

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 2

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2016

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**

**5:30 P.M. CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ADVENT**

**5:05 P.M. MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE**

*Reception will follow in Green-Meldrim House.*

## **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL**

**Next Sunday, December 11**

After Church until 2:00 p.m.

**TREE TRIMMING** in the Parish House

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Junior High Youth of St. John's are asked  
to assist!*

## **SONSHIP & INCARNATION (I)**

The fundamental distinction of the Hebrew religion is that between infinite Creator and finite creature. No matter how exalted the creature, it remains just that – a being utterly dependent for its being on the one who *is* Being. “In him we live and move and have our being.” Therefore, when the phrase “son of God” is found in the Old Testament, it always refers to creatures who have a certain exalted likeness to God but do not share his essence or nature – angels (Gen 6:2; Job 38:7), kings and judges (Ps. 82:6).

It is in the Lord's promise to David and his seed forever that divine sonship is associated with the promise of Messiah. *I will set up thy seed after thee ... I will be his father, and he shall be my son. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever* (2 Sam 7.12-16 cf. Pss 89, 132). Sonship to God is a special

privilege of the promised Messiah.

At first this also seems to be the case in the gospels. Gabriel speaks of Jesus' divine sonship in messianic terms: *He ... shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end* (Luke 1:32-33).

But even in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, there is something more to this title, even if they do not explicitly say so. When Jesus is called "Lord", for instance, something more than a created authority is being suggested: in him the authority of God's kingdom is revealed, as it is in no other. You see this throughout these gospels, but perhaps one example will suffice. The Old Testament says that God alone is Savior: *I even I, am the LORD, and beside me there is no saviour* (Isaiah 43:11). And Psalm 130 testifies that it is the Lord alone who *shall redeem Israel from all his sins*. Yet in Matthew's gospel, we are told that the child of Mary was to be named "Jesus" (which means “The LORD is Savior”) because *he shall save his people from their sins* (1:21).

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OF  
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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.

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*President, ECW* ..... *Mrs. R. Scott Howard*  
*President, Chancel Society*..... *Mrs. Roland S. Summers*  
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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. R. Scott Howard

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter  
Mr. R. Leslie Johnson

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sally O'Donnell Whittington; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George O'Donnell; and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Cook by Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Sr. and sons, Floyd, Jr. and George;

And in loving memory of Lt. John Woodward Sognier, Jr. by Dr. and Mrs. Morgan W. Murray and Dr. and Mrs. William E. Osborne;

And in celebration of the birthday of Ann Harvey Burdell by her grandparents;

And in honor of Mr. and Mrs. W. Lee Belford on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. William L. Belford, Jr.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,  
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,  
Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. David A. Young,  
Mrs. William B. McNeal II,  
Mrs. W. Howard Helmken, Jr.,  
Mrs. Neil H. Victor, Ms. Anne H. Mingledorff,  
Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr., Mrs. John R. Reiter,  
Mrs. Adolphus J. Carter III, Mrs. David R. Eggleston

**ACOLYTES**

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne  
10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Hawkins Pindar  
Patrick Perrie Phillip Inglesby  
William Taylor

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. David A. Reid

**SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.**

**ADULT & YOUTH CLASSES** (*Cranmer Hall-3*)  
CONFIRMATION CLASS-GRADE 6- *Catechism*  
MIDDLE SCHOOL-GRADES 7,8- *25 Bible Saints*  
UPPER SCHOOL-GRADES 9-12-*Apologetics for Teens*

**FOR ADULTS:**

READING ROOM: *I Samuel*- Father Dunbar  
CH3: *Joshua: Man of Faith, Man of Courage,*  
*Man of War*- Jack Wray

**MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Tuesday- Men's Breakfast with Father O'Brien  
6:45 a.m., Parish House  
*Why Be Moral?*

Thursday- *Romans* with Father Dunbar  
7:00 a.m., Reading Room, CH3

Thursday- Men's Small Group with lunch  
Noon- Fellowship Hall, CH1

**WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Thursday- Book Study with Father O'Brien  
9:15 a.m., Reading Room, CH3  
*Shusaku Endo's Silence*

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

## ADVENT AT ST. JOHN'S

### ◆ WORSHIP ◆

#### Monday to Friday

*Morning and Evening Prayer*

*With Holy Communion*

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

#### In addition, on Wednesday

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

#### Evening Prayer Music on Thursdays

Music starts at 5:05 p.m.

December 8: *Music of Gibbons*

#### Saturdays during Advent

10:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*

### ◆ GIVE ◆

**New toys for children** (ages 5-17) to be distributed by the Salvation Army. Bins are in the Porch and in the Lobby of Cranmer Hall. Collection ends Sunday, December 11.

### ◆ BEAUTIFY ◆

Help decorate the Church at Christmas – and honor someone you love! Poinsettias are \$30 each. Wreaths and Garlands are \$80 each. Send checks (payable to **St. John's Chancel Society**) along with wording for memorials or honorarium to the Church Office.

### ◆ LISTEN ◆

#### Next Sunday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m.

*A Celtic Christmas in Savannah*

Taylor Festival Choir

Music both Classical and Irish

Admission \$25

### ◆ ENJOY ◆

All are invited to the Parish House after Evening Prayer on Thursday, December 8 to enjoy the **Rector's Christmas Music** and refreshments to celebrate the Season!

#### PRAYER BOOKS AND HYMNALS

Honor or remember a loved one with a special Christmas gift! Each book is \$50 and will include a dedication. These will replace worn books in the Church or Chapel. Call Church Office for details.

#### HOMEMADE CHUTNEY AND JELLIES

Last chance to buy homemade items from the Bazaar! See Eddie Culver or Jane Pressly after church this Sunday!

From the moment of his conception, this child is recognized as the one who does what only God can do. He is the promised Emmanuel, which means (as Matthew is careful to note) "God with us" (1:23). Though Matthew, Mark, and Luke draw back from explicit utterance, no doubt out of reverent reserve, they are hinting that Jesus is somehow on both sides of the great distinction of the Creator and the creature. Both divine and human are combined in the angel's proclamation to the shepherds: "Unto you is born this day a Savior which is Christ the Lord."

It is St. John who takes the final step, to testify explicitly that Jesus is not only human, but also divine: he is whatever God is. The prologue, which we read at Christmas, prepares the reader to recognize Jesus as both God and man. He is the "word of God" who "was with God, and was God" in the beginning, and by whom the world was made, and he is now made flesh, and dwelling among us: "and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth". And so when the sonship of Jesus comes up - as it so frequently does throughout the gospel - we recognize that it is indeed true divine sonship – sonship by nature - that is at stake. "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father" (14:9). It is this true Sonship denied in his crucifixion, that is vindicated in his resurrection, and the climax of the gospel is reached in Thomas' confession, "My Lord and my God".  
GGD (*To be continued*)

#### MEN'S CLUB GOLF OUTING

Mark Friday, May 12 on your calendar for this year's event! More details later.

**8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL .....Prayer Book, page 92 (Advent Collect p. 90)  
*(The Gloria in Excelsis is not said on Sundays in Advent.)*

*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 #484 <i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i> .....	Truro
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer .....	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses.....	7-8
VENITE ( <i>with Advent antiphon Hymnal #606</i> ).....	9
Psalm #80 <i>Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come!</i> .....	441
First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 <i>The kingdom of Christ foreshown by Isaiah</i> .....	Insert
ADVENT PROSE ( <i>Choir – the congregation may remain seated</i> ) .....	Insert
Second Lesson: Romans 15:4 & St. Luke 21:25 .....	92-93
BENEDICTUS #638.....	14
<i>Children may exit following the cross for SUNDAY SCHOOL (Kindergarten – Grade 5).</i>	
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Versicles and Responses.....	16
Collects for the Day.....	92, 90
Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace .....	17-20
HYMN #8 <i>O Word, That Goest Forth on High</i> .....	Rex Glorioso
THE SERMON .....	Father Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Blessed Be the Son of God*..... James McCray

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139

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

HYMN #5 *Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending*.....Helmsley

VOLUNTARY: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* .....
 Johann Gottfried Walther |

*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.*

**12:00 P.M. (Noon)—HOLY COMMUNION** (*Chapel - as at 8:00 a.m.*)