

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 52 No. 25

Sunday after Ascension

May 16, 2021

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THIS SUNDAY FROM ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION (In-person by Reservation Only)

Sunday Collect: BCP pp. 177

The Epistle: Acts 1:1 and The Gospel: St. Mark 16:14

9:30 A.M. – ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Will meet via Zoom with Fr. Dunbar.

Email mnelson@stjohnssav.org for connection information.

9:30 A.M. – CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

A short video lesson will be posted to St. John's Children's Facebook group at www.Facebook.com/groups/StJohnsSavChildren.

10:20 A.M. – NO ONLINE SERMON

This week's sermon will not be livestreamed on Sunday.

11 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION (In-person by Reservation Only and Online)

Sunday Collect: BCP pp. 177

The Epistle: Acts 1:1 and The Gospel: St. Mark 16:14:20

Music for this Sunday:

St. Magnus, Jeremiah Clarke, Healey Willan

I Will Not Leave You Comfortless, William Byrd

Bicinium on "Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ," Jan Pieter Sweelinck

Be Thou My Vision "Slane" (Op. 21), Paul Manz

12:30 P.M. – NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

This week's class will not meet this Sunday.

4 P.M. – CONFIRMATION (In-person by Reservation Only and Online)

Administered by Bishop Lambert.

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD
The old (1662) bidding to the intercession at Holy Communion invited prayer "for the whole state of Christ's church militant here in earth". (The 1928 omits "militant here in earth"). The bidding in the new liturgies is often "for the church and the world". In those few words lurks a significant difference of perspective.

At one level, to pray "for the church and the world" signals that the scope of the church's loving concern extends beyond itself, as of course it should. No church should be a self-absorbed "holy huddle". In doing so, however, it leaves the relation of the church and the world undefined; it sets the world alongside the church as if it were an alternative focus of concern, even an alternative instrument of God's saving purpose. In Scripture, "the world" is indeed an alternative society to the church; but its rival and enemy; it is the human community organized on the assumption that God does not exist, or that his existence can be ignored; and it is a spiritual principle and power opposed to God. That is why the Scripture is full of warnings like this: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15); "be not conformed to this world" (Romans 12:2); and "Whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). Sometimes, of course, the term "world" is used neu-

trally, to signify the universality of created beings, or man's earthly home; but when scripture speaks of the world in positive terms, it is as the forum of God's saving purpose in the mission of Christ and his Church, and as the object of his redemption action: "God so loved the world" (John 3:16); "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Cor 5:19).

The negative and positive senses of the world in Scripture are flip sides of one coin. The world in its rebellion against God must be defeated (John 16:33 "I have overcome the world"),

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Saturday, May 15th

5 p.m. *Holy Communion & Confirmation with Bishop Lambert*

In-person by reservation and online

Sunday, May 16th:

Sunday after Ascension

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*

In-person by reservation

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*

In-person by reservation and online

4 p.m. *Holy Communion & Confirmation with Bishop Lambert*

In-person by reservation and online

Monday–Friday, May 17–21st

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Livestreamed

In addition, Thursday, May 20th

5 p.m. *Holy Communion*,

Text priest to reserve a place

Sunday, May 23rd: Pentecost

Details will be shared in the Monday, May 17th email.

THE PARISH PAPER

OF

St. John's Church

ONE WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

www.stjohnssav.org

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

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The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar..... Rector
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President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Sean F. Finnegan

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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 CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed

11 a.m. Capt. John K. Ross

USHER CHAIR

Mr. Robert L. Sparks

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs.
Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Timothy E.
Coy, Mrs. Morgan W. Murray
Mrs. Rhett N. Willis, and
Miss Margaret G. Livingston

SINGERS

Angela Lanier Martin,
Sarah Eliasoph, Peter Louglas,
Andrew Hillis, and Kaleb Wimes

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Samuel P. Inglesby and Edith Inglesby Walker by their children .

JOIN OUR USHER MINISTRY

Our usher ministry requires more time, more work, and more volunteers! If you are able to lend your services, please contact Rob Sparks at rsparks2007@gmail.com or (912) 433-1562, or you may contact Chip Compton at ccompton@sspins.com or (912) 660-5603.

1662 BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Support the Prayer Book Society and get a discount when you purchase a copy of the classic 1662 Prayer Book "International Edition". Mail or drop off a check (payable to the Prayer Book Society USA with 1662 in the memo) to the church office for \$16/each. Books may be mailed to you for a \$4 fee.

SHARING OUR HISTORY & BEAUTY

The Green-Meldrim House is open for tours on Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have a few hours to volunteer, consider being a docent to share the beauty and history of our parish house. Contact Jane Pressly at janepressly@aol.com

for only then can it repent and return to God as its Lord; only then can it be redeemed. This is the mission of the Spirit and of the Church "militant here in earth": "to make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). So prayer "for the church and the world" is potentially misleading; it hints at a church too much at home in the world, eager to please the world more than to please God; more attentive to the world and its wisdom than the wisdom of God.

In contrast to this ambiguous focus, the old bidding for the church "militant here in earth" is admirably clear: the church is engaged in a rescue mission in enemy-occupied territory, a world alienated from God and under control of powers hostile to God. It does not entail militancy against other human beings: "We war not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world" (Ephesians 6:12). Its battles are won not by coercion or violence but by patient suffering; its mission not one of subjugation but of witness and service. If the church is militant it is because we are engaged in the liberation of the world from the spiritual powers that hold it in thrall: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor 10:5).

Nor is it sectarian, oriented towards an exclusive and self-righteous holy huddle. The Prayer for the Church is shaped by St. Paul's instruction to Timothy, that "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for *all men*; ... for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have *all men* to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4). That's language that is un-

packed in the Prayer Book as prayer "for *all sorts and conditions of men*" – all human beings without distinction of ethnicity, race, skin color, gender, sexuality, nationality, economic or social status, culture or religion. Which is to say that the Church defined by the Gospel is not an inward-looking community, concerned only with itself; it is indeed outward-looking, engaged in mission in the world, and gathering all into Catholic unity defined by the Gospel, not by the world's priorities and outlook. So in the prayer for the Church we pray for our mission in the world, and for all the circumstances in which that mission is carried out, all the opportunities it presents for bold witness and humble loving service; always having this end in view, that by such efforts the world in rebellion against God might return in faith and obedience to its Maker and Redeemer.

— GGD

JOIN US AT P.A.C.K.

As a reminder, all parishioners are invited to join us on **Wednesday, May 19th, 4-6 p.m.** and help with St. John's Outreach efforts, packing food for local children at P.A.C.K. If you are interested, please call Cathy Baxter at (912) 704-5111. We love to see new faces each month!

STRINGS FOR PENTECOST

If you'd like to hear strings during our 11 a.m. service on **Sunday, May 23rd**, you may contribute by dropping a check into the collection plate or mailing a check to the church. Please make checks out to St. John's Church with "strings" in the memo.

For changes and updates, sign up for our weekly emails at StJohnsSav.org.

Please remember St. John's Church in your will.