

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist (Trinity XIV)

September 21, 2014

THE FENRIS WOLF

In 1934 Rudyard Kipling was a man out of time. The bard of empire, who had risen to fame in 1890 with his tales of the British raj, had watched with increasing bitterness Britain's retreat from its imperial mission, and the gradual disappearance of everything he held dear. A reactionary curmudgeon in many ways, whose views appalled the enlightened, and sometimes even his friends, Kipling (as David Gilmour concludes in *The Long Recession*, 2002), "was a prophet whose prophecies were fulfilled too often to be coincidences". He foresaw the rise of apartheid in South Africa, the danger of German militarism before the Great War of 1914, and the massacres of Hindus and Muslims when Britain withdrew from India - and in the early 1930's, at a time when neither the British empire nor the USA had any appetite to confront it, he foresaw the danger of Hitler's rise to power, and Britain's lack of preparedness for the inevitable conflict. More than one observer has drawn parallels between the feckless isolationism of the 1930's and NATO's current reluctance to come to grips with the dangers posed by the aggrieved, militaristic spirits at work in the world today.

One of Kipling's last prophetic poems was *The Bonfires*. Its publication date was carefully chosen: November 13th, 1933, the day after a German plebiscite-election had yielded 95% in favour of withdrawing from the League of Nations, and 92% in favour of the Nazi Party (an election in which no other party was allowed to contest). This was evidence of Hitler's intentions which Kipling trusted even the most determined Pollyannas would not be able to ignore; and

the poem was designed to capitalize on that moment. It is constructed out of proverbial sayings, appeals to common wisdom, and there is no mistaking the message or its power. The bonfires of the title are those built on an ice-floe: they may burn brightly for a time; but they lead to ruin. Likewise, when "the Fenris wolf is loosed", optimistic policies built on self-deception are doomed. Kipling died in early 1936 - but it was his prophetic-poetic witness that inculcated Britons with the "bulldog" fortitude they needed in order to confront, resist, endure and prevail against monstrous evil. Curmudgeons or not, we may well be needing something of Kipling's clarity of vision and fortitude of will: because I fear the Fenris wolf is loose. GGD

The Bonfires

'Gesture ... outlook ... vision ... avenue ... example
... achievement ... appeasement ... limit of risk.'

Common Political Form.

We know the Rocket's upward whizz;

We know the Boom before the Bust.

We know the whistling Wail which is

The Stick returning to the Dust.

We know how much to take on trust
Of any promised Paradise.

We know the Pie - likewise the Crust.

We know the Bonfire on the Ice.

We know the Mountain and the Mouse.

We know Great Cry and Little Wool.

We know the purseless Ears of Sows.

We know the Frog that aped the Bull.

We know, whatever Trick we pull,
(Ourselves have gambled once or twice)

A Bobtailed Flush is not a Full

We know the Bonfire on the Ice.

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OF
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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. DunbarRector
1 West Macon Street 31401(912) 234-2209
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate
423 E. Gaston Street 31401(912) 308-4441
The Rev. Dr. Jeremy W. Bergstrom Priest Assistant
5 Autumn Leaves Court 31410(912) 656-3807
Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
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Church Office(912) 232-1251
Fax(912) 232-5559
Parish House(912) 233-3845
Cranmer Hall(912) 232-8887
E-mails (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

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 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Randolph H. Kulp II

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones by Mr. and Mrs. Warren L. Traver;
in loving memory of Jo Francis Deal and Edward John Derst, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Derst III and family;
and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Helmken, and loved ones, and in thanksgiving for St. Johns Church by Howard, Deborah, William and Jonathan Helmken and Mr. and Mrs. Gary M. Schubert;
and in loving memory of Nita Morgan Williams by E. Pomeroy Williams.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland
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Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. David A. Young
Mrs. Jonathan C. Glen, Mrs. Marshall F. Campbell, Jr.
Ms. Sharon Morris

ACOLYTES

8:00 volunteer requested
10:30 John Osborne
Jamie McClellan
Hawkins Pindar, Finn Repella
Jackson McClellan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. John M. Hewson III

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAYS 9:30 A.M.

Men's Discussion Group **NEW LOCATION**

1st Floor Cranmer Hall.

Women's Discussion Group Reading Room, Cranmer Hall.

Men & Women's Group Study of Tim Keller's Gospel in Life. Ralston Room.

Harlotry, Compassion, Shepherding, and Jesus - 3rd Floor East.

Sin and Judgment in Shakespeare's History Plays 3rd Floor East

St. John's Gospel Chapel

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday 6:45 a.m. Breakfast and Discussion on the *Holy Spirit*, with Fr O'Brien, Parish House.

Thursday 7 a.m., *Samuel*, Fr. Dunbar, Reading Room, Cranmer Hall

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Monday Noon, led by Fr Bergstrom, on John Jewell's *Apology and Defence*.

Thursday 9:15 a.m., led by Fr O'Brien on *How We Know: A Study of Plato's Meno*

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

We know that Ones and Ones make Twos -
Till Demos votes them Three or Nought.
We know the Fenris Wolf is loose.
We know what Fight has not been fought.
We know the Father to the Thought
Which argues Babe and Cockatrice
Would play together, were they taught.
We know *that* Bonfire on the Ice.

We know that Thriving comes by Thrift.
We know the Key must keep the Door.
We know his Bootstraps cannot lift
The frightened Waster off the Floor.
We know these things, and we deplore
That not by any Artifice
Can they be altered. Furthermore
We know the Bonfires on the Ice!

Notes:

Prefatory note. The poet cites buzzwords of contemporary political discourse.

Line 3. the whistling Wail which is / The Stick returning to the Dust. Perhaps a reference to the "stick" grenade (so called from its stick-like handle) used by the German Army from 1915, and the sound they make when thrown through the air.

Line 7. the Pie - likewise the Crust: "promises are like pie crust, made to be broken".

Line 9. the mountain and the mouse. An ancient fable: a mountain is in labour, but only a mouse appears: big talk, and little action.

Line 10. Great cry and little wool - "as the devil said when he sheared the hog": one who promises much but delivers little.

Line 11. purseless Ears of Sows. "You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ears".

Line 12. The Frog that aped the Bull. A fable of Aesop: a frog inflates himself in rivalry of a bull, but only succeeds in blowing himself up. A frog cannot equal a bull, no matter how hard he tries.

Line 14. A Bob-tailed Flush is not a Full. In Poker, a "Full House" beats a "four Flush". A "four flush" is "bobtailed" (a tail cut short) because inadequate before a "full house".

Line 15. Demos, "the people", an allusion to populist demagoguery which manipulates public opinion, and not just in democracies.

Line 16. The Fenris wolf, the monstrous wolf of Norse myths, enchained by the gods, but destined to break free and kill Odin.

Line 18. the Father to the Thought.

Wishful thinking (cf. Henry IV Part IV, Act 4, Sc. 4): "the wish is father to the thought".

Line 22. Cockatrice, a legendary bird-serpent, able to kill by a glance. **Babe and Cockatrice,** an image of Christ's kingdom in Isaiah 11:8, but here means foolish idealism.

Line 27. Bootstraps cannot lift / The frightened Waster off the Floor To better oneself by one's own efforts, or, as here, an image of an impossible, and futile, task.

MEN'S FORUM

Thursday, September 25th

"Things Fall Apart/The Center Cannot Hold" And Other Cheerful Thoughts: how Christian Men can make a difference (Fr Dunbar)

Good food for Body and Soul

Guests Welcome. Donations requested.

Food served 11:50, Talk runs 12:10-12:250.

MEN'S FORUM KITCHEN CREW

If you can lend a hand Thursdays to help with the luncheon between 10:15 am and 1:15 pm please call Marianna Pedrick 661-4591.

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

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

In addition, Wednesday

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

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Follow-up Meeting for women interested in this society, Saturday, Sept. 27 at 10 a.m. in the Ralston Room. Contact: Mary Dawson 657-9099.

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR (11/12 & 13).

The *Silent Auction* needs fabulous donations! Call Holly Montford, 897-6202

Chili! Football Season is around the corner. Please make an extra batch of chili for the Bazaar luncheon. Question or commitments, call Christiana Turner 898-1810.

Crafts: *Wreathmaking Workshops* Saturday October 4th, and Wednesday October 15, both at 10 a.m. call: Mary Dawson 657-9099

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE, and GOSPELPrayer Book, p. 209, 250
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:30-10:15 A. M.—ALL AGES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(*Chapel, Conference Room, & Cranmer Hall*)

9:30 A.M. - end of 10:30 service: Pre-School & Pre-Kindergarten
Playtime at 9:30 a.m. and Lesson at 10:30 a.m.

10:30 A.M.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

HYMN #134 *Come, Pure Hearts*.....Cobb
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution & Lord’s Prayer..... Prayer Book pp. 3-7
 Versicles and Responses..... 7-8
 VENITE (Hymnal #610)..... 9
 Psalms #119:105-128 (Parts xiv-xvi) 497
 First Lesson: Proverbs 3:1-20 *The true riches of God's Wisdom*
 TE DEUM #615, 619 11
 Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:1 and Matthew 9:9 250, 251
 BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #634) 14
 Apostles' Creed..... 15
 Versicles and Responses..... 16
 Collects of the Day 209, 250
 Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace 17-20
 HYMN #253 *Spread , O Spread, Thou Mighty Word*..... Luebeck
Children may exit following the cross for JOYFUL NOISE (5's and 6's) and PSALM PSINGERS (Gr 2-5).
 SERMON.....Fr. Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences
 Anthem: *O Lord Increase Our Faith*.....Henry Loosemore
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
 Prayer and Blessing
 HYMN #261 *O Sion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling* Tidings
 ORGAN VOLUNTARY: *Postlude*..... William Mathias

*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) - as 8 a.m.