

# The Parish Paper

OF  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 52 No. 42

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 12, 2021

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## THIS SUNDAY FROM ST. JOHN'S

### 8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church

Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, BCP pp. 210-211

*A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

#### Music for this Sunday:

*Prelude*, William Hunt

Improvisation on 'Eucharistic Hymn And 'Holley'

*Prelude*, Henry Coleman

### 9 A.M. – FAMILY MORNING PRAYER, Church

*The nursery will be available for this service.*

*A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

### 10 A.M. – ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL, Cranmer Hall

*The nursery will be available during Sunday school.*

*Masks are required for children ages 3 to 12.*

### 11 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER, Church

(In-person and online)

*The nursery will be available for this service.*

#### Music for this Sunday:

#371 *Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid*

#576 *Come, Labor On*

Anthem: *Prayer for Peace*, Sam Batt Owens

#282 *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*

### IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

It's one of the great turning points of history. In one of the many struggles for supreme power that divided the later Roman empire, a contender named Constantine prevailed at the battle of Milvian bridge, in 312, and went on to assume the imperial diadem. According to the historian Eusebius, the night before his victory, Constantine had seen a vision of the cross in the skies, bearing the inscription, in Latin, *In hoc signo vinces*, 'by this sign shalt thou conquer'. What Constantine actually saw has been disputed; what can't be disputed is that the crucified king of the Jews was adopted as the savior of the Roman Caesar and people. The Roman empire became a Christian empire. And it was Constantine's mother, the empress Helena, who discovered in Jerusalem the cross on which he was crucified, the trophy of Christ's victory; a relic housed in the great basilica built by her son over the Holy Sepulchre and the rock of Calvary.

A century and half later, the western empire succumbed to barbarian invasions, but the eastern empire, centered on Constantine's "New Rome", the city of Constantinople which he built and named after himself on the Bosphorus, endured, and even reclaimed control of the city of Rome. Constantine had relocated the center of Roman power in the east, partly because Rome's greatest adversary was Persia; and in 607 AD that ancient rivalry broke out once again.

At a time when the Christian Roman empire was convulsed by internal crisis, Persian armies occupied the empire's rich eastern provinces, and in 614 carried away as a trophy of their victory the relics of the True Cross from Jerusalem. A new Roman emperor, Heraclius, fought back with a daring strategy. Leaving his capital Constantinople to the protection of the walls of Theodosius and of the Roman navy, in 623 he launched a counter-attack, not against the occu-

### UPCOMING WORSHIP

#### Monday – Friday, Sept. 13-17<sup>th</sup>

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

#### In addition, Monday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

#### In addition, Tuesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>

##### Holy Cross Day

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with*

*Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### In addition, Wednesday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>

##### Ember Day

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with*

*Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### In addition, Thursday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with*

*Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>: Ember Day

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### Sunday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>: Trinity 16

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

In-person and online

THE PARISH PAPER

OF

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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](mailto:information@stjohnssav.org)

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The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar..... Rector  
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The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt..... Assistant 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  
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..... Pastoral Intern

Mr. Sinisa Domazet..... Buildings Manager  
Master of Ceremonies..... Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.  
Verge..... 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)  
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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. Mr. Jonathan D. Sprague

USHER CHAIR

9 a.m. Mr. Robert L. Sparks

11 a.m. Mr. Charles Ezelle

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

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

Mrs. Susannah Fawcett

Ms. Linda H. Pounds

Ms. Laura L. Wimbish

Mrs. Charles R. Youles

MUSIC

Angela Fisher, Assistant Organist

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Herbert Mather, Mr. William P. Thompson, and Mr. Robert M. Thompson by Mrs. William P. Thompson.

And in honor of the life of Col. Lindsey P. Henderson, Jr. from his loving family.

And in loving memory of Mary Lou Hague and all of those lost on September 11, 2001 by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph H. Kulp II and family.

And in loving memory of Mr. Andrew Gay Labrot by Mrs. Andrew Gay Labrot and his children.

If you would like to offer flowers, call the Church office at 912-232-1251.

After Sunday, flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-in. To volunteer for this ministry, please call Margaret Wylly at 912-656-6235.

CDC MASKING

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the risk of severe illness to the unvaccinated, combined with high transmissibility of the Delta variant, the CDC recommends wearing face masks in public, including houses of worship. While worshippers at St. John's are free to make their own decisions, we request they respect others' choices and carefully consider the potential for impact on others.

pied provinces, but against the heartland of the Persian empire itself. It took several years, but he brought the Persian empire to its knees. A coup overthrew the shah, and in 629 his successor made peace with Heraclius, restoring the lost provinces and the True Cross.

The festival of the Holy Cross, on September 14<sup>th</sup>, has its origin in that restoration. When the emperor carried the sacred relics into the holy city on his own shoulders on this day in 629, he did so with the utmost pomp. At the entrance to the holy places, however, he stopped, as if prevented by unseen forces – and at the prompting of the patriarch of Jerusalem laid aside his splendid vesture and crown, put on simple clothes, and entered the city barefoot, carrying the cross in its silver case on his shoulders.

The humility was not unfitting; for Heraclius' victory was short-lived. In 636 the Roman army of Syria was decisively defeated by an army of the Arab tribes, united by the teaching of the prophet Mohammed; and Heraclius lived long enough to see the provinces he had won back with such difficulty lost again, and permanently, to the armies of Islam. It's true that the Christian Roman empire survived, barely, while the Persian one did not; survived and even flourished albeit in diminished form. Only in 1453 – almost a thousand years after Constantine – did Constantinople fall to the Ottoman Turks, and became the capital of that huge Muslim empire. Yet for much of a thousand years it was the primary bulwark against Muslim expansion into Europe, protecting the nascent Christian civilization that developed there, out of which emerged our own modernity.

What then, *In hoc signo vinces?* Despite the triumphalism of earthly

empires, there is but one kingdom that stands for ever, and it is not of this world. *Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the prince of this world be cast out; and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.* What we celebrate in the victory of the cross is our deliverance from pride and vainglory, in the triumph of God's inscrutable providence. At a demoralizing time in our own country's history, we might do well to renew our faith in the cross:

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

— GGD

NEW SCHEDULE STARTS SUNDAY!

We're looking forward to the return of several of our Sunday activities starting this Sunday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. Visit [StJohnsSav.org/new-schedule](http://StJohnsSav.org/new-schedule) for details about the return of 9 a.m. Family Worship in the church, the return to in-person classes for all ages on Sundays at 10 a.m., a light breakfast available after the 8 & 9 a.m. services, and the expansion of our nursery hours from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Sundays.

NEW WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

In addition to daily Morning Prayer livestreamed at 8:15 a.m. Monday through Friday, we will also offer daily Evening Prayer at 5 p.m. in the chapel. On Thursdays and Feast days, Holy Communion follows Evening Prayer. If the Feast day falls on a Saturday, Holy Communion is at 11 a.m. in the chapel. Please enter the chapel through the side door.

For changes and updates, sign up for our weekly emails at [StJohnsSav.org](http://StJohnsSav.org).