

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
(CHRISTMAS DAY)

December 25, 2021

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Sermon



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH

The Truth of the Bible
In the Beauty of the Anglican Tradition.
Believe. Worship. Love. Serve.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

Mission. St. John's Church is building a community in Christ that is grounded in historic faith and reverent worship and is committed to sharing the life-transforming truth of the Gospel.

Worship Schedule: Our current Sunday schedule is: 8 a.m. Holy Communion in the church; 9 a.m. Family Worship in the church [NOTE: No Family Worship Dec. 26th] (Family Morning Prayer on the first, second, third, and fifth Sundays of the month with Holy Communion on the fourth Sundays); and 11 a.m. Holy Communion in the church on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month with Morning Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Morning Prayer is online each weekday at 8:15 a.m. Evening Prayer is at 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday in the chapel (entrance facing the mall). Evening Prayer with Holy Communion is 5 p.m. every Thursday in the chapel. Visit StJohnsSav.org for details.

For Guests and Visitors. We extend a warm welcome to guests and visitors worshipping with us. We look forward to getting to know you!

Interactive Worship. The congregation participates actively in worship, and this booklet is a guide to taking part in it. It is based on the 1940 *Hymnal*, and the smaller 1928 *Prayer Book*.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN SAVANNAH

Founded in 1841, the first rector, Stephen Elliott, was also the first bishop of Georgia, and he consecrated the present church on May 7, 1853. In 1943, one of Savannah's historic mansions, the Green-Meldrim House, became its Parish House and Rectory. Later, Macon Street in the block between the church and Green-Meldrim House was closed and laid out as the present garden Mall. Cranmer Hall, the Christian Education building, was renovated and enlarged in 2004. St. John's is one of a handful of parishes in the Episcopal Church that continues to worship using the classical Book of Common Prayer (in its 1928 edition). We are committed to transmitting unimpaired to our posterity the historic Faith and Order it sets forth, within the fellowship of the Anglican Communion.

HOW WE WORSHIP AND WHY – THREE BIRTHDAYS

Everyone knows that Christmas is "Jesus' birthday". What they may not realize is that Christians celebrate not just one, but *three* "birthdays" on the feast of Christmas. For the child who is wonderfully born to the virgin Mary is the Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, outside time and space, but now begotten in time and space. That's two birthdays, one in time and one outside of time. The infinite God enters finitude, and is incarnate, clothed with flesh. He takes upon himself a complete human nature like ours, body and soul alike, except for sin. And he does so, that clothed in that same human nature, he might suffer, die, rise again, and ascend, still clothed in our humanity, into heaven. He comes down from heaven to meet us in our need, that he may exalt us to the right hand of the Father. The Son of God has become the Son of Man, so that the sons of men might become the sons of God. And so the third "birthday" we celebrate is our own: our own regeneration or rebirth by the Spirit, that we may be made the children of God by adoption and grace, that in Christ we too may know God as Father and rejoice in his changeless good will toward us. "O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray: cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today".

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)

10:30 a.m. Extended Prelude with Brass and Organ

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Sermon

Please silence all electronic devices. In the hush before the service begins, we prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Video Notice: Please note that that this service may be livestreamed and recorded on video for online public viewing.

THE ANTE-COMMUNION

At the ringing of the bell, all kneel.

ENTRANCE HYMN (*all stand*) #12 *Come, All Ye Faithful* (vv. 1, 2, 3, 6).....Adeste Fideles

Mutual Salutation

Priest. The Lord be with you;

Answer. **And with thy spirit.**

Priest. Let us pray. (*all kneel*)

The Collect for Purity (*all kneel*)..... *Prayer Book*, p. 67

The Summary of the Law (*all kneel*).....*Prayer Book*, p. 69

KYRIE ELEISON #710 (*all kneel*)..... Healey Willan

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

The Collect (*all kneel*)

ALMIGHTY God, who has given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lesson: Isaiah 52: 6-10 *God's salvation revealed.* (*all sit*)

Thus saith the Lord: Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I. ⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! ⁸Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion. ⁹Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-12 *Prayer Book*, p. 96

HYMN (*all stand*) #35 *He Whom Joyous Shepherds Praised*.....Quem Pastores

The Holy Gospel: St. John 1:1-14.....*Prayer Book*, p. 97

The Nicene Creed

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements..... Father Gavin Dunbar

Sermon..... Father Patrick Hunt

THE OFFERTORY

Sentences (*all stand*)

HYMN #40 *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*.....London Melody

Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; / Praise Him, all creatures here below; /
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; / Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

Bidding Prayer and Prayer for the Church (*all kneel*)*Prayer Book*, p. 74

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession (*said by all, all kneeling until Blessing*)

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution and Comfortable Words..... *Prayer Book*, p. 75

SURSUM CORDA #734 and Preface of Christmas*Prayer Book*, p. 76, 77

Priest. The Lord be with you

Answer. **And with thy spirit**

Priest. Lift up your hearts.

Answer. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Priest. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Answer. **It is meet and right so to do.**

Priest. It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God; because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, was made very man, of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying,

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #711 & #797Healey Willan

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God of, hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Amen. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration: Institution, Oblation, Invocation..... *Prayer Book*, p. 80

The Lord's Prayer

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Humble Access (*said with the congregation*)

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, and our souls washed through his most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI #712 Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world

Have mercy upon us

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world

Have mercy upon us

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world

Grant us thy peace.

Baptized Christians visiting at St. John's who have been admitted to Communion in their home churches are invited to partake in the Sacrament with repentance, faith and charity.

VOLUNTARY *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.....Picardy/Arr. Robin Beauchamp

HYMN #36 *What Child Is This?*.....Greensleeves

MOTET *Upon My Lap My Sov'reign Sits*.....Martin Peerson

Upon my lap my Sov'reign sits, and leans upon my breast; meantime His love maintains my life, and gives my sense her rest.

When Thou by sleep art overcome, repose, my Babe, on me; so may Thy mother and Thy nurse Thy cradle also be.

Sing lullaby, sing lulla, sing lullaby mine only joy.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*said with the congregation*)..... *Prayer Book*, p. 83

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713 (*all stand*).....Healey Willan

The Blessing (*all kneel*)..... *Prayer Book*, p. 84

HYMN (*all stand*) #27 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*..... Mendelssohn

FINAL POSTLUDE *And the Glory of the Lord*.....G.F. Handel/Arr. David Thomas



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Rector: Father Gavin G. Dunbar

Preaching: Father J. Patrick Hunt

Organist-Choirmaster:

Mr. R. Steven Branyon

Vestry Offering:

Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr.

Ushers:

Dr. James S. McClellan, Jr.

Mr. Robert L. Sparks

Assisting Musicians:

Antonio Marti, Trumpet I

Paul Lott, Trumpet II

Michael Daly, French Horn

Carl Polk, Trombone

Jimmy Hendricks, Tuba

UPCOMING WORSHIP

**SUNDAY, DEC. 26TH, CHRISTMAS I
& FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN**

No nursery, breakfast, or family worship.

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

10 a.m. *Fr. Dunbar's Class only*,
(Faith & Fellowship, Children's,
and Youth classes will not meet.)

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church & Online

MONDAY, DEC. 27TH, ST. JOHN'S DAY

8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer* (online)

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy
Communion*, Chapel

Church office is closed.

Devotions for Christmas

Incarnation

*W*hat is man that thou visitest him,
And the son of man that thou so regardest him?

Lord, let me kneel before thy miracle.
-an infant in a stable
on a human mother's breast,
from all eternity thine only begotten Son,
thy Word from before beginning,
God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God,
of his own choice, of thine own purpose,
made mortal man.

*W*hat is man that thou visitest him,
And the son of man that thou so regardest him?

O Christ, let me kneel before the wonder of thy Glory
thus made manifest to all flesh;
to be made one with thy lowliness,
one with thine obedience,
one with thy majesty of love,
in a union that, by thy grace,
shall know no divorce
unto the ages of ages. Amen.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

Worship in the Anglican Tradition

Parish Chartered in 1841 Church Consecrated in 1853

325 Bull Street On Madison Square OFFICE: One West Macon Street 31401

Our Mission: Saint John's Church is building a community in Christ

That is grounded in historic faith and reverent worship

And is committed to sharing the life-transforming truth of the Gospel.

www.stjohnssav.org Office: 912.232.1251 Fax: 912.232.5559 Parish House: 912.233.3845

Bishop of Georgia.....The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue
Rector - The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar..... (912) 429-3384 gdunbar@stjohnssav.org
Assisting Priest - The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt.....(912) 777-9968
Organist/Choirmaster - Mr. R. Steven Branyon.....sbranyon@stjohnssav.org
Assistant Conductor Mr. Wesley Perkins (912)232-1251
Assistant Organist - Mrs. Angela Fisher.....(912) 232-1251
Business Manager - Mrs. Janice W. Woods..... (912) 232-1251 jwoods@stjohnssav.org
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Minister with Youth/Pastoral Intern - Mr. Steven D. Vanderlip.....(912) 232-1251 svanderlip@stjohnssav.org
Buildings Manager - Mr. Sinisa Domazet.....sdomazet@stjohnssav.org
Acolyte Director and Master of Ceremonies - Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.....chubb44850@aol.com
Vergers - Mr. B. Ray Summerell.....(912) 777-9532 rsummerell@stjohnssav.org

Wardens and Vestry

Senior Warden: Mr. R. Leslie Johnson

Junior Warden - Captain John K. Ross

Clerk of Vestry: Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth); Treasurer: Mr. Holden T. Hayes;

Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)

Chancellor: M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.; Vice Chancellor: Richard C.E. Jennings, Esq.

The Vestry: Mrs. Benjamin W. Baxter (Cathy),

Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip), Mrs. Sean F. Finnegan (Melanie), Mrs. R. Scott Howard (Betsy),

Mr. R. Leslie Johnson, Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr. (Holly), Mrs. Paul M. Pressly (Jane), Captain John K. Ross,

Mr. Joseph Ross (Rusty), Mr. Robert L. Sparks, Jonathan D. Sprague, Esq., and Mr. Mark D. Stevens

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar

President, Women of St. John's..... Mrs. Mary Soule

President, Chancel Society Mrs. Roland S. Summers

President, Men of St. John's.....Mr. Sean F. Finnegan