

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Second Sunday after Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

April 10, 2016

SEVEN LAST WORDS

Although the seven last words from the cross have long been a focus of Christian devotion, it was from the 18th c. church in Peru that the Three Hours service of Good Friday originated, of which they were the chief focus. Although now rare, in the 20th century it was adopted even by Protestant churches. But it was the late Father Crouse (a frequent visitor at St. John's) who pointed to the almost uncanny albeit deep correspondence of these sayings to the lessons of the ancient Eucharistic lectionary for the seven Sundays from Easter to Pentecost. It may seem odd to be remembering the sadness of Calvary in the joy of Easter, but this oddity is in fact intrinsic to the Christian mystery. As Easter is the victory of the cross unveiled, so in Eastertide we commemorate the cross in its ever-present power to save - yesterday, today, and forever.

THE FIRST WORD

The disciples emerged from Good Friday with painful memories, as those who deserted and denied their Lord. Besides their guilt, shame, fear and grief, it is clear that, despite Jesus' teaching, they had no expectation of his rising again. Whatever Jesus had said, it had simply not registered. So as the gospels record, the news of the empty tomb and the risen Lord produced a shock wave of distress, perplexity, doubt, and fear, before it produced joy. Belief in the resurrection

did not emerge from within the emotional experience of the disciples, but had to be imposed on them from without, by the discovery of the empty tomb, and by the appearance of the risen Christ. For he came to them, and in his coming to them, it was evident that despite the death of the cross, despite their desertion and denial, he was still their Lord, they were still his disciples. "Tell his disciples *and Peter*" says the angel to the women at the tomb – an unmistakable reference to the one who so shamefully denied his Lord three times, and with an oath on God's name. Christ's love for them is not only stronger than death, but stronger than their sin.

It is in virtue of their own experience of being restored and received by Christ, despite their failing him, that the apostles in turn will preach the gospel to the Jews of Jerusalem, confronting them with their guilt, in having crucified their Messiah, while at the same time offering him to them as their one hope of redemption. The victim of our failures, the one whose blood is on our hands - we must recognize *him* as our hope. Here the connection with the first word from the cross appears: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) On the day of Pentecost, Peter, the forgiven failure, will take the lead, both in confronting the men of Israel with their sin, and instead of condemnation, offering them

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

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. Joseph O. Mercer

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. B. Ray Summerell

ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Turner Stevens
10:30 a.m. Patrick Perrie Phillip Inglesby
Jamie McClellan Mikel Kelly
Jackson McClellan Finn Repella

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory of family and loved ones by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Cunningham;

And in celebration of George Fawcett's 90th birthday on March 25 with appreciation for his many years of service to St. John's by Marie Backus McGaughey.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. B. Ray Summerell, Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr., Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Sr.,
Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Donald J. Schwarzrock

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION

Fr. Dunbar- *Adult Catechism* Reading Room

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Breakfast & discussion
Is Faith Reasonable?
6:45 a.m., Parish House
Thursday- *Romans* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m., CH Reading Room
Thursday- Men's Small Group Faith Fellowship
Noon on Thursdays
Cranmer Hall, 1st floor

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday-C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship
Bring a bag lunch- stay for fellowship!
11:00 a.m. this Wednesday, April 13
Cranmer Hall, 1st floor
Thursday- Michael O'Brien's novel, *Sophia House* with Father O'Brien
9:15 a.m., CH Reading Room

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

8:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Morning and Evening Prayer

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *The Litany*
10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Join us Wednesday, April 20 after Evening Prayer. Call Karen Wray at 912-398-8006.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

redemption - by the one they despised and rejected: "Let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:36-38). The connection with the first word is even more explicit shortly after: "Ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses... And now, brethren, I wot that *through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.* ...Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:14-17) To be forgiven, they must remember, acknowledge, and repent of their own guilty part: yet like Joseph to his brothers, Peter is unveiling a design of a love far greater than anything they could imagine: "As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not ..." (Genesis 50:20, 21) As Peter tells the Jews, "Those things, which God before had showed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled" (Acts 3:18). On Easter, we emerge, dazzled, shocked, amazed, perplexed, confounded and finally overjoyed, to find that our own devices and desires have been exposed as wretched folly; yet we are not left with the bitter taste of our failure, for we discover a wisdom, a power, a goodness, a love that can only

be divine: "And can it be that I should gain an interest in my Savior's blood? / Died he for me, who caused his pain? / For me, who him to death pursued? / Amazing love! How can it be, that thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me?" (C. Wesley). "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." GGD

LYRA IN CONCERT

TUESDAY, APRIL 19 AT NOON

The Russian Vocal Ensemble of St.

Petersburg will perform

Music of the Russian Orthodox Tradition.

SAVANNAH BAROQUE IN CONCERT

FRIDAY, MAY 13 AT 7:30 P.M.

A debut program of instrumental and vocal works by Purcell, Bach, Handel, Blavet, Telemann and Monteverdi.

Tickets begin at \$20 each and are available in St. John's Church Office, at the door. or at www.savannahbaroque.yapsody.com.

LIVING VINE COLLECTION

From April 10 to May 22, the Women and Sunday School are collecting items for *The Living Vine* (a Christian ministry providing a home for women in crisis pregnancies). Please help by donating paper towels, napkins, bath tissue, and Kleenex. New or gently-used car seats, strollers and bassinets are greatly needed.

GREEN-MELDRIM DOCENTS NEEDED

We are in the middle of tourist season in Savannah and the Green-Meldrim House needs smiling faces. No experience needed! Please call Jane Pressly (233-6551) or Martie Thomas (598-4299) for information.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendar for Confirmation Day, April 17! If you are looking for a way to commemorate this special occasion, please consider purchasing a Prayer Book or Hymnal in honor of your confirmand. The books are \$50 each and will be placed in the Church or Chapel. Call the Church Office to place your order.

8:00 A.M.–HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 171
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. - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES (*Cranmer Hall*)

10:30 A.M. - JOYFUL NOISE, JOYFUL HEARTS (*Cranmer Hall*)
Music, Teaching, and Active Fun for Pre-School through Kindergarten.

10:30 A.M. - MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

HYMN: #89 *At the Lamb's High Feast*.....Salzburg
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer Prayer Book, pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses 7-8

EASTER ANTHEMS: #682 162
 Psalms #23, #33 368, 378
 First Lesson: Ezekiel 34.....*Insert*

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #613, 617..... 10
 Second Lesson: 1 St. Peter 2:19 and St. John 10:11 172

BENEDICTUS #638 14
Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Grades 1-5).

Apostles' Creed..... 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collect for the Day..... 171
 Other Collects, Prayers and The Grace 17-20

HYMN: #345 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* St. Columba
 THE SERMON Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *The Lord Is My Shepherd*..... Thomas Matthews
(Music was given by Kenneth Yates in memory of his mother, Edith A. Yates.)

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN: #396 *The Church's One Foundation* Aurelia
 VOLUNTARY: *The Risen Christ* Gerald Peterson

*Everyone is invited to attend 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 in the Chapel (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as at 8:00 a.m.).