

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 11

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 5, 2017

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

Monday to Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

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

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Eucharist*

5:30 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with Holy Communion

◆ THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE ◆

Anglicanism:

Catholic and Reformed

Thursday, February 16 at noon –

Saturday, February 18 at midday.

(Registration required in advance;

Auditors - admission at the door)

The Elliott House of Studies and the Prayer Book Society USA are co-sponsoring a conference at St. John's to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and to revisit the Reformation heritage of Anglicanism. For details go to www.pbsusa.org. Conference is open to clergy and laity from any denomination. Registration fees for the entire conference are \$139; auditor's fees are \$25/half-day session.

◆ CONFERENCE EVENSONG ◆

Friday, February 17

5:30 p.m. CHORAL EVENSONG

Preacher: the Rev. Oliver O'Donovan, Professor of Christian Ethics at Edinburgh University and sometime Regius Professor of Moral Theology and Canon of Christ Church Oxford. *This service is open to all.*

DAWN ON OUR DARKNESS

(Last week's essay on "the Reformation revisited" will resume in a future issue.)

This Sunday we bid farewell to the extended season of Epiphany we have enjoyed this year, I wanted to share this meditation on one of its most venerable hymns, Reginald Heber's "Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning", which we shall sing at 10:30 a.m. today.

Heber was the first and one of the greatest of the Anglican hymn-writers. A dedicated parish priest in the Church of England, and subsequently a missionary bishop of Calcutta, Heber began with this hymn to compose hymns for many of the Sundays and other holy days appointed in the Prayer Book. Taking his cue from the ancient collect of the Epiphany, Heber treats the star-prompted quest of the wise men, and their worship of the newborn Redeemer with precious gifts, as a kind of allegory or metaphor for all Christians, who are led onward through this life, until after it, they see by vision the Redeemer they knew by faith, and "have the fruition of his glorious Godhead".

Heber's hymn identifies three stages in this quest for redemption. It begins under the guidance of the same star that led the wise men, a symbol of the divine revelation without which we cannot attain what we seek:

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,

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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 Dr. J. Davidson Carson

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Mikel Kelly
10:30 a.m. Phillip Inglesby Henry Osborne
Patrick Perrie Hawkins Pindar
Turner Stevens William Taylor

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in honor of Susie Miller Arden on her birthday by her children and grandchildren;

And in loving memory of William Pery Thompson, Robert Mather Thompson, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mather by Mrs. William P. Thompson;

And in loving memory of John H. Calais, and Mrs. and Mrs. John S. Calais by the Chancel Society;

And in loving memory of Sara Jane Kuszak by Cheshire Nash McIntosh, Christopher Wood Dixon McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. James. T. Walker, Jr., and James Andrew Walker;

And in celebration of the 45th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Haupt Culver by their children and grandchildren;

And in loving memory of Margaret Tucker Blount (mother of Alva Compton) by the Culver family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard,
Mrs. Michael W. Rhinehart, Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan,
Mrs. David A. Young, Mrs. Michael F. P. Maloney,
Mrs. F. Debele Maner, Mrs. George E. Miller, Jr.

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Graham P. Sadler

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FOR YOUTH:

CRANMER HALL-3RD FLOOR

CONFIRMATION CLASS-GRADE 6- *Catechism*
JR. HIGH -GRADES 7,8,9- *25 Lights of the World*
SR. HIGH -GRADES 10,11,12- *Reasons to Believe*

FOR ADULTS:

READING ROOM: *I Samuel*- Father Dunbar
CH3: *Joshua*- Jack Wray
CH2: Women's Small Group Faith Fellowship

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

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

Thursday- *St. Luke* 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
Iris Murdoch's *Under the Net*

2nd & 4th Wednesday- Next meeting February 8
C. S. Lewis Reading Group
11:00 a.m., Reading Room, CH3
The Four Loves

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

*Dawn on our darkness, and lend us
thine aid;*

*Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

It is in the Incarnate Son of God, in the humility of Bethlehem, that the quest attains its end:

*Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.*

Though not explicitly stated, the language is suggestive of the death by which the Incarnate Son accomplished our redemption: “Cold on his cradle”; “low lies the head”; “in slumber reclining”.

Third, the hymn asks how we might fittingly acknowledge such amazing humility and mighty redemption:

*Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom, and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?*

But they are dismissed as inadequate:

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

Vainly with gifts would his favour secure - because his favor is not something we can buy, earn, or deserve. His favor is the unmerited free gift, it is the grace gratuitously given in response to *the prayers of the poor*, the ‘poor in spirit’, who claim no merit of their own. *Richer by far is the heart's adoration*, because it is not only the offering of all that we have (which of course includes *gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean, / Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine*), it is also the offering of all that we are, and it is made not as a way of buying God’s favor, but in gratitude for the free gift of his grace, and in love for the one who loved us, and gave

himself for us.

There is only one element missing from Heber's hymn, though the music of his language hints at it. (Note the alliterations: brightest/best; dawn/darkness; cold/cradle; dew/drops; low/ lies; odors/Edom; mountain/myrrh/ mine.) Joy is the element to which the Epiphany collect refers, when it speaks of the Christian’s destiny, to “have the fruition of his glorious Godhead”. ‘Fruition’ means enjoyment, the everlasting and inexhaustible enjoyment of the one who is infinitely to be enjoyed, on account of his infinite beauty, goodness, and truth. In glorifying him, says the Westminster Catechism, we enjoy him for ever: in the object of the *heart’s adoration*, is the satisfaction of our heart’s desire. The desire for joy is intrinsic to man; but apart from the grace of God it falls short. In Epiphany, we give thanks for the redemption of our desire for joy, by the one who humbled himself, to suffer for us.

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

GGD

GUEST MUSICIAN

We welcome Dr. Steven Elisha to St. John’s today. Dr. Elisha is an Associate Professor and serves as Head of the String Orchestra at GA Southern Univ.

JANE’S CANNERS

If anyone has an orange tree with a surplus of fruit and would like to share with the canning group, please call Robbie Culver at 912-238-4895.

CHILDREN’S SCHOOL

Registration for the 2017-18 school year is now open for children 16 [mths - PreK!](#) childrenschool@stjohnssav.org

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE, and GOSPEL Prayer Book, page 115-116

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**

VOLUNTARY Zwei Adagio (Opus 39, No. 2) Rudolf Bibl

HYMN #46 *Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning* Morning Star**ANTE-COMMUNION**

Collect for Purity Prayer Book, page 67

Summary of the Law 69

KYRIE ELEISON: (Hymnal #710) Healey Willan

Collect: 115

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17 116

HYMN #329 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* Frankfort

The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 13:24-30 116

The Nicene Creed 71

HYMN #54 *Alleluia, Song of Gladness* Dulce Carmen*Children may exit following the cross for SUNDAY SCHOOL (Kindergarten - Grade 5)*

Address Father Dunbar

OFFERTORYSentences & Anthem: *O Love, How Deep* (Text found in Hymnal, #344) Everette Titcomb

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 #711) Healey Willan

Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation 80

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

AGNUS DEI (Hymnal #712) Healey Willan

HYMN #50 *Saw You Never in the Twilight* ChartresMotet: *Eternal Love* (*sung by trebles of the choir*) Paul SjolundThanksgiving (*said with the congregation*) 83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Hymnal #713) Healey Willan

The Blessing (*Kneeling*) 84HYMN #49 *From the Eastern Mountains* ValourVOLUNTARY: *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* (Opus 67) Andreas Armsdorff

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 in the Chapel (Collect, Epistle, Gospel as at 8:00 a.m.)