

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 48

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

October 15, 2017

PARISH KALENDAR

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

Monday - Friday

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

Morning and Evening Prayer

In addition, on Wednesday

FEAST OF ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

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

Morning and Evening Prayer

with Holy Communion

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

In addition, on Thursday

5:30 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with Holy Communion

GIFTED FOR HOPE

Given that we have been systematically emptying the world of meaning for quite some time now, the inability of the commentariat to account for atrocities like the Las Vegas shootings is almost (grimly) comic. What's really surprising is that such things do not happen more often. Nihilism is not far away, and it keeps on breaking through. The problem is the cultural decisions we have made to deny meaning or purpose to the world. To be sure, we are told that this is a liberation, we are now free to create our own meanings, but this reduces freedom to merely arbitrary decisions that do not convince even us. Pogo was right: "We have met the enemy and he is us".

Nihilism comes in many forms and flavors, including the religious, and (even, I would not be surprised, the

ostensibly 'Christian'). So there's no place for simplistic line-drawing here. Moreover, atheists and agnostics often compensate for their denial of religion by heightened moralism. The irony therefore, is that the very people who are striving for justice (for instance), may at the same time believe there is nothing real but the random movement of molecules, that all things will either burn up or burn out in the end, that morality is just an evolutionary adaptation or a social construct. I am relieved that they hold to the idea of justice, I just wonder how they account for it in a universe without meaning. Apparently our longing for justice is greater than our logic.

But if, as the sacred writings testify, and nature itself proclaims, there is a God who is Creator of all things and Judge of all men, then there is an order of good and evil which the judge of all the earth will uphold, and to whom we may look for its vindication. That's to say, that to know the one God, the Creator and Judge, is to have grounds for hope of redemption. What Christianity adds to this generally theistic outlook, is a full account of the redemption, in the incarnate Son of God, who was partaker of our humanity, that we might be partakers of his divinity. The apostles and prophets join in testimony to what we may hope for –

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To receive the Parish Paper by email (on Fridays), send name and email address to information@stjohnssav.org

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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 or hospice.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mr. E. Brian Culver

USHER CHAIRMAN

Robert A. Vinyard, Sr.

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Finn Repella Turner Stevens
 Hawkins Pindar Jamie McClellan
 William Sills Daniel Sills

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane Hass Philbrick by Dr. Tom Philbrick and Hunter Philbrick.

And in loving memory of Jane Hass Philbrick by Mr. and Mrs. Brian D. Harlander and family.

And in honor of Mrs. Jack E. Altman's birthday and Sarah Elizabeth Brigdon's birthday by Mr. and Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr. and family.

And in loving memory of Thomas Charlie McCay, Sr. and Lillian Helms McCay by Mick and Connie McCay.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard,
Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings,
Miss Elizabeth Wasden, Mrs. Joseph R. Ross,
Mrs. John K. Ross, Mrs. J. Pride Sheahan

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. David A. Reid

ROAMING GREETER

Mr. R. Scott Howard

ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

9:30 a.m. Cranmer Hall – Second Floor;
Chapel; Parish House.

12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. Cranmer Hall – First
Upper School Youth Group. *Lunch to be provided*

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

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

Thursday- *St. Luke* with Father Dunbar

7:00 a.m., Dining Room, Parish House

Thursday- *Men's Small Group* with lunch

Noon- Fellowship Hall, CH1

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- *Reading Group* with Father O'Brien
9:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall, CH1

ELEVENSES

For Parish House Guides and Docents on
Wednesday, Oct. 18th at 11 a.m. RSVP with
either Jane Pressly or Martie Campbell
Thomas

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR NOTICES

Can be found in the St. John's weekly e-newsletter (to subscribe send you name and email address to info@stjohnssav.org or call the office with it 232-1251) or in the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service booklet.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

the resurrection of the body, and the regeneration, physical, and moral of the entire universe: *We, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness* (2 Peter 3:13). Dismiss this hope with a smirk if you will, but its logical basis is unshakeable - will the Creator and Judge of the earth not intervene to vindicate his own purpose? - and its motivational impact is enormous. As St. Paul puts it, at the end of the long discourse on the resurrection of the body in 1 Corinthians 15: *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.* Precisely because you know that you labor is not in vain in the Lord, you will abound in the work of the Lord. All our actions have meaning, purpose, consequence. *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith* (Gal. 6:7-10). The challenge is to relate our little doings, to this ultimate hope. Austin Farrer says: "Heaven alone gives final meaning to any earthly hopes; and to take it the other way round, we have no way of grasping at heavenly hope, than by pursuing hopeful tasks here below" ("The Ultimate Hope" in *A Celebration of Faith*).

In a culture that evacuates the world of meaning, the Christian religion gives meaning, purpose, and hope back to us. If we have grasped this purpose and hope, it will not be expressed in passivity, timidity,

wishful thinking, muddling through with fingers crossed, cheese-paring, "après moi la déluge" - it's expressed in confident expectation, and in fully committed action. It's expressed by investing what you are and what you have in the "work of the Lord". And that has practical implications for the decisions we are asked to make this Stewardship season - to make a pledge (or estimate of giving) for 2018. At St. John's we have been richly gifted for hope - may he give us grace to use these gifts for his glory and in his service. GGD

Flannery O' Connor Lecture: On Sunday, October 15th, at 4 p.m. at the Flannery O' Connor House Museum on Charlton Street at Lafayette Square, Father Dunbar will give an address on the pastoral ministry of "Father Finn - from Purgatory" in O'Connor's very funny short story, "The Enduring Chill"

St. John's Hurricane Irma Appeal-Update: Thanks to an anonymous leadership gift, and dozens of other generous gifts, we have received over \$17,000, plus a car-load of school supplies and children's books, for outreach to the community of Parkside Elementary School in Naples, Florida, hard hit by Hurricane Irma. To see a video from our partners in outreach at Trinity Church by the Cove and Parkside Elementary School, check your weekly e-newsletter.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS: Submit written nominations by November 4 for four 3-year terms to the Nominating Committee or to the Church Office in a sealed envelope. Nominees must:

1. Be members of St. John's 3+ years
2. Support St. John's financially.
3. Worship regularly at St. John's.

Annual Congregational Meeting-Nov. 19

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL.....Prayer Book, page 214
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Cranmer Hall. Chapel, Parish House)

10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **NURSERY** *(Cranmer Hall)*

10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER, SERMON, & CHILDREN’S CHURCH

HYMN: #545 <i>Hail to the Lord’s Anointed</i>	Woodbird
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses.....	7-8
VENITE: #609.....	9
Psalm #120, 121, 122	502, 503
First Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:4-19 <i>God claims undivided loyalty of his people</i>	
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615	10
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:4 & St. Matthew 22:34.....	214, 215
BENEDICTUS#634.....	14
<i>Children may exit for CHILDREN’S CHURCH, following the Cross.</i>	
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Responses	16
Collect of the Day.....	214
Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers	17-20
Welcome and Announcements	The Rector
HYMN: #390 <i>O ‘Twas a Joyful Sound to Hear (Psalm 122)</i>	Kingsfold (#331)
Sermon.....	Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

Anthem: How Glorious Sion’s Courts Appear

Christopher Tye

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)

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

19

HYMN: #357 *Hail! Thou Once Despised Jesus*

In Babilone

VOLUNTARY: *Toccata in e Minor (P462)*.....

Johann Pachelbel

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.)