

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 47 No. 44

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 25, 2016

CATECHISM II

In this series, I am trying to explain not so much *what* the Catechism teaches, as to *why* it is important for us and our youngsters to learn it. Last week we saw that the first four questions of the Catechism, about the benefits and promises of baptism, inculcate a strong sense of security and reciprocal obligation that we have in our relationship with God. He has freely committed himself to us – and so we commit ourselves to him.

These themes of security and faithfulness continue as the Catechism turns to the second promise – to *believe all the articles of the Christian faith*, which are now set forth in the Apostles' Creed, with a brief explanation of their meaning. (Fuller explanation can be found in the Heidelberg Catechism or J. I. Packer's *Affirming the Apostles' Creed*).

If I am to have a relation of faith with God, I need to know who he is, what he does, and what I can expect from him. When people tell me that they "believe in God", I sometimes wonder *what* it is they believe about this god in whom they believe, indeed, what god it is in whom they believe. There are many false gods out there, so many gods who are inventions of human imagination. Obviously the Bible is the primary source for the knowledge of the one true God, and Christians need to be engaged in reading and reflecting on its teaching throughout their lives - but that does not

stop us from having a clear picture of this God from the beginning, a concise, reliable, time-tested, universally-recognized summary of the Bible's teaching about God and his works. That is what we have in the Apostle's Creed. We will certainly want to know *more* about God than is set forth in the Apostles' Creed - but we will not want to know *less*. This is an excellent starting point for a life of faith.

What do we learn from the Creed? The Catechism's answer is this: *First, I learn to believe in God the Father, who hath made me, and all the world. Secondly, in God the Son, who hath redeemed me, and all mankind. Thirdly, in God the Holy Ghost, who sanctifieth me, and all the elect people of God.*

What we are learning here is the knowledge of God, and the self. I can make sense of myself, only if I know myself in terms of the triune God (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost) and his activity outside himself – creating the world in which I exist, redeeming all mankind of whom I am one, sanctifying all the elect people of God into which I have been baptized. This is no recipe for hyper-individualism, for it teaches me that my welfare is inextricably linked with the well being of the world, all mankind, and all the elect people of God. Yet here unquestionably is *personal* security and assurance for *me*: I am not

THE PARISH PAPER
OF
St. John's Church
1 WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401
www.stjohnsav.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, Georgia 31401.

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
Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfet.....Financial Administrator
Mrs. Holden T. Hayes..... Christian Education Director
Mr. Sinisa Domazet..... Buildings Manager

Senior Warden.....Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings
Junior Warden.....Mr. Richard L. Wright
Clerk of Vestry.....Mr. E. Brian Culver
Treasurer.....Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq.
Chancellor.....M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.

The Vestry: *Esqs.*, M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Joseph R. Ross, Jonathan D. Sprague; *Drs.* James S. McClellan, Jr., Roland S. Summers; Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings, Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. Mark D. Stevens; *Messrs.* David C. Barrow III, E. Brian Culver, John C. Helmken II, R. Scott Howard, J. Alex Jarman, Joseph O. Mercer, Peter A. Pollak, Jr., L. Allan Reynolds, Jr., William C. Rodgers, R. Gilbert Wells, Richard L. Wright.

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

President, ECW..... Mrs. R. Scott Howard
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)@stjohnsav.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 Mr. William C. Rodgers

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jack and Edna Fitzpatrick and loved ones by their family;

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney T. Nutting, Sr. and Mr. Sidney T. Nutting, Jr. by their families;

And in loving memory of Virginia L. Brower by her family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray,
Mrs. B. Ray Summerell, Mrs. Timothy E. Coy,
Mrs. Rhett N. Willis, Mrs. William E. Dillard III,
Mrs. John R. Reiter, Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr.,
Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Hawkins Pindar
Jackson McClellan Finn Repella
Phillip Inglesby

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.
ADULT & YOUTH CLASSES
Cranmer Hall – Third Floor

CONFIRMATION CLASS-GRADE 6- *Catechism*

MIDDLE SCHOOL-GRADES 7,8

Twenty-Five Bible Saints

UPPER SCHOOL-GRADES 9-12

Apologetics for Teenagers

FOR ADULTS:

READING ROOM: *I Samuel*- Fr. Dunbar

CH3: *Joshua: Man of Faith, Man of Courage,*
Man of War- Jack Wray

CH3: *Intro to St. John's*- Fr. O'Brien

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

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Wednesday- **C. S. Lewis Women's Fellowship**
11:00 a.m., CH Reading Room
Thursday- **Book Study** with Father O'Brien
9:15 a.m., CH Reading Room
Shusaku Endo's Silence

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

a pawn of fate and chance, of impulses and passions, of monsters and tyrants, of malign, indifferent or arbitrary forces beyond my control or comprehension: I have been created, redeemed, sanctified by the God who is “above all, through all, and in you all” – utterly transcendent, yet deeply intimately involved; supreme over all, yet also present and active in all, working out his good purpose for all, which is also his good purpose for me. He has brought me out of nothing into existence and life; in Christ he has redeemed me from the powers of sin and death that estranged me from him; by the Spirit he is making me holy – capable of sharing in the eternal life and infinite happiness of God himself. Thus the Creed’s teaching gives my life a liberating and empowering sense of security and purpose.

Yet the knowledge that God is the Creator of the world, the Redeemer of mankind, and the Sanctifier of the elect, will not liberate and empower me, unless I believe that he is the Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier of *me*. The Creed does not begin, “the Bible says that God...”, it begins “I believe in God...” Moreover, I don’t just believe *that* God is Creator or Redeemer, no, I believe *in* him; I trust him to be *my* Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Faith does not hold God at a polite distance, but receives and accepts him as my Lord, my God, my Saviour. If he is present and active in me, it is on his terms, not mine.

Are we capable of such faith? Only God can give us faith – and he does so by the Word of God, preached, read, studied; and by the work of the Holy Ghost in our hearts and minds, teaching us to cry out, Abba, Father. Yet we can

pray for God to open our blind eyes, and we can plead, “Lord I believe; help thou mine unbelief.” GGD

BRASS FOR MICHAELMAS

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the brass at Michaelmas (October 2), please make out checks to St. John’s Church marked “brass” in the memo line, and, if desired, add a note as to the thanksgiving or memorial intended.

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

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

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10 a.m. *Eucharist*

Thursday, September 29

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

Holy Communion with

Morning or Evening Prayer

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

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR NOTICES

Treasure Room- Collectibles, Silver, China, Rugs, Lamps, etc. Holly Montford- 897-6202 or Robin Johnson- 843-706-3558

Books- Clear your shelves and donate the books to the Bazaar! Kathryn Tanner- 667-4894 or Karen Wray- 398-8006

Arts and Crafts- If you sew, knit, or craft, please donate your handmade treasures to the Bazaar! Martha Sullivan- 663-6221

Jane’s Canners are in the kitchen on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. Jane- 233-6551

White Elephant needs treasures to sell! No clothes/shoes/toys/puzzles/electronics/pillow (decorative-ok)/luggage/plastic containers. Caroline Warner- 657-2755.

SECOND HARVEST COLLECTION

Items needed for Backpack Buddies (individual-sized servings, please): **fruit cups, Vienna sausage, peanut butter, crackers, Goldfish, and children’s books.** Help us pack at Second Harvest on Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. Call Martha Sullivan 663-6221.

8:00 A.M.–HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPELPrayer Book, page 214

A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery** (*Cranmer Hall*)

9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (*Cranmer Hall*)

Supervised Fellowship and Fun is available for children from Preschool to Grade Five whose parents are attending class.

10:30 A.M. - MORNING PRAYER, SERMON & SUNDAY SCHOOL

HYMN: #545 *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed* Woodbird
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book, pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses..... 7-8
 VENITE EXULTEMUS DOMINO: #609 9
 Psalms #120, 121, 122 *Psalms of Ascent to Sion, the city of God* 502, 503
 First Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:1-25 *Moses rehearses the Law* Insert
 BENEDICTUS ES, DOMINE #626 11
 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:4 & St. Matthew 22:34 214-215
 BENEDICTUS #634..... 14
Children may exit following the cross for SUNDAY SCHOOL (Kindergarten – Grade 5).
 Apostles’ Creed..... 15
 Versicles and Responses..... 16
 Collect for the Day 214
 Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace 17-20
 HYMN: #390 *’Twas a Joyful Sound to Hear (Psalm 122)* Mount Zion
 THE SERMON Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: *Commitment*..... Lloyd Pfautsch

Eliza DeRienzo, flute

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and Hymn #141, Stanza 4

General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing 19

HYMN: #356 *At the Name of Jesus*King’s Weston

VOLUNTARY: *Trumpet Air and Interlude*..... Stanley Vann

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.)