

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 52

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity

November 12, 2017

## SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY – E. Y. C. S.

*Episcopal Youth and Children's Services is an organization of Savannah-area churches that provides needs-based bursaries for summer camp and college to Episcopalian children & youth. Please donate using the gold envelope provided or online at [www.evcs.georgiaepiscopal.org](http://www.evcs.georgiaepiscopal.org).*

### PARISH KALENDAR

#### ◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

#### Monday - Friday

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

*Morning and Evening Prayer*

#### In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

#### In addition, on Thursday

5:30 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

*with Holy Communion*

### BELIEVING AND REASONING

It is typical of our age to think that reason and faith are mutually exclusive and antithetical approaches to reality. Religious and irreligious, believer and atheist, all think that faith and reason have nothing to do with each other. Either you take the leap of blind faith, or you live by reason alone. Yet nothing could be further from the truth – any way you look at it.

First, reason itself assumes a kind of faith. Almost every kind of knowledge involves trusting an authority whose reliability we cannot prove. Ordinary reasoning requires we trust reason itself, and also memory – yet there is no way of proving them reliable that does not involve using reason or memory. Ordinary reasoning also requires the evidence of our senses –

but there is no way of proving this is reliable, apart from the evidence of our senses themselves. In our day, many subscribe to the idea that the only knowledge that is true is empirical knowledge – but what's the empirical proof of that? Moving beyond empirical evidence, what about questions of morality? How can one possibly *prove* that something is right and wrong? And yet there is nothing more certain to us than there is right and there is wrong. Even a thief objects when someone steals from him. Even a cultural relativist is not relativistic about relativism!

Moreover, in everyday experience all our decisions involve trusting someone's authority. Who really understands the complexities of climate science? That doesn't stop people taking strong positions on it. How many people could explain the operation of an airplane, a toilet, or a toaster? Yet it doesn't stop us using them. Who can *prove* that they are making the right choice in marrying someone else? You can do your homework, you can seek confirmation that the relationship makes you both better persons – but the decision to be married still

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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 Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Randolph H. Kulp II

**ACOLYTES**

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne  
10:30 a.m. Philip Inglesby Turner Stevens  
Hawkins Pindar Jacob Perkins  
William Sills Daniel Sills  
William Taylor

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lisa and King Simkins, and Mary and Dick Stone by Marshall, Lynah, and Wesley Stone.

And in thanksgiving for the Marine Corps on the 242<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of their founding by Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Haynes III.

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,  
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.  
Mrs. Anne H. Mingleдорff, Mrs. Michael W. Rhinehart,  
Mrs. Roland S. Summers, Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Sr.  
Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr.  
Mrs. Michael N. Thompson, Dr. Lucinda I. Schultz

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

**ROAMING GREETER**

Mrs. Christian M. Arden-Joly

**ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

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

**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  
Wednesday- *C. S. Lewis Group* November 15<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall, CH1

**ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CIRCLE**

Wednesday, November 15 at 6:15 p.m. in Cranmer Hall following Evening Prayer. Study topic is "Prayer and Trust" from E. M. Bounds book on prayer. All are welcome!

**HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR THANK YOU!**

Thanks to volunteers and staff who came together in fellowship and service at last week's Holly Days Bazaar

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Will be held next Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, after 10:30 a.m. service. Elections and reports will be discussed; should end by 11:30 a.m.

**MEN'S CLUB STEAK NIGHT**

Thursday, November 16 Call the Office (232-1251) to reserve your spot (and one for a guest!) to enjoy Skeet Shooting at the Gun Club at 5:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$30 for Members and \$10 for guests.

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL**

involves a leap of faith.

Reason itself – even in its most sophisticated expressions – requires trust in the reality of things we cannot prove. It is impossible to know anything at all without trusting and believing in something. So it is not “irrational” to seek knowledge of reality through faith of some kind.

Just as reason involves faith, so faith also involves reason. Faith gives of access to knowledge of things revealed, things that we cannot know by reason alone, but faith is not simple credulity. It is not *simply* “blind faith”. It involves making a rational decision about what is and is not credible, reliable, worthy of trust. “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). That discernment of spirits is impossible with the exercise of reason. “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God” - that is a principle of discernment that is revealed, but can only be applied through the use of reason.

Many Christians, it is true, minimize the use of reason in their faith, as if it is somehow impious to think or reflect rationally on what is revealed in the Word of God, as if faith were simply intuitive or merely cultural. But the renouncing of reason does not strengthen but weakens faith. When they do not use reason to interpret, understand, reflect on, synthesize, and apply the revelation recorded in Scripture, then

they are not able to articulate “the reason for the hope that is in them” (1 Peter 3:18), they cannot give anyone else persuasive grounds for believing, or mount an effective defence of their faith against skepticism. Moreover, in their own religion, their dichotomizing of faith and reason as mutually exclusive entities produces a dualistic separation of religion (ruled by faith) from the rest of life (where reason rules). Head and heart are disconnected, to the detriment of both. So I have faith, yet my faith in no way shapes my life – and that’s the road to a dead faith, that does not save. “The devils also believe – and tremble” (James 2:19).

The Christian religion involves more than reason alone – but it does not involve less. To try to believe while minimizing the use of reason, does not strengthen or purify faith, but only concedes reason to the service of that which is not faith. Yet God himself is the source of reason, for he is supremely rational. The word that he speaks in his Son is (in Greek) *logos* – which can also mean ‘reason’, or ‘rational discourse’, or ‘rational study’ (it’s the root of words like *logic* and *theology*). And one aspect of our being made in the image of God, is that we are endowed with reason also. Not to use this gift in the service of our faith, is to despise the one who gave it. GGD

**MEET A CANDIDATE FOR  
ST. JOHN’S YOUTH MINISTER**

Come meet a candidate for St. John’s Youth Minister, this Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. service, in the nave of the church. Mr David Svihel (pronounced ‘sveal’) is visiting St. John’s with his wife Kalista and their baby girl.

**8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL.....Prayer Book, page 220, 221  
*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 #271 <i>Come thou Almighty King</i> .....	Moscow
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer .....	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses.....	7-8
VENITE: #609.....	9
Psalms #130, 131, 133 .....	507, 509
First Lesson: Ezekiel 24:1-14 <i>A day of reckoning for Jerusalem foretold.</i>	
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615, 619 .....	10
Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3 & Matthew 18:21 .....	220, 221
BENEDICTUS#634.....	14
<i>Children may exit for CHILDREN’S CHURCH, following the Cross.</i>	
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Responses .....	16
Collect of the Day.....	220
Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers .....	17-20
Welcome and Announcements .....	The Rector
HYMN: #391 <i>Thy Kingdom Come! On Bended Knee</i> .....	St. Flavian
Sermon.....	Father Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences

Anthem: *Blessed Be The God and Father* ..... Samuel Sebastian Wesley

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

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

HYMN: #479 *Love Divine All Loves Excelling* ..... Hyfyrdol

VOLUNTARY: *Finale in D minor* ..... Eric Thiman

*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.)