

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2015

HUMBLE AND GREAT (PART II)

The reader of Luke begins in an Old Testament world (1:5-25) – a priest offering sacrifice in the temple, a child promised to an old, pious and childless couple (as Isaac was to Abraham and Sarah). But then (1:26-38) we are transported to Nazareth, a place unknown to the Old Testament, to a virgin-mother, a thing without precedence save for one prophecy in Isaiah (7:10-14). The Old Testament itself testifies, that the fulfillment of its hope lies beyond itself.

To this point the annunciations of John and of Jesus have been parallel-but now they intersect (1:39-45). For confirmation of his promise, the angel Gabriel refers Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, "this is the sixth month of her that was called barren". Obedient to the angel's hint, Mary leaves Nazareth to visit Elizabeth. When she arrives, the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy, and Elizabeth is inspired to bless Mary, and the "fruit of thy womb". She addresses her as "the mother of my Lord", and blesses her for believing the promise of God. It is a powerful confirmation of Mary's faith.

In calling Mary "the mother of my Lord", Elizabeth begins a way of speaking that culminates in the decision of the Council of Ephesus to honor Mary as *Theotokos*, literally

the "God-bearer" or Mother of God. The title is not a claim that Mary is the source of her Son's deity, as if she herself were divine: quite the reverse. It testifies to the truth of his Incarnation, that the one who took upon himself human nature in her womb for our salvation is none other than the Son of God.

In response to Elizabeth's inspired witness, Mary bursts out in praise and thanksgiving - a show-stopping aria of gratitude which reflects on the meaning of the child she has conceived by the Holy Ghost, and which invites the faithful to sing along (as they have ever since - it is the canticle "Magnificat" recited at Evening Prayer since ancient times).

Mary begins by extolling the grace of God which she has experienced in herself:

My soul doth magnify the Lord, /
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God
my Saviour.

For he hath regarded / the
lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth / all
generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath
magnified me; / and holy is his
Name.

In the eyes of the world she was of no account, nor does she rate herself higher – but God has plucked her out of obscurity to bring the Messiah into the world. Mary also

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Chancellor.....*M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.*

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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. Mrs. Morgan W. Murray

USHER CHAIRMAN
Robert J. Merritt
Robert J. Merritt, Jr.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Mrs. William E. Hutchinson, Jr.;

And in loving memory of Josephine Kennedy Osborne by her family;

And in loving memory of Susan Schirm by David, Mena, Parks and Alex Gardiner;

And in celebration of the birthday of Max Cooper Hamilton by Ms. Patti Cooper;

And in loving memory of Marshall F. Campbell, Jr. and her grandson, Alexander Mueller Archie by Dr. and Mrs. Emerson Thomas, Jr.;

And in joyful celebration of the birthday of Rence Schmidt by her loving husband, Peter Schmidt.

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. John R. Reiter, Mrs. Adolphus Jasper Carter III

DAILY SERVICES

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

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Turner Stevens Edwin Shepherd
Jackson McClellan Philip Inglesby

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMEN

Mrs. David A. Young
Signed copies of the new book, *Savannah Square by Square*, will be on sale during Coffee Hour!

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 a.m. in the Reading Room in Cranmer Hall

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- Georges Bernanos' *Mouchette* with Father O'Brien at 9:15 a.m. in the Reading Room in Cranmer Hall

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

testifies, that what God has done for her, he does for all his people throughout history:

And his mercy is on them that fear him / throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; / he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, / and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things; / and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; / as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Mary's thanksgiving is a song celebrating the victory of God and of his Christ, bringing judgment on the proud, who in imagined self-sufficiency exalt themselves against God, and greedily claim everything for themselves, but granting mercy to the humble, to those who, knowing their insufficiency, worship him. Thus he fulfills his ancient promise to Abraham. The greater the blessings that are ours in Christ, the greater our need to bless him, after Mary's example. GGD

THANK-YOU AND WELCOME

Mrs. Peter (Rence) Schmidt is moving to Virginia with our gratitude for 18 years of service. She is succeeded as Financial Administrator by Mrs. Daniel (Alison) Mahfet. Because Alison's position is part-time, please direct financial inquiries to Janice Woods.

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

The annual Salvation Army new toy drive ends this Sunday, December 13th. Bins are in Cranmer Hall.

PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Don't miss the mandatory Fitting & Dress Rehearsal on December 20th! After the 10:30 a.m. service, join us for lunch followed by costume fitting on the 3rd floor in Cranmer Hall. (Parents, please assist your children with costumes.) Dress Rehearsal will be at 1:00 p.m. (Parents, bring your cameras!) Afterward, we will make holiday cards for shut-ins and troops overseas. Pickup is at 2:00 p.m.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2016 Offering Envelopes have been mailed to parishioners who requested them. Those who no longer wish to use envelopes should discard the ones they have, as the numbers very likely have been reassigned to other members. If you would like to receive envelopes but did not originally request them, please call the Church Office at 232-1251.

VESTRY OFFICERS 2016

At its meeting December 8th, the Vestry elected its officers for 2016:
Sr. Warden: Mrs. Richard Jennings
Jr. Warden: Mr. Richard L. Wright
Treasurer: Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq.
Clerk: Mr. E. Brian Culver
Chancellor: M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.
Asst. Treas.: Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford

ADVENT PARISH KALENDAR

Monday - Friday

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

*Morning and Evening Prayer
with Holy Communion*

In addition, on Wednesday

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

Thursdays in Advent

*Music begins at 5:15 p.m. for the
5:30 p.m. service*

Dec. 17th: Early Music by the Goliards

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

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL Prayer Book, p. 93 (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.: MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON

HYMN #10 *On Jordan’s Bank*..... Winchester New
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses..... pg. 7-8
 VENITE with *Advent antiphon* (Hymnal #606) pg. 9
 Psalm #85 pg. 446
 First Lesson: Isaiah 35 *The Desert Shall Rejoice, and Blossom as the Rose* Insert
 ADVENT PROSE (*Choir*) Insert
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 4:1 and St. Matthew 11:2 p. 94
 BENEDICTUS (#638)..... 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 Dayp. 93 (90)
 Other Collects..... p. 17
 THE LITANY (*sung by all, kneeling*)..... *Insert or* p. 54
 Prayer of Saint Chrysostom & the Grace..... p. 20
 Notices & Exhortation p. 86
 HYMN #9 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding* Merton
 Sermon Father O’ Brien

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *This is the Record of John* [text in Prayer Book, p. 95] Orlando Gibbons
 Wes Perkins, Soloist

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #440 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*..... Aberystwyth

VOLUNTARY: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*..... Charles Callahan

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.)