

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 52 No. 34

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

July 18, 2021

Vol. 52 No. 34

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

July 18, 2021

THIS SUNDAY FROM ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church (In-person)

Psalm 47, **Sunday Collect:** BCP pp. 198

The Epistle: Romans 6:19 and **The Gospel:** St. Matthew 8:1

Music for this Sunday:

Reflections From a Stained Glass Window, John M. Rasley

Something For Thee, Tom Birchwood

Jerusalem My Happy Home, Arr. Frank W. Breazeale

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

Will meet via Zoom and in-person (Ralston Room) with Fr. Dunbar.

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.

11 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church (In-person and online)

Sunday Collect: BCP pp. 198

The Epistle: Romans 6:19 and **The Gospel:** St. Matthew 8:1

Music for this Sunday:

#378 *Come Gracious Spirit*

#414 *O For a Heart to Praise my God*

O Most Merciful, Charles Wood

Reflections on a Stained Glass Window, John M. Rasley

Jerusalem My Happy Home, Arr. Frank W. Breazeale

#195 *Father, We Thank Thee*

#158 *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

Processional, George Frederic Handel

LOVE AND HOPE

The Feast of Saint Mary Magdalen falls on Thursday this week.

In Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, there is a debate between two characters, a man and a woman, on the question whether it is more the nature of man than of woman "to be inconstant and forget those they do love, or have loved". It ends in a draw, but the woman says: "All the privilege I claim for my own sex ... is that of loving longest, when existence or when hope is gone". That is Mary Magdalene on Easter morning: loving her Lord, even 'when existence or hope is gone'; loving her Lord, even when his body (as she surmises) has been "taken away". This is love without hope: in the words of the Song of Solomon, "I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not". Worldly common sense says 'you have to move on', you have to 'snap out of it', you have to 'get on with your life'; but there is nothing the world can say that is going to help her at this point: because with Jesus dead her hope is dead also. Without hope, her love cannot attain its object.

For Mary Magdalene, the irony is that the evidence for resurrection is right before her, but in the fog of grief she can't see it. The evidence of the empty tomb is not enough – and the gently probing question of the angels is not enough: she tells them the same thing she told the other disciples, "They have taken away my Lord".

Even the gently probing questions of Jesus himself are not enough: with Jesus standing in front of her she asks him if he knows where the body of Jesus is! Because she is looking for a dead Jesus, she cannot even see the living Jesus in front of her. Only when Jesus speaks her name, and calls her back to the unique personal relationship between them – forged in gratitude for the grace of her deliverance from seven devils – only then does amazed recognition break through the fog of her grief; only then do her tears of sorrow turn to tears of joy.

What was Mary's problem? Why could she not see what is so evident? It wasn't that she did not believe in Jesus as the Christ – but that her idea of him was too small. Like the other disciples,

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, July 18th: Trinity 7

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
In-person and online

Monday–Friday, July 19th–23rd

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

In addition, Thursday, July 22nd

Feast of St. Mary Magdalene

5 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, July 25th:

Feast of St. James (Trinity 8)

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

11 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church
In-person and online

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

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly with a bonus edition for Christmas by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue..... Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar..... Rector
1 West Macon Street, 31401..... (912) 429-3384
The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt..... Assisting Priest
Mr. R. Steven Branyon..... Organist/Choirmaster
Mr. Wesley Perkins..... Assistant Conductor
Mrs. Angela Fisher..... Assistant Organist
Mrs. Janice W. Woods..... Business Manager
Mrs. John C. Nelson (Margaret)..... Adm. Assistant
Mrs. Jeremy J. Harvey (Heather)..... Comm. Coordinator
Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfet..... Financial Administrator
Mrs. Joseph Ross, Jr. (Sarah)..... Children's Ministry Director
Mr. Steven D. Vanderlip..... Minister with Youth/
..... Pastoral Intern

Mr. Sinisa Domazet..... Buildings Manager
Master of Ceremonies..... Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.
Verger..... Mr. B. Ray Summerell
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. (Skip)

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. Hungerpiller, Roland B. Williams, Esq.

President, Women of St. John's..... Mrs. Mary Soule (Stuart)
President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Sean F. Finnegan
Church Office..... (912) 232-1251
Fax..... (912) 232-5559
Parish House..... (912) 233-3845
Cranmer Hall..... (912) 232-8887
E-mails..... (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

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. Mr. Joseph R. Ross

USHER CHAIR

Mr. Joseph R. Ross

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

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. James C. Pedrick, Mrs. Joseph R. Ross, Mrs. Ronald C. Berry, and Mrs. Mark D. Stevens

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Howell III and Kathryn Howell Koritz by Jeanne, Caroline and Claire.

And in honor of Mr. Ross Hunter Philbrick by Dr. Thomas Philbrick.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lorton S. Livingston by their family.

And in honor of the 29th anniversary of the Reverend Gavin G. Dunbar's ordination on July 18, 1992.

GEORGIA BOY CHOIR, JULY 23RD

St. John's is hosting a concert by the thirty-three members of the Georgia Boy Choir next **Friday, July 23rd** at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but a reservation is required. Contributions to a free-will offering are welcome. Sponsorship invited. Reserve your seat by visiting StJohnsSav.org/GBC.

CELEBRATE THE FEASTS

**OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE
AND ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE**

Next week we will observe two major feasts of the church year for which the Prayer Book appoints proper collects, psalms, and lessons. Plan to join us for St. Mary Magdalene on **Thursday, July 22nd** at 5 p.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel and St. James on **Sunday, July 25th**.

she believed in an earthly Messiah, through whom the saving power of God might work an earthly salvation for his people. She did not think that the Messiah could suffer, die, rise again, *and* still be the Messiah. To her that is just a contradiction, a Savior who needs salvation. She did not grasp that the Son of God has power to lay down his life, and power to take it again (John 10:18). She did not realize that the Messiah would plumb the depths of hell, and ascend the heights of heaven, to rescue his people from death and judgment, and make them children of God and heirs of the Father's kingdom. When in faith she knows at last the Christ she loves, and can embrace a hope for deliverance from death and access to glory, her love is set free from sorrow for joy; set free to serve the Lord, as the first witness of his resurrection.

"Touch me not", Jesus tells her – the Greek could be translated more accurately if less strikingly as "don't keep on clinging to me". "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God". He has revealed himself to her, and called her again to faith; but a faith that is adequate to him in his glorified state requires she must let go of what she can see and touch, the earthly and fleshly form in which she has known him so far, so that she may know him in a faith appropriate to his ascended humanity, "after an heavenly and spiritual manner". She must give up trying to keep his body down on earth, she must rather follow him up to heaven in her heart and mind. "Lift up your hearts: we lift them up unto the Lord!" It is this Jesus, crucified, risen, ascended, bringing her into commun-

ion with the Father, that will satisfy all the longing of her heart; will set her free from self-preoccupation for the service of others. Instead of trying to hold onto Jesus, as a finite option, she will be able to share him with other disciples as one whose presence and power are without limit; she will be able to tell them the one they thought was dead, is alive; that the one they had failed and forsaken, loves them still as brothers; that the one who has descended into hell, now ascends into heaven, and that his Father has now become their Father also.

We can seek the Lord, our restless hearts are in continual quest of him – "looking for love in all the wrong places" as the country song puts it – but only he can find us, and call us each individually to faith in himself, a faith which looks beyond the finite to grasp an infinite goodness, to see the life that comes from death. It is this faith that allows hope to rise to the fullness of what can be hoped for, and which allows love to embrace the full extent of that which is to be loved.

— GGD

**FUNERAL FOR MR. CLIFFORD
DIXON POSTPONED**

The funeral for Mr. Clifford Dixon has been postponed. We will share new details when they are available.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Debbie Mallory, on the death of her husband, Larry Mallory, on July 11th, 2021. A celebration of his life will be held later this year.

We also extend our condolences to parishioner, Louise Howard, on the death of her husband, Harry Howard, on July 12th, 2021. Funeral is 11 a.m. Saturday at Greenwich.