

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 6

The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2016

THIS SUNDAY – THE TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

**5:30 P.M. – LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS**

*Reception to follow in Parish House.*

## THE WORD MADE FLESH

Large claims have been made for a small baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger: according to Saint John he is the “Word of God made flesh”, who “dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten [Son] of the Father, full of grace and truth”. The Jews were familiar with ‘the Word of God’ - the Word that was spoken in the beginning, by which the world was made; the Word spoken to the fathers by the prophets, and the Word that was written in the Scriptures. But when John says: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”, he is not only saying that Jesus *spoke* the Word of God, like any prophet, but that he himself *was* the Word of God. Anyone can bring a message: but to be the message? That’s harder!

A word is a thought disclosed, knowledge that is revealed. A human word is a pitiful thing, because our minds are pitiful things. The wisest of our words are but a gesture at the mystery of being they attempt to comprehend: but not so the Word of God, the utterance of infinite Mind. In God's Word, in God's thinking revealed, God comprehends all things, even himself - so that there is nothing of God

that is not revealed in his Word – and therefore, as John says, “the Word *was* God”. As our words are the offspring of our minds, conceived and uttered in time, God's word is the Son begotten of the Father from all eternity. Whatever God is, his Word is; and whatever God does, his Word does:

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.

All things exist in God's word, in God's thinking of them; all living things have life in his life, all minds have light in his light; and apart from him is only darkness. It is *this* all-making, life-giving, light-bringing Word of God that “was made flesh, and dwelt among us”.

The term “flesh” means “human nature” in its weakness, and poverty. That's what the Word took upon himself, and made his own, and we may perceive hints of the child wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger, in the darkness of this world's night. Yet in this flesh, the Light is not concealed but revealed: “we beheld his glory, 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.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

Please call the Church Office to inform the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital.

ST. JOHN'S WEB SITE

Parish Paper essays may be read on our web site:
www.stjohnssav.org

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Robert A. Vinyard, Esq.
R. Bartley Turner, Esq.

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are retained from Christmas.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. William Lee Belford, Mrs. Adolphus J. Carter III, Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. Leroy N. Suddath, Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr., Ms. Virginia Anne Tyree, Mrs. Shaffer B. Wimbish, Jr.

ACOLYTES

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

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. David A. Reid

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION

Fr. Dunbar- This our Sacrifice of Praise
3rd floor, Cranmer Hall, far right room

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 Fr. Dunbar at 7:00 a.m. In the Reading Room in Cranmer Hall
Thursday- Men's Small Group continues January 7 Noon, 1st floor, Cranmer Hall

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Small Group will meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays beginning January 6 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Reading Room in Cranmer Hall
Thursday- Georges Bermanos' Mouchette with Father O'Brien at 9:15 a.m. in the Reading Room in Cranmer Hall

WOMEN OF SAINT JOHN'S

The Board will meet in the Reading Room in Cranmer Hall Monday, January 4 at 10:00 a.m. The Women of St. John's will meet in the Parish House on Wednesday, January 6 following the 10:00 a.m. service.

SAVE THE DATES

Seniors Luncheon

January 20

Annual Oyster Roast and BBQ

January 23

Tickets on sale during Coffee Hour beginning January 3

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth". John's point is this: when the man Jesus spoke, it was God speaking; when he acted it was God acting; his embodied person is the definitive revelation of God's purpose.

And what is this purpose? Here we come to the strangest part of John's testimony:

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not; he came unto his own, and his own received him not; but as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

On the one hand, he is saying something wonderful - that the Son of God became Son of man, so that the children of men might become the children of God. Christ shares divine Sonship with those who believe in him: so faith is necessary, yet John says that faith is a problem. It is not something we can produce at will. In this world of unbelief, it takes a miracle to believe: but St. John says, that is just what God has done: for those who "believe in his Name", he says, "are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God". It's not in our power to believe in Christ, but it is the gift of God that we do. So if you do believe, give him *humble* and hearty thanks, because *it is his gift*, and not your achievement – there is no place for self-righteous pride. But if you don't believe, or are not sure you believe, *it is his gift*, and gifts may be asked for. Ask him to reveal himself to you. He is the Word made flesh! GGD

#### **MUCH THANKS!**

The clergy and staff of St. John's wish to thank parishioners who sent greeting cards and gifts this Christmas Season.

### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

*The following memorials were omitted in error from the Parish Paper dated December 27, 2015:*

Barbara K. Compton, by the Culver family  
My husband, Edward J. Derst, Jr., by Mrs.  
Edward J. Derst, Jr.

The Rev. William H. Ralston, Jr., by Julia and  
Wesley Krulic

*The following memorials were received after the Parish Paper (December 27, 2015) was printed:*  
Our parents, by Mr. and Mrs. William Keightley  
Our loved ones, by Gary and Elizabeth Schubert

### **CHRISTMAS WREATHS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

*The following memorials were omitted in error from the Parish Paper dated December 27, 2015:*

Sanford G. Simmons, John Pindar Bradshaw  
Schaller, Julie Floyd Smith and Loved ones,  
by Marie Simmons

### **GIVEN IN THANKSGIVING FOR:**

*The following memorial was received after the Parish Paper (December 27, 2015) was printed:*

The blessings of our grandchildren, Clara and  
Carter III; and of their parents, Margaret and  
Carter Hubbard, Jr., by Mr. and Mrs. Carter  
C. Hubbard

### **PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK**

#### **Monday - Friday**

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

*Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer*

#### **Wednesday, January 6**

#### **THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*

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

*Morning Prayer & Evening Prayer  
with Holy Communion*

### **WHITE GOODS**

The Women and Sunday Schools of St. John's are helping the Old Savannah Mission have a WHITE CHRISTMAS! Epiphany Sunday, January 10, is the last day to bring **white twin sheets, white pillowcases, white towels, and bleach** to Cranmer Hall. Thank you for your gifts!

**8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL .....Prayer Book, page 106  
*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 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.: MORNING PRAYER & SERMON**

HYMN #10 *Sing, O Sing, This Blessed Morn*..... England’s Lane  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer.....Prayer Book, pages 3-7  
 Versicles and Responses .....p. 7-8

VENITE #606 (*with Advent antiphon*)..... p. 9  
 Psalm #93, 97 .....p. 457, 460  
 First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3; 62:11-12.....Insert

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615, 619 ..... p. 10  
 Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7; St. Matthew 2:19-23 .....Insert

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 Day..... p. 106  
 Other Collects and Prayers, the Grace.....p. 17-20

HYMN #21 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*..... Forest Green  
 Sermon ..... Father O’Brien

**OFFERING**

Sentences  
 Anthem: *To Us Is Born Emmanuel* ..... Michael Praetorius  
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)  
 Prayer and Blessing

HYMN #20 *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* ..... Divinum Mysterium

VOLUNTARY: *A Christmas Rondel*..... Charles Callahan

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*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.*

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

**5:30 P.M. - LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS (PRELUDE AT 5:05 P.M.)**