

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 4

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2015

PSALM PSINGERS

The Psalm Psingers (Grades 1 to 5) will be singing at the 10:30 a.m. service, both in the procession and the final hymn. For the rest of the service they will be seated in the two pews below the lectern.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

The three principal feasts of the Church's year are Christmas, Easter, and Whitsunday; and for their souls' health, all baptized and communicant members are encouraged to receive - with repentance, faith, and charity - the Sacrament of Holy Communion on these days or as soon as possible afterwards. For Christmas these days are: Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, the feasts of St. Stephen, St. John, and Holy Innocents (the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday after Christmas). If unable to attend public worship by reason of health, please consult the clergy to make other arrangements.

THE CULTIVATION OF CHRISTMAS TREES

There are several attitudes towards Christmas,
Some of which we may disregard:
The social, the torpid, the patently
commercial,
The rowdy (the pubs being open till
midnight),
And the childish — which is not that of the
child
For whom the candle is a star, and the
gilded angel
Spreading its wings at the summit of the tree
Is not only a decoration, but an angel.

The child wonders at the Christmas Tree:
Let him continue in the spirit of wonder
At the Feast as an event not accepted as a
pretext;
So that the glittering rapture, the amazement
Of the first-remembered Christmas Tree,
So that the surprises, delight in new
possessions
(Each one with its peculiar and exciting
smell),
The expectation of the goose or turkey
And the expected awe on its appearance,
So that the reverence and the gaiety
May not be forgotten in later experience,

In the bored habituation, the fatigue, the
tedium,
The awareness of death, the
consciousness of failure,
Or in the piety of the convert
Which may be tainted with a self-conceit
Displeasing to God and disrespectful to
children
(And here I remember also with
gratitude
St. Lucy, her carol, and her crown of fire):
So that before the end, the eightieth
Christmas
(By "eightieth" meaning whichever is
last)
The accumulated memories of annual
emotion
May be concentrated into a great joy
Which shall be also a great fear, as on
the occasion
When fear came upon every soul:
Because the beginning shall remind us
of the end
And the first coming of the second
coming.

-T. S. Eliot

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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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Treasurer..... Mr. Richard L. Wright
Chancellor..... M. Tyus Butler, Jr. Esq.

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Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Roland B. Williams, Esq.

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President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
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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 Dr. Roland S. Summers

USHER CHAIRMAN

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

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Sr., Mr. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr. and Mr. Roy E. Cook by Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr.;

And in loving memory of Dr. Edwin Collier Shepherd and Betty McCuen Shepherd by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Shepherd, Jr. and family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Timothy E. Coy,
Mrs. T. Herbert Query III, Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.

DAILY ADVENT SERVICES

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

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

The Women of St. John's
Featuring Mrs. Myrtice Lewis' Eggnog

ACOLYTES

8:00 Mikel Kelly
10:30 Jamie McClellan Philip Inglesby
Hawkins Pindar Jackson McClellan

WREATHS, GARLANDS AND POINSETTIAS

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

YEAR-END DONATIONS

The Church Office will close at noon on December 31st (New Year's Eve). Any gifts received after this time will appear on the 2016 Statements of Contributions.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

Thursday, December 24:

CHRISTMAS EVE

8:15 A.M. *Morning Prayer and
Holy Communion*

5:00 P.M. Pageant Service

11:00 P.M. *Solemn Eucharist*

Friday, December 25:

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 A.M. *Sung Eucharist*

Saturday, December 26:

ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

10:30 A.M. *Holy Communion*

Sunday, December 27

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

(1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS)

8:00 A.M. *Holy Communion*

9:30 A.M. NO CLASSES

10:30 A.M. *Sung Eucharist*

12:00 (Noon) *Holy Communion*

Monday, December 28:

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

8:15 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.

*Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer
with Holy Communion*

The Church Office is closed.

Tuesday, December 29 to

Thursday, December 31st

No Services Except for:

Wednesday, December 30

10:00 A.M. *Holy Communion*

Friday, January 1

THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST

10:30 A.M. *Holy Communion*

The Church Office is closed.

Sunday, January 3rd

2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

8:00 A.M. & Noon *Holy Communion*

10:30 A.M. *Morning Prayer*

5:30 P.M. *Lessons and Carols*

for Christmastide

Reception in the Green-Meldrim House

Monday, January 4th

Daily Services Resume:

8:15 A.M. *Morning Prayer*

5:30 P.M. *Evening Prayer*

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

Where is this stupendous stranger?

Swains of Solyma, advise;

Lead me to my Master's manger,

Show me where my Saviour lies.

O Most Mighty! O Most Holy!

Far beyond the seraph's thought,

Art thou then so mean and lowly

As unheeded prophets taught?

O the magnitude of meekness!

Worth from worth immortal sprung;

O the strength of infant weakness,

If eternal is so young!

If so young and thus eternal,

Michael tune the shepherd's reed,

Where the scenes are ever vernal,

And the loves be love indeed!

See the God blasphemed and doubted

In the schools of Greece and Rome;

See the powers of darkness routed,

Taken at their utmost gloom.

Nature's decorations glisten

Far above their usual trim;

Birds on box and laurels listen,

As so near the cherubs' hymn.

Boreas now no longer winters

On the desolated coast;

Oaks no more are riven in splinters

By the whirlwind and his host.

Spinks and ouzels sing sublimely,

"We too have a Saviour born";

Whiter blossoms burst untimely

On the blest Mosaic thorn.

God all-bounteous, all-creative,

Whom no ills from good dissuade,

Is incarnate, and a native

Of the very world he made.

CHRISTOPHER 'KIT' SMART

(1722-1771)

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel..... Prayer Book, page 95 (90)
The Order of Service begins on page 67 of the Prayer Book
A continental breakfast is available in the Cranmer Hall following service.

9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (NOON) — NURSERY (Cranmer Hall)

9:30 A.M – 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.— A PROCESSION WITH
ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Details of the service are found on a separate leaflet.

*Everyone is invited to attend the **Special Advent Coffee Hour** in the Parish House immediately following 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)

Collects, Epistle, Gospel p. 95, 90.
The Order of Service begins on page 67 of the Prayer Book.

THIS SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. - *Trimming the Tree*

All Youth of St. John's are invited to meet at 5:00 p.m. at the Green-Meldrim House for supper and tree trimming, with carol-singing around the piano. Please pick up from the Parish House at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Mrs. Holden T. Hayes at chayes@stjohnssav.org or the Church Office at 912-232-1251.

WHITE GOODS CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Join us in making it a WHITE Christmas at the Old Savannah City Mission. From Christmas Eve through Epiphany Sunday, January 3rd, the Women and Sunday Schools of St. John's will be collecting white twin sheets, white towels, and bleach. There will be a basket in the back of the Church on Christmas Eve and then in the foyer of Cranmer Hall until Epiphany Sunday.

"Ye who now shall bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing."