

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 30

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

June 19, 2016

YOUTH MINISTRY AT ST. JOHN'S

Interested parishioners – especially, but not only, parents of Middle, and Upper School youth – are invited to be part of the discussion and planning (both short-term and long-term) for Youth Ministry at St. John's. We will meet **this Sunday, June 19 at 11:45 am - 12:30 pm** or **Monday, June 20 at 5:30 pm- 6:15 pm** in the Fellowship Hall on the first floor of Cranmer Hall. If you are interested in knowing more but cannot attend, please contact the Rector at gdnubar@stjohnssav.org.

BELONGING & BELIEVING (PART III)

In recent Parish Paper essays, I argued that the faith we seek to share cannot be liberal Protestantism, moral therapeutic deism, or conservative moralism, but rather the gospel of what God has done for us in Christ. Let me try to put this in perhaps more accessible terms.

Over the years, when I hear Christians speak of the Christian religion, what I *think* I have *sometimes* heard runs something like this: “nobody’s perfect”, yet with God’s help and the example of Jesus we “are trying to be good”, “trying to live a good life”. Though we can’t help falling short, yet because of the compassion of Jesus, and his suffering on the cross, we hope that God will be merciful and “grade on a curve” instead of punishing us. Moreover, we know God’s love when he protects us from suffering, blesses us with happiness and

prosperity, and brings us to heaven when we die. When, however, God allows bad things to happen to those who are trying to lead a good life, we are justifiably angry with him and want to punish him.

As I say, something like this *seems* to be what *some* Christians understand by the Christian religion. It *seems* like common sense, and it has points of contact with the the Bible and the Christian tradition; yet at its core it is at odds with both, and obscures the truth of the gospel. Rather than dealing honestly with what is wrong with human beings, and what is necessary to put it right, it seeks a reassurance that does not deliver us from fear and guilt.

What’s wrong with human beings? When I affirm that I am a “good person”, or admitting that “nobody’s perfect”, I am not facing the real problem – that I am not motivated by love of God and neighbor but by self-love, self-gratification, fear, and guilt. My resistance takes one of two forms – open rebellion (‘I don’t need God; I will do what I want’), or self-righteousness based on my achievements (‘I am a good person!’ or ‘I have repented’ - ‘and therefore God owes me’). In the time of Jesus, the former view characterized publicans, sinners, and pagans; the latter view the scribes and Pharisees. In our time, the former view is found among the non-religious, and the latter among the religious. In either case, I am my own savior, and am deeply alienated from God, whether I admit it or not. In reality, I do not enjoy praying to him; I chiefly value

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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. David C. Barrow III

USHER CHAIRMAN

Joseph R. Ross, Esq.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God on the occasion of the marriage of Emma Caroline Murray and Jason Andrew Thompson on June 18, 2016;

And in loving memory of Dr. Robert A. Burnett by Mrs. Robert A. Burnett, Decie and Wendy;

And in loving memory of William Finn Summerell by Mrs. Timothy E. Coy;

And in loving memory of Jennifer Liscomb Ross by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Russell Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Russell Ross, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. William Richards Kittredge;

And in loving memory of Mr. John M. Saylor by his family;

And in memory of Thomas E. Johnson by Barbara Johnson Howard.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard,
Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III, Mrs. B. Ray Summerell,
Mrs. Rhett N. Willis, Mrs. Warren L. Traver,
Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr., Mrs. Sam P. Inglesby, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:30 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Hawkins Pindar
Mikel Kelly Jackson McClellan
Turner Stevens William Taylor

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Edward J. Derst III

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. BOOK DISCUSSION

Lachlan Ivy will lead a discussion of Tim Keller's *Prayer* in the Reading Room at 9:30 a.m. on June 19, 26, and July 3. All welcome. Handouts provided.

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Breakfast with Father O'Brien
Why Read the Bible?
6:45 a.m., Parish House

Thursday- *Romans* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m., CH Reading Room

NO MEETING June 23, 30, or July 7th

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship
June 22, 11:00 a.m. CH Library

Thursday- Michael O'Brien's novel,
Island of the World with Fr. O'Brien
9:15 a.m., CH Reading Room

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

him for what he can give me.

Acknowledging this alienation honestly does not come easily: we clutch our self-image as if it gave us security. In fact, it does not: my guilt and fear remain. That's why I need the re-assurance that I am a 'good person', and that 'nobody's perfect'. That's why I need a 'compassionate' God to grade me on a curve, because deep down inside I know that I do not pass muster.

If we understand the Christian religion truly, however, we shall follow a way that is at once more honest, more humble, and more hopeful. If we are honest about ourselves, then we will give up the false hope that our moral or religious achievements could possibly make us acceptable to God, or that God grades on a curve. If we are humble, we will admit that the attempt to live without God has left us spiritually empty; we will stop trying to be our own saviors, and start asking for his help. And the help and hope that is given to us in the gospel is this – that the work of our salvation, the achievement of a righteousness that makes us acceptable unto God, the atonement for all our flaws and failures, is not our work, it is not our achievement. It has already been fully accomplished for us, by Christ, in his death and resurrection, and is ours to receive by means of faith alone. The one we despised and rejected, against whom we rebelled, has come to our rescue, because he loves us without reserve, despite our failings and flaws. When we grasp this truth deeply, when it takes possession of our minds, no cause for fear or guilt remains (my failures, though real, do not affect my salvation). I am instead moved to gratitude and love for God; and in that

grateful love, I am ready to do whatever he asks of me – not only to obey his commandments, but to suffer patiently for his sake. "Love so amazing, so divine/ demands my soul, my life, my all."

Of course, if I am clinging to my self-righteousness, if I diminish the greatness of my need, the cost he paid for my redemption, or the benefits it imparts, if I claim some entitlement based on who I am or what I have achieved – then I will not be amazed by God's love for me – I will regard it as something I am entitled to, something I deserve. "*Dieu pardonna; c'est son métier*". Honesty and humility are painful, but they are the keys to the help and hope that Christ gives.

This, not the cheap grace of liberal Protestantism or the self-righteousness of conservative moralism, is what we are given to believe and to share, in the tradition of faith and worship we have received in the the Prayer Book. GGD

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*

In addition, on Friday

NATIVITY OF

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

*Morning and Evening Prayer
with Holy Communion*

JANE'S CANNERS

The Canning Ladies are in the Cranmer Hall kitchen at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday throughout the summer. All are welcome to join them! Donations are needed: half-pint jars, sugar, raisins, figs, pears, apples, squash, onions. Call Jane Pressly at 912-233-6551.

8:00 A.M.–HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL.....Prayer Book, page 194
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 A.M.-10:15 A.M. - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ADULTS (Cranmer Hall)

10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery (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: #287 <i>Give Praise and Glory</i>	Elbing
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses	7-8
VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO: #609	9
Psalm #79	439
First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 1:1-15 <i>All is vanity</i>	<i>Insert</i>
BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE #626.....	11
Second Lesson: Romans 8:18-23; St. Luke 6:36-41	194
BENEDICTUS #634.....	14
<i>Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Grades 1-5).</i>	
Apostles' Creed	15
Versicles and Responses	16
Collect for the Day.....	194
Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace	17-20
HYMN: #106 <i>The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns</i>	St. Magnus
THE SERMON	Father O’Brien

OFFERING

Sentences	
Anthem: <i>Let Us Now Praise Famous Men</i>	R. Vaughan-Williams
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141 (verse 4)	
General Thanksgiving and Aaronic Blessing	19
HYMN: [Insert] <i>All My Hope On God Is Founded</i>	Michael
VOLUNTARY: Hyfrydol	R. Vaughan-Williams

*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.)