

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 52 No. 36

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

August 1, 2021

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THIS SUNDAY FROM ST. JOHN'S

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

Sunday Collect: BCP pp. 200-201

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, BCP pp. 201

The Gospel: St. Luke 16:1-9

Music for this Sunday:

Andante Tranquillo, Peter Warlock

Reflection, Alexandre Boely

Meditation, Robert Cundick

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. 200-201

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, BCP pp. 201

The Gospel: St. Luke 16:1-9

Music for this Sunday:

#474 *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

#567 *Lead us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us*

The Penitent, Beardsley Van de Water

#192 *O Food of Men Wayfaring*

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Postlude on "Old Hundredth", Fred Bock

A BUMP IN THE ROAD

I trust you saw this coming. Given the lower rate of vaccination (45%) in Georgia, and the appearance of the more infectious Delta variant, the new spike of infections in Chatham County was no surprise. This is not a disaster: we are simply entering a new phase of learning to live with Covid-19 and managing its risk. By far the largest number of new infections have been among the unvaccinated; and it is that group which is putting pressure on the hospitals, and their ability to care for people with non-Covid medical needs. Among the vaccinated (including parishioners) there has also been a number of "breakthrough" infections, but these are rarely serious. Though vaccination does not make us bullet-proof, it does provide a high degree of protection from the worst outcomes; and a basis for going about our lives, including participation in public worship at St. John's.

For the unvaccinated, however, the risk of dangerous infection is higher, and I would encourage them to take appropriate precautions. My own view – I know there are those who disagree – is that anyone who can get a vaccine should do so. By reducing their own risk of getting so sick as to require hospitalization, they will reduce needless pressure on the hospitals, and their ability to care for other medical needs. If you have concerns about the vaccine, talk to your doctor about them.

The Center for Disease Control has issued a guideline recommending that

everyone wear masks at gatherings indoors, as has the City of Savannah. Be that as it may, the chief benefit of masking is to the unvaccinated, though they are perhaps less likely to heed the guideline. Masking is not required for attendance at St. John's, but I do ask that those attending public worship sanitize their hands and practice social distancing in pews and at the altar rail, and when leaving the church. The clergy will continue to sanitize and to mask when administering the elements to communicants. If you choose not to receive the chalice, simply cross your arms over your breast; and if you do receive, please do not try to dip your wafer into the chalice. If you have symptoms of a cold, and have not been tested for Covid-19, please stay home. Even if it is just a cold, no one else wants it.

– GGD

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, August 1st: Trinity 9

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

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

Monday– Friday, August 2nd–6th

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

In addition, Thursday, August 5th

5 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

In addition, Friday, August 6th

Transfiguration of our Lord

5 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, August 8th: Trinity 10

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

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

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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
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.
Vergers..... 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
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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. Mrs. James S. McClellan

USHER CHAIR

Dr. James S. McClellan

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

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.,
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Timothy E. Coy, Mrs. Jeanne
H. McMillan, Mrs. Joseph R. Ross,
Mrs. Patrick Worsham, and
Mrs. Charles R. Youles

MUSIC

Parker Davis, Soloist

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Julie Backus Smith by Bill Cathcart.

And in loving memory of Alice Lee Johnson by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O. Mercer and family.

If you would like to offer flowers for the Altar, call the Church Office at 912-232-1251. After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-in: if you would like to volunteer for this ministry, call Margaret Wylly at 912-656-6235.

LEGACY GIVING AT ST. JOHN'S

Since the announcement of The 1841 Society early this summer, we have been receiving a steady flow of parishioners notifying us of their intention to include St. John's in their wills (or other forms of legacy giving). Their early support is appreciated and we hope others will join them soon. If you have questions about legacy giving at St. John's, please speak to Rusty Ross (jross48642@aol.com), the 1841 Society Committee chairman, or to Fr. Dunbar. Those notifying us *before* December 31st will qualify as Founding Members of this Society.

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

ONLINE MORNING PRAYER

At least one good thing for ministry at St. John's came out of the past eighteen months, and that has been the introduction of online Morning Prayer Monday to Friday at 8:15 a.m. on Facebook (and available there as a video to be played at other times). If had not been for one parishioner's patiently repeated encouragement to do so, I might never have started offering it; but it has taken off. Weekday Morning Prayer in the chapel rarely had more than a few persons in attendance; but the online service has dozens of viewers throughout the day (usually around seventy-five by the day's end, and rising well above one hundred in the days that follow). A good number of these are regulars who tune in either during the livestream or later in the day.

What accounts for this success? I had worried that a monologue rendition of a service whose character is dialogical alternation of voices would be dull. So instead of simply filming our more formal service in the chapel, with the camera at a distance and little interaction with the online congregation, these are filmed at close quarters in the Rectory library, where Jude's twitching tail is sometimes visible; I greet the viewers with a smile and speak directly to the camera when addressing them (looking away to the cross when addressing the deity in prayer); I supply some brief comment on the psalms and lessons as we go; and supply a more detailed bidding to prayer after the Creed. And though watching myself is mortifying to personal vanity ('can my chin really be that long?'), I generally am looking just past the image of my left ear, to the handsome Coptic processional cross I use as a backdrop. What these small modifications amount to is a subtle

transposition of Morning Prayer into a new key demanded by the online medium; and the result, as I have been told by many viewers, is a sense of "intimacy" that they find inviting.

Before I get carried away with my budding career as a televangelist, let me acknowledge that an online service runs second-best to in-person corporate worship; but where few had been participating in person in the first place, the online numbers are a definite gain. Best of all, as Steven Vanderlip pointed out to me, their popularity encourages Christians to make use of the Church's daily common prayers for their own personal daily prayer – which is what they are for. And that is a *huge* gain: a practice that should be part of every Christian's daily life. During August when I am on vacation, Steven is going to take over the daily Morning Prayer for me, livestreaming probably from the chapel, but with a similar "intimate" approach to the one I have taken in the rectory library.

And what of in-person weekday services? We are already offering Evening Prayer and Holy Communion in the chapel on Thursdays and major holy days; after Labor Day, we plan to resume in-person Evening Prayer Monday to Thursday; and we will be looking for parishioners to read lessons and lead the responses. If you are interested, please speak to me, Gilbert Wells, or Steven Vanderlip.

– GGD

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fr. Dunbar's Adult Sunday School has been meeting in the Ralston Room of Cranmer Hall at 10 a.m. on Sundays. We invite you to join his weekly in-depth study of the Acts of the Apostles either in-person or via Zoom. Call the Church office at 912-232-1251 for details.