

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 2

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 2015

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

5:30 P.M. CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ADVENT

5:05 P.M. MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Reception to follow in Green-Meldrim House

HUMBLE GREATNESS

It is not too much for an individual with half an hour to spare to sit down this Advent with St. Luke's gospel and read the first two chapters through. Much may be familiar as parts – but there is more to be found in reading them as a connected whole.

Thus, in the first two episodes (1:5-25, 26-38), the Angel Gabriel is sent to announce: first, the conception of John the Baptist, the one sent “to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (1:17); and second, the conception of Jesus, “the Son of God” (1:35). These may be read separately, as they are on the Feast of St. John the Baptist and of the Annunciation, but when they are read sequentially, the reader is invited to compare and contrast the responses of Zacharias, the aged childless priest offering incense in the Temple at Jerusalem, with Mary, the young unmarried teenager in Nazareth. The one is a kind of Abraham figure who sums up the longing of Israel for redemption; his aged wife Elizabeth is a kind of Sarah; and the child John

whose conception Gabriel announces is a kind of Isaac, born after all human hope had died. Mary however is unprecedented in the Old Testament – virgin-mother, who in the obscurity of Nazareth, a place unmarked for importance in the divine purpose (cf. John 1:46), is nonetheless to conceive a child to ascend the throne of David and both restore and fulfill the hope of his lost kingdom. Yet, despite the scriptural precedents, Zacharias doubts God's promise and demands proof: “whereby shall I know this?” (1:18) – whereas the question Mary asks is not a demand for proof but a request for further instruction: “how shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (1:34). Told that she should conceive this child by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost – a thing without precedent in the entire history of God's people – she responds not with doubt but with faith: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me according to thy word” (1:36).

Zacharias' doubt throws into sharp

THE PARISH PAPER
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St. John's Church
1 WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401
www.stjohnssav.org

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 West Macon Street, Savannah, GA 31401.

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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 at 232-1251 to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Mrs. L. Allan Reynolds, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert J. Merritt
Mr. Robert J. Merritt, Jr.

The altar flowers for Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sally O'Donnell Whittington; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George O'Donnell; and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Cook by Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Sr. and his sons; Floyd, Jr. and George;
and in celebration of the birthday of Ann Harvey Burdell by her grandparents;
and in honor of Mr. and Mrs. William Lee Belford on the anniversary of their wedding by Mr. and Mrs. William Lee Belford, Jr.

The altar flowers for the Feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday, December 8th are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lt. John Woodward Sognier, Jr. by Dr. and Mrs. Morgan W. Murray and Dr. and Mrs. William E. Osborne.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Richard W. Adams

DAILY SERVICES

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. W. Howard Helmken II, Mrs. William B. McNeal, Ms. Anne H. Mingleford, Mrs. Neil H. Victor, Sr., Mrs. David A. Young

ACOLYTES

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

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Christopher E. Klein

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAYS 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 Room
David Noble- *Malory's Morte D'Arthur*
3rd floor, Cranmer Hall, far right room

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Breakfast and Discussion on *The Last Four Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell* with Father O'Brien at 6:45 a.m. in the Parish House
Thursday- *2 Kings* with Father Dunbar at 7:00 a.m. in the Reading Room in Cranmer Hall

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- Georges Bernanos' *Mouchette* (copies available at E. Shaver's Bookstore) with Father O'Brien at 9:15 a.m. in the Reading Room in Cranmer Hall

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

relief the greatness of Mary's faith – and greatness in an aspect that we may not often think of. We celebrate Mary's humility, but, as Fr. Crouse points out, we should also celebrate "its complementary opposite, too: the virtue of magnanimity, greatness of soul; that virtue which impels the soul to great things, that virtue which (as St. Thomas says), 'does not shrink from glory'. Mary, the Lord's hand-maiden, dares to embrace what is great beyond all imagining, beyond all possible expectation. And from [her] we must learn not so much the restraint of humility as the impulse of magnanimity. For surely we lie in a lethargy of sins and fears and failures, shrinkers from glory.... To shrink from glory; not to dare to embrace the promises of God – that is a sad condition. Certainly, to recognize our sins, our failures, our follies, and to see them for what they are, without prevarication, and to restrain our vain ambitions: all that is the quite necessary office of humility. But it is the necessary office of magnanimity to see that even our most miserable weaknesses can be occasions of grace, and that we, too, the spiritual progeny of Mary, are called to be bearers of the Word, and to be transformed from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord'. 'Be it unto me according to thy word'. GGD

(To be continued)

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Meet December 9th in the Chapel following the 5:30 p.m. service, to discuss Chapter 7 of Timothy Keller's *Prayer*. All welcome! Call Karen Wray at 596-2950.

ADVENT PARISH KALENDAR

Monday - Friday

*Morning and Evening Prayer
with Holy Communion
8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, December 8th

**CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

In addition, on Wednesday

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

Thursdays in Advent

*Music before and during the 5:30 p.m.
service begins at 5:15 p.m.*

Saturdays 10:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*

WREATHS, GARLANDS & POINSETTIAS

To give a poinsettia, wreath or garland for the decoration of the Church at Christmas, please send a check to the Church Office made out to **St. John's Chancel Society**. Please include a note of how the memorial/honorarium should read and by whom it is given. Poinsettia- \$30, Wreath/Garland- \$80.

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

The Women and Children 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 until December 13th.

SAVANNAH SQUARE BY SQUARE

On Saturday, December 12th, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Parish House, authors and photographers will be signing copies of a new coffee-table book featuring a section on Madison Square with full-page photos of St. John's Church and the Green-Meldrim House. Books will also be available during Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 13th. All proceeds go to the Green-Meldrim Restoration Fund! Checks or cash preferred.

8:00 A.M. —HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, pages 92 (90)
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 #484 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Truro

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity..... Prayer Book, page 67
 The Decalogue68-69

KYRIE ELEISON: #702..... John Merbecke

Collects..... 92 (90)
 Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 Christ’s kingdom of righteousness and peace foretold..... insert

Epistle: Romans 15:4..... 92

HYMN #8 *O Word, That Goest Forth on High* Rex Glorioso

The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 21:25 93

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN #329 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* Frankfort
Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Grades 1-5).

SERMON..... Father Dunbar

OFFERTORY

Sentences

ANTHEM: *A Canticle of Light*..... Richard Purvis

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

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

AGNUS DEI #712..... Healey Willan

HYMN #8 *O Word That Goest Forth on High*..... Verbum Supernum

Motet: *O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort*..... Johann Wolfgang Franck

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713 Healey Willan

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

HYMN #5 *Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending*..... Helmsley

VOLUNTARY: *Bicinium on Helmsley*..... Charles Callahan

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