

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No. 49

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity

November 15, 2015

THIS SUNDAY AFTER 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ELECTIONS AND REPORTS

Barring business from the floor, the meeting should end about 11:30 a.m.

BEATITUDES (II)

It is key to understanding the beatitudes to recognize that they are not a teaching about works we may do in order to be justified and accepted by God, but rather, about how we live if we believe in Christ and the gospel and have indeed already been received into grace. Thus the first two beatitudes – to the poor in spirit and those who mourn – are beatitudes of the humble and contrite soul before the forgiving grace of God. It is those who do not know grace who trust in what they think is the security of moral or material riches; it is those who do not know grace who *cannot* 'bemoan' their sins (which is why the criticism of the Prayer Book's "excessive" penitential language is so misplaced). Oh, for the gift of tears!

Likewise with the third beatitude: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." To those who do not know the grace of God in Jesus Christ, meekness (or gentleness) is just weakness, it is being a doormat (as if either Moses or Jesus, each notable for their meekness, was a doormat). The right response to an offense, a threat, a challenge, is to boil with rage - and we

do! We are only too ready! Moreover, it is often cited as an absurd naivety of the gospel that "the meek will inherit the earth", when it is obvious that it is those who throw their weight around, the overbearing, the intimidating, the strong and the proud who inherit the earth, not the meek.

But there is nothing naive about this beatitude. As St. James says, "the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God" (1:19). There is indeed a selfless 'righteous indignation' that is part of virtue, it is the flip-side of a zeal for the good. But the habitual resentment that so often erupts in vitriol, this form of self-indulgence so common in our society is not to be confused with it, and it does not bring about the justice of God. Indeed it very often works evil. As the psalmist warns, "Leave off from wrath, and let go displeasure: fret not thyself, else shalt thou be moved to do evil" (Psalm 37:8). If it is the punishment of the wicked that we seek - "avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19, quoting Deut. 32:35). In the

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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.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN
8:00 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Mr. John C. Helmken II

USHER CHAIRMAN
M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.
Mr. William Lee Belford

Thanks to all the Women of the Church, and the Bazaar Committee led by Mrs. Benjamin Baxter, and to all who supported this enterprise with their gifts, patronage, or assistance.

EYCS INGATHERING

Next Sunday, November 22nd, is Ingathering Sunday for the Episcopal Youth and Children's Services drive. This organization provides needs-based college scholarships and Honey Creek scholarships to deserving children within our diocese. Please make checks payable to EYCS.

BLACKWOOD ON BOETHIUS

Dr. Stephen Blackwood, author of a highly-acclaimed new book (Oxford University Press, 2015) on one of the most influential books in western history, Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy*, will deliver a public lecture on Monday, November 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Ralston Room of Cranmer Hall. Refreshments to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

The annual Salvation Army new toy drive begins November 15th. Bins are in Cranmer Hall until December 13th.

SMALL GROUP UPDATE

FOR MEN:

Southside/Skidaway- Oakridge- Friday noon
James McClellan- 912-335-1663/
hhmcclellan@yahoo.com

Downtown- Cranmer Hall- Thursday Noon
Rick Wright- rick@rlw.solutions

Pooler- Sam Snead's- Thursday 11:30 a.m.
Tom Horne- 912-657-4976

FOR WOMEN:

Cranmer Hall- Ralston Room- Sunday a.m.

Betsy Howard- 912-398-1326

Chapel- Wednesday after Evening Prayer
Karen Wray- 912-596-2950

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU

day of the Lord, the great reversal, he will 'put down the mighty from their seats, and exalt the humble and meek'.

If it is the establishment of right and just order in the soul and in the world that is sought, it is worked not by anger but by receiving "with *meekness* the engrafted word" (James 1:21). (The Prayer Book echoes this with its petition that "with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word"). The self-righteous man rages angrily against the wicked, but the poor in spirit, who mourns for sin, will be eager to receive the word that orders his soul aright. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light".

Meekness is not indifference to justice. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." This is the zeal to see God's righteous will fulfilled in the world, and in our lives. Self-righteous anger is allied to cold-hearted indifference and apathy (the sin of sloth or *acedia*), but the man who knows the grace of God is both meek *and* zealous, eager to see God's will done, and first of all in himself, not by the external conformity to rules (the legalism of the Pharisees) but by the heart's inner righteousness. Our consumerist culture finds countless ways to keep us sated, but there is nothing better for us than to hunger and thirst for righteousness, for only thus shall we be filled. "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me" (John 4:34); "I thirst" (19:28). If we know the grace of God in Jesus Christ, his hunger and thirst will be ours. GGD

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL Prayer Book, p. 223
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon)—NURSERY (*Cranmer Hall*)

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

10:30 A.M. – JOYFUL NOISE, JOYFUL HEARTS (*Cranmer Hall*)
(Music, Teaching, and Fun for Pre-School through Kindergarten)

10:30 A.M.: MORNING PRAYER

HYMN #484 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Truro
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer Prayer Book pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses pg. 7-8
 VENITE (Hymnal #609) pg. 9
 Psalms #136 pg. 511
 First Lesson: Hosea 14 *Return to the Lord thy God* Insert
 TE DEUM (#613, 617) p. 10
 Second Lesson: Colossians 1:3, St. Matthew 9:18 p. 223-224
 BENEDICTUS (#634) p. 14
Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Grades 1-5).
 Apostles' Creed p. 15
 Versicles and Responses p. 16
 Collect of the Day p. 223
 Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace p. 17-20
 HYMN #567 *Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us* Dulce Carmen

OFFERING

Sentences
 Anthem: *Day by Day* Martin How
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)
 Prayer and Blessing
 HYMN #276 *Now Thank We All Our God* Nun Danket
Acolytes will remove flowers during the hymn, and the choir departs after the last stanza.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

1. Call to Order and Minutes. 2. Vestry Nominations and Elections.
3. Reports to the Congregation. 4. Closing Prayer.

VOLUNTARY: *Fanfare* (Opus 85) C.S. Lang

*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.
 If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

12:00 P.M. (Noon)—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel - as at 8:00 a.m.)