

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

July 31, 2016

BATTER MY HEART

From a sermon by Father Ralston on Trinity Sunday, 1997: first of three parts.

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. St. John 3:3

John Donne begins one of his “holy sonnets,” which is also one of the great poems in our language, with this: “Batter my heart, three-personed God.” The Gospel for today [John 3:1-15] tells us that to know God we must be “born again.” And so the poet’s supplication speaks truth, and echoes in his human voice our Lord’s very words. We cannot come to that knowledge of God which is life eternal without radical conversion. We must be born again, and our hearts must be broken.

Why must this be? Think only of the sloth and murk and dirt that shade our minds, blacken our wills, and infect our hearts as we speak, and act, and respond to God. Nothing in all this whole world is remotely as important to us and for us as is God. And yet this holy Name can slide in and out of our conversation and our consciousness as if He were of no more importance than something on our grocery list.

There is no doubt that God is demanding: He strains our minds when we try to think of Him; He rebukes our wills when we try to act for Him; He burns our corroded hearts when we attempt to love Him. He is God; and there is no dealing with God.

When Isaiah saw the glory and heard

the voice, in the clouds of incense and the whirling angels; before he could speak for the voice which spoke to him, his mouth was burned, purified by the living flame. Isaiah is the royal poet of the Old Testament. But you do not give messages for God without great cost. Isaiah’s mouth was “born again” by fire that day in the temple.

And no less must happen to us. How is it possible for us not to take the Name of our Lord God in vain? Only one way: by speaking of Him in the Spirit, with a transformed self: only as we are “born again.” The natural man may comprehend in part; may sense a Being; may accept a doctrine; may repeat a formula – “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost” – but it is not by nature; it is only by the Holy Spirit that we know God the blessed Trinity, whom to know is life eternal. Our natural man must be regenerated, “born again.”

For the Trinity is not merely a dogma of the Church, and various doctrines about the dogma. “Trinity” is a Name; and a Name given to God by God Himself. This is something no human agency can do. A Name defines something, and how dare we define the holy God, or attempt to name Him with our profane lips?

And yet it is God Himself who wishes us to know Him, and who has revealed this much of Himself to us. The revelation is this: that there, in the inaccessible depths of God’s being, is the very form of life; and this form of life is a Trinity – a Trinity not only of our experience of God:

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The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar Rector
1 West Macon Street, 31401 (912) 429-3384
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien Priest Associate
423 E. Gaston Street 31401 (912) 308-4441
Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Mrs. Thomas R. Corbin, Jr. Parish Administrator
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President, Chancel Society *Mrs. Roland S. Summers*
President, Men of St. John's *Mr. J. Alex Jarman*

Church Office (912) 232-1251
Fax (912) 232-5559
Parish House (912) 233-3845
Cranmer Hall (912) 232-8887
E-mails (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

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 Dr. Roland S. Summers

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. John D. Riley

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Williams, Jr.; Mr. Mike Lowrance, and Mr. Dean Lowrance by Mr. and Mrs. Roland B. Williams.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III,
Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings,
Mrs. Jeanne W. McMillan, Miss Caroline McMillan,
Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Mrs. J. Pride Sheahan

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Turner Stevens
10:30 a.m. Jackson McClellan Hunt Wasden
Patrick Perrie Finn Repella
Jamie McClellan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Holly S. Montford

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. ADULT CLASS

READING ROOM: The Book of *Samuel* with
Father Dunbar

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast
6:45 a.m., Parish House
Thursday- *Romans* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m., CH Reading Room
**No Meeting This Week: Resumes
August 10th**

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday- C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship
11:00 a.m. CH Reading Room
Next meeting is August 10.

JANE'S CANNERS

...work at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday. All are welcome to join them! Donations needed: half-pint jars, sugar, pears, apples, pecans, and onions. Call Jane Pressly at 912-233-6551.

ON CALL FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

Wednesday, August 3 to Saturday, August 6- Father Richard Nelson is on call for pastoral emergencies. Call 912-655-8017 or email FrRichard388@aol.com.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

God above us, God with us, God within us; but a Trinity within God Himself which is God Himself; and this accounts for our experience of God and makes it real. Only by the Holy Ghost dare we name God at all. We can speak of Him as Trinity only as we are “born again.”

To be continued.

SAVANNAH VOICE FESTIVAL AT ST. JOHN’S

*FROM ARGENTINA WITH LOVE:
SANTIAGO BALLERINI*

Thursday, August 11

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at St. John’s Church

Tenor Santiago Ballerini in recital with Justina Lee on piano.

Tickets: \$45 in advance

SALON SERIES:

OPERA IN THE BAROQUE

Friday, August 12

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

at Green-Meldrim House

An intimate concert of early music featuring Handel, Purcell, and others. Salon Concert & Meet-the-Artist Champagne Reception

Tickets: \$75 all inclusive

VOICE Society Member Only Event

SALON SERIES:

GOODNIGHT, MY LOVE

LULLABIES AND CRADLE SONGS

Friday, August 19

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

at Green-Meldrim House

Salon Concert & Meet the Artist
Champagne Reception

Tickets: \$75 all inclusive

VOICE Society Member Only Event

*All tickets are available at
Savannahvoicefestival.org.*

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

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

Morning and Evening Prayer

No Additional Services

(Holy Communion) this week.

THE SAINT MICHAEL’S CONFERENCE

From July 31-August 6, Father O’Brien and five of our young people will take part in the Saint Michael’s Conference at the Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Saint Michael’s, a conference in the Anglican tradition, has since 1960 sought to “guide young people in their journey of understanding and embracing faith in Christ”. Father O’Brien has been on the faculty for seven years with eleven conferees (ages 14-21) having taken part.

Thank you to the Women of St. John’s for providing the tuition for participants.

Visit www.saintmichaelsconference.com to see more about this ministry, especially the video testimonials tab, “Day In The Life of SMC”.

TEXTS OF TODAY’S MUSIC

Prayer

Ludwig van Beethoven, Opus 48

O God, Thy goodness reacheth so far, as far as clouds above us. Thy tender mercies crown our days and quickly show that Thou dost love us. O Lord, my rock, my fortress strong, hear Thou my prayer which I prolong as I now bow before Thee.

The Goodness of the Lord

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach

How great is the goodness of God Almighty! Is there any man who has not known His goodness? For all gifts come from God Almighty, all praise and honor belongeth to Him. Let all consider what He hath given. All that we have are gifts from God above. The Lord hath not forgotten us, and we should not forget this love.

O God let Thy goodness and love be boundless and always remain before our eyes. O strengthen us with Thy great power. Let all our lives be given to Thee. O grant us comfort in time of trouble, be thou our guide thru joyful days, for we would not forget Thy goodness. With thankful hearts we sing Thy praise.

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 203
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

Prelude: *Prayer (Opus 48)*..... Ludwig van Beethoven
 James Wright, Baritone

HYMN: #300 *Before the Lord Jehovah's Throne*..... Winchester New
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's PrayerPrayer Book, pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses7-8

VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO: #609 9
 Psalms #65 & 67 416 & 418
 First Lesson: Jeremiah 7:1-15 *Against false religion*.....*Insert*

BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE #626..... 11
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1, St. Luke 19:41 203, 204

BENEDICTUS #634 14
Children may exit following the cross for PSALM PSINGERS (Grades 1-5).

Apostles' Creed 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collect for the Day..... 203
 Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace17-20

HYMN: #253 *Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word* Luebeck

THE SERMON Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *The Goodness of God*..... Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach
 James Wright, Baritone

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and National Hymn #141 Stanza 4.
 General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing..... 19

HYMN: #109 *Come, Thou Holy Spirit, Come!* Veni Sancte Spiritus

VOLUNTARY: *Festival Voluntary (Opus 87)*..... Flor Peeters

*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.)