

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 46 No. 50

The Sunday Next Before Advent

November 22, 2015

TODAY IS E.Y.C.S. INGATHERING SUNDAY

The Episcopal Youth and Children's Services (not a national church organization) provides needs-based college and camp scholarships to children within our diocese. Please make checks payable to EYCS. Thank you for your generosity!

THE BEATITUDES (III)

How do we respond to human misery and failure? "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." The quality of mercy is set by God himself: "Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be called the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:35-36). Hunger and thirst for righteousness must not be allowed to make us hard-hearted and ungenerous to the misery of others, nor angry at their failures. Simon Tugwell is instructive: "According to the classic Christian ascetic tradition, it is always futile to squander our anger on one another. That is a waste of anger. Anger is made to be directed against the demonic, not against our fellow men and women. Its proper purpose is to give us energy to escape from the various ways in which we find ourselves a prey to the demonic in ourselves. Anger should be our response to the whole situation of wrongness, in which we and everybody else are caught up from the very moment of our birth. It is the colossal repudiation pronounced by the new

Adam in all his members of the dingy world produced by the sin of the first Adam."

Mercy therefore looks at the world in all its failures, but refuses to consign any part of it to condemnation. It does not distinguish between the deserving and undeserving, the forgivable and the unforgivable, the more or less good. We are all under the same condemnation; we all need the same mercy - only the context is different. It is through mercy that the hunger and thirst for righteousness is satisfied.

The promise of mercy to those who show mercy is deeply embedded in Scripture, both old and new. It is an exact parallel to the fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." The point is that the mercy of God, including his forgiveness, is given to us on condition that we share it, and not just with those who "deserve" our help or forgiveness, but precisely with those who don't. Not to show mercy is to put into jeopardy the mercy that God has promised us in the gospel.

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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.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. John M. Hewson, Esq.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Dr. Roland S. Summers

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry King McCormick and Mr. and Mrs. L. Rogers Wells, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells; and in honor of the wedding anniversary of Amanda and Tom Heath, who were married at St. John's Church on November 2, 2002, by Dorothy and Susan Kingery; and in memory of Martha Fielis Belford by Mr. and Mrs. W. Lee Belford; and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Johnston by their family; and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Jules Victor, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Neil H. Victor; and in honor of Joseph Russell Ross on the occasion of his 60th birthday by his loving family; and to the glory of God and in loving honor and gratitude for the birthday of our dear wife, sweet mother, and grandmother, JoAnn Clark Troxler, by Lt. Col. Paul Drewry Troxler and family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Mark Allgaier, Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.,
Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Ms. Anne H. Mingleddorf,
Mrs. William Lee Belford, Mrs. Roland S. Summers,
Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr., Miss Kristin Pair

ACOLYTES

8:00 Turner Stevens
10:30 Patrick Perrie Philip Inglesby
Jamie McClellan Henry Osborne
Jackson McClellan Finn Repella

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Jack Wray- *Creation from Genesis to Revelation*
3rd floor, Cranmer Hall, far left room
Fr. Dunbar- *This our Sacrifice of Praise*
3rd floor, Cranmer Hall, Reading Rm
David Noble- *Malory's Morte D'Arthur*
Will not meet until further notice

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Breakfast and Discussion with Father O'Brien at 6:45 a.m. in Parish House
Thursday- 2 *Kings* with Father Dunbar **WILL NOT MEET DUE TO THANKSGIVING**

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* with Father O'Brien **WILL NOT MEET DUE TO THANKSGIVING**

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

The sixth beatitude is perhaps the most famous: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." The Jews sought an outward, ritual purity, but Christ locates the site of cleanness and uncleanness in the heart (Matthew 15:19). The pure in heart are those wholly given to the will of God, with pure, that is, undivided, unmixed allegiance. As Kierkegaard said, "Purity of heart is to will one thing", the one true eternal and perfect good, with all one's heart and soul. Such purity clarifies vision. The heart that is pure will see God in all things, even those least promising to our eyes.

Such purity of heart is the gift of God for which we must pray (Psalm 51), and it is given to us in the word of God received in faith (John 15:3).

The last two beatitudes commend "peace-makers" and those "persecuted for righteousness' sake". That these belong together is evident from Christ himself, for the peace is paid for with his own blood. Such peace is not a patched-up thing, a settlement negotiated between warring parties: it is grounded in truth, and accomplished for us on the cross. Only that peace is enough to overcome our divisions and unite us in one body (Ephesians 2). As gift, this peace is also vocation (Ephesians 4:1-4), and it is mission: those who receive the peace of God are sent forth to share it (John 20:19-23), though it be in a world that will persecute them for doing so. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). GGD

BLACKWOOD ON BOETHIUS

Dr. Stephen Blackwood, author of *The Consolation of Boethius as Poetic Liturgy* (Oxford University Press, 2015), a highly-acclaimed new book on one of the most influential books in western history, *Consolation of Philosophy* by Boethius 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. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

The Women and Sunday School of St. John's are collecting new toys for children ages 5-17 to be distributed by the Salvation Army. Bins will be in Cranmer Hall from November 15th - December 13th. All donations are appreciated.

SMALL GROUP WRAP-UP

The Sunday Women's Group will meet on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Ralston Room in Cranmer Hall. Call Betsy Howard at 398-1326.

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Wednesday

Morning and Evening Prayer

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

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Said Eucharist*

In addition, on Thursday

THANKSGIVING DAY

10:30 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

On Thursday and Friday there are no other services, and the Church Office is closed.

8:00 A.M. —HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPELPrayer Book, p. 225
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. - SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON

HYMN #137 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*.....St. George's Windsor

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity.....Prayer Book, page 67

The Decalogue68-69

KYRIE ELEISON: #710..... Healey Willan

Collect and Epistle..... 225

HYMN #285 *The God of Abraham Praise*.....Leoni

The Holy Gospel..... 225

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN #350 *Rejoice, the Lord is King*.....Darwall #600

Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Grades 1-5).

SERMON..... Father O'Brien

OFFERTORY

Sentences

ANTHEM: *The Lord Is My Shepherd*Howard Goodall

Presentation of Alms #139

Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution..... 75

Sursum Corda #734 and Preface 76, 77

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711..... Healey Willan

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation..... 80

The Lord's Prayer and Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*)..... 82

AGNUS DEI #712..... Healey Willan

HYMN #195 *Father, We Thank Thee*Rendez A Dieu

Motet: *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*.....Ivanov, arr. Shuler

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*)..... 83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713 Healey Willan

The Blessing (*kneeling*)..... 84

HYMN #357 *Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus* In Babilone

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

Everyone is invited to attend Coffee Hour in the Green-Meldrim 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 8:00 a.m.)