

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 3

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2016

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL

This Sunday, December 11

After Church until 2:00 p.m.

TREE TRIMMING in the Parish House

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

St. John's Sunday School & Junior High youth are requested to lend a hand!

THIS SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M.

"A Celtic Christmas in Savannah" with the Taylor Festival Choir. Tickets: Adults/\$25, Students/\$10 at the door or at www.TMGCharleston.com.

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

This year, St. John's is providing an opportunity to receive Communion at the Christmas Pageant Service. The customary pageant will take place during the first part of the Communion service (the ministry of the Word – there is no sermon): pageant players (and anyone else who wishes to) will depart during the hymn just before the Creed: and may return during the Offertory hymn. All children are welcome to stay throughout the service and to receive a blessing at the altar. There will be nursery care available in Cranmer Hall but no other child care.

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

Today is the final day to donate NEW toys for children (ages 5-17) to be distributed by the Salvation Army. Thank you!

SONSHIP & INCARNATION (II)

Scripture can apply the titles "Son of God" and "Lord" to mere creatures (angels, kings, judges) in a metaphorical sense, as honorifics, without attributing to them the same nature as the Creator. But when Scripture applies these titles to Jesus, the one who also speaks and acts with the authority that belongs to God alone, they testify to true divine Sonship. Whatever is true of God is also true of his Son, Jesus Christ.

What makes this especially startling, is that the New Testament claims for Jesus emerges out of a religious setting in which the distinction of Creator and creature was axiomatic. Classical paganism and eastern religions could blur the lines – but it is unthinkable that Jews would do so without the most compelling evidence.

It is simply not true, therefore, that the doctrine of Christ's divinity was "invented" in the 4th century controversies with the Arians. Though devised more than three hundred years after the birth of Christ, the Creed of Nicea we recite at Holy Communion reaffirmed the ancient, Biblical and traditional teaching of Christ's true Godhead.

But why does Christ's deity matter? In the liberal protestant tradition of "deeds not creeds", what matters is

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

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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. Hungerpillar, Roland B. Williams, Esq.

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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 Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy

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 on the occasion of the marriage of Elizabeth Willis Sprague and Blake James Grimsley;

And in loving memory of loved ones by Mrs. William E. Hutchinson, Jr.;

And in loving memory of Josephine Kennedy Osborne by her family;

And in celebration of the birthday of Max Cooper Hamilton by Ms. Patti Cooper;

And in joyful and loving celebration of the birthday of Rence Schmidt by her loving husband, Peter Schmidt.

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. Mingleдорff,
Mrs. Morgan W. Murray, Mrs. Roland S. Summers,
Mrs. Thomas C. McCay

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Turner Stevens
10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Patrick Perrie
Edwin Shepherd Finn Repella
William Taylor Henry Osborne

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Lee M. Alderman, Jr.

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

not what we believe about Jesus, but what we do to follow his teaching and example. Strangely, liberal protestant Christians do not seem to notice the logical implications of denying their position. For if Jesus is not God the Son, what authority attaches to his example and teaching, that we should follow it? There are lots of other sages and prophets to choose from. And if we deny his deity, then we must also deny much of his teaching (which asserted his godhead) and miraculous acts of compassion (which manifested it). And if we take away the acts of power only God can do – forgiving sins, healing the sick, raising the dead - what is left of his example for us to follow? Yes, his teaching about the moral primacy of love and charity remains - but apart from his divine authority, what makes this a law? “All you need is love” – sez who? “Nature red in tooth and claw”? There is no natural basis for the law of love. One of the oddities of the post-liberal protestant secularity of our time, is its insistence on Christian ethical imperatives while at the same time denying the Christian truth which makes them imperatives. “Deeds without creeds” is a doctrine that undermines what it affirms. Above all, only if Jesus is God, does his death avail for our sins, and does he rise triumphant from the grave to reconcile us to the Father and redeem us from sin and death. Without redemption, if in the end there is only nothing, then the greatest moral excellence has exactly the same significance as the greatest moral failure. If Jesus is not God, then what

he said or did is of little consequence: but if he is God, then what he did is the only reason why anything we do is at all consequential. GGD

ADVENT III - ANCIENT COLLECT

O LORD, we beseech thee, give ear to our prayer; and by the grace of thy visitation lighten the darkness of our hearts; who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen*

PARISH KALENDAR THIS WEEK

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*

Saturdays during Advent

10:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*

WREATHS, GARLANDS AND POINSETTIAS

If you would like to give a poinsettia, wreath or garland for the decoration of the Church at Christmas, send a check to the Church Office made payable to **St. John's Chancel Society**. Please include a note of how the memorial or honorarium should read. Poinsettias-\$30 each. Wreaths/Garlands- \$80 each.

PRAYER BOOK & HYMNAL GIFTS

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 the Church Office for details.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Wednesday, December 14

After Evening Prayer in Cranmer Hall

All are welcome!

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL Prayer Book, page 93 (Advent Collect p. 90)
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.— SUNG EUCHARIST, ADDRESS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

HYMN #6 *Creator of the Stars of Night* Breslau

ANTE-COMMUNION

Collect for Purity Prayer Book page 67

Summary of the Law 68

KYRIE ELEISON: (Hymnal #702) John Merbecke

Collects: 93, 90

Lesson & Epistle: Isaiah 35 & 1 Corinthians 4:1 *insert* and p. 94

HYMN #10 *On Jordan's Bank* Winchester New

The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 11:2 94

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN #9 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding* Merton

Children may exit following the cross for SUNDAY SCHOOL (Kindergarten - Grade 5)

Address Father Dunbar

OFFERTORY

Sentences & Anthem: *And the Glory of the Lord* G. F. Handel

Presentation of Alms (Hymnal #139) Old Hundredth

Prayer for the State of the Church 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession and Absolution 75

Sursum Corda (Hymnal #734) 76

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS (Hymnal #704) John Merbecke

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation 80

The Lord's Prayer, Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*) 82

AGNUS DEI (Hymnal #706) John Merbecke

HYMN #197 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Picardy

Motet: *Daughter of Zion* Joseph Clokey

Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) 83

The Blessing (*Kneeling*) 84

HYMN #440 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* Aberystwyth

VOLUNTARY: Saviour of the Nations, Come Johann Heinrich Buttstedt

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.)