at 355-5684.

8:00 A.M. — HOLY COMMUNION

Collects, Epistle, and Gospel.....Prayer Book, p. 192 (263)
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(*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, BAPTISM, AND SERMON

HYMN #271 *Come, Thou Almighty King* Moscow
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s PrayerPrayer Book pages 3-7
 Versicles, Responses.....7-8
 VENITE #610 9
 Psalm #18:1-20 359
 First Lesson: Isaiah 26:1- 12 *We have a strong city* insert
 TE DEUM #613, #617 11
 Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-8; St. John 8:31-36..... insert
 HYMN #385 *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken* Austria

THE MINISTRATION OF HOLY BAPTISM (BCP p. 273)

COLMAN ELIAS BERGSTROM

BENEDICTUS #634 14
 Apostles' Creed 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collects for the Day 192, 263
 Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace 17-20
 HYMN #141 *My Country 'Tis of Thee* America
 Kindergarten through 4th grade children may exit following the Cross for music.

THE SERMONFr. Bergstrom

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *I vow to thee my country* Gustav Holst, arr. Rich Mays.
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and # 142 **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM** (Stanzas 1 & 2)
 Prayer for our Country 36
 Blessing

HYMN *All My Hope in God is Founded* [Insert] Michael
 ORGAN: *Fugue on "The Star Spangled Banner"*Dudley Buck

*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 (Church) - as 8 a.m.