



CANDLEMAS SUNDAY
BEING THE SUNDAY AFTER
THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
(EPIPHANY 5)

Sunday, February 6, 2020

11 a.m. Procession with Lights & Solemn Eucharist



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 Service in the church (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. Morning Prayer is online each weekday at 8:15 a.m. **Starting next week, we will offer in-person Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday through Thursday in the chapel (Tuesday & Wednesday with Holy Communion).** Evening Prayer is at 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday in the chapel (Thursday with Holy Communion). Visit StJohnsSav.org for more details.

Children's Nursery. The nursery is available in Cranmer Hall from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

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, who was also the first bishop of Georgia, consecrated the present church on May 7, 1853. In 1943, 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 to our posterity the historic Faith and Order it sets forth, within the fellowship of the Anglican Communion.

HOW WE WORSHIP AND WHY – CANDLES & CANDLEMAS

On Candlemas, forty days after Christmas, the Church commemorates Christ's presentation in the temple forty days after his birth (Luke 2:22-38). There, by the inward illumination of the Spirit, aged Simeon and Anna recognized him as "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel", the Savior not just of one nation, but of the world. That's why candles are blessed and carried in procession on that day – tokens of the light of Christ, which we receive in faith, and carry to others in love, in worship and in witness to the hope that is in us. Not just at Candlemas, however, but year-round, candles are lit and used in Christian worship. In origin their use may have been mainly functional, ornamental, or honorific, but because Scripture uses the imagery of light to speak of God and of Christ, they inevitably acquired symbolic meaning also. One late 4th century Church Father says that "lights are lit and carried [in Christian worship], not to dispel the darkness, for the sun is shining at the same time, but to give a sign of joy". In their outward and visible light is the symbol of the "true light", "of which we read in the Gospel". Another early theologian, writing in the 7th century, said, "Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine glory of the one who comes to dispel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brightness of the eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ". The two candles on the altar, one on either side of the cross, are said to represent the two natures of Christ, human and divine. "O gladsome light" runs one very ancient hymn originally sung at the lighting of the lamps in the evening (#176 in the Hymnal): "O grace of God the Father's face, The eternal splendor wearing; Celestial, holy, blest, our Savior Jesus Christ, Joyful in thine appearing".

A Note on this Observance.

Forty days after his birth, Jesus was presented in the Temple and offered to the Father, in obedience to the Law – a sign of the redemption he came to accomplish; and therefore on February 2nd, forty days after Christmas, the Church observes the feast of the *Presentation of Christ*, in the confidence that through his sacrifice the faithful are presented and offered unto God. When Christ was presented in the temple, his Virgin-mother was also ritually purified in accordance with the Law, and so this feast is also called the Feast of the *Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin*, in the hope and prayer that Christ by his grace will cleanse and purify our hearts, so that we may be presented an offering acceptable unto God. Third, when Jesus was presented in the Temple, he was met by Simeon and Anna, two Israelites who had grown old waiting faithfully for the fulfillment of God’s promises of redemption. Simeon and Anna recognized the child Jesus as the Lord’s Christ. They gave thanks for him as the “light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of his people Israel”, and they bore witness to him in Jerusalem. And so this feast is also called *Candlemas*, for today, by ancient custom, candles are blessed, lit, and carried in procession in token of our calling to the faith and witness of Christ, and a sign that to us it is given to know and love the Light of God’s glory manifest in Jesus Christ, and to bear his light to others through the darkness of this world.

THE ORDER FOR
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
OR HOLY COMMUNION

Arise, shine, O Jerusalem;
for the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
Isaiah 60

Bell Peal (*stand*)

THE BLESSING & BEARING OF CANDLES

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Answer: **And with the spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who didst send into the world thy only-begotten Son, begotten of thee before time was, but incarnate in time of the Virgin Mary, to be the true and unfailing light, to drive away the darkness of mankind, and to kindle the light of faith and truth; mercifully grant that as we are lighted outwardly by natural light, so we may also be enlightened inwardly by spiritual light; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The candles are lit during the singing of the canticle.

CHOIR *Lumen ad revelationem gentium* Mode VIII

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
* according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen
* thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared
* before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
* and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son,
* and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
* world without end. Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
Answer: And with thy spirit.
Deacon: Let us go forth in peace.
Answer: In the name of Christ. Amen

HYMN #115 *Hail to The Lord Who Comes* (verses 1-5)Old Hundred Twentieth

In moderate time

1 Hail to the Lord who comes, Comes to his tem - ple gate;
 2 But, borne up - on the throne Of Ma - ry's gen - tle breast,
 Not with his an - gel host, Not in his king - ly state;
 Watched by her du - teous love, In her fond arms at rest,
 No shouts pro - claim him nigh, No crowds his com - ing wait;
 Thus to his Fa - ther's house He comes, the heav'n - ly guest. A - men.

3 There Joseph at her side
 in reverent wonder stands;
 and, filled with holy joy,
 old Simeon in his hands
 takes up the promised child,
 the glory of all lands.

4 Hail to the great First-born,
 whose ransom-price they pay,
 the Son before all worlds,
 the child of man to-day,
 that he might ransom us
 who still in bondage lay.

5 O Light of all the earth,
 thy children wait for thee:
 come to thy temples here,
 that we, from sin set free,
 before thy Father's face
 may all presented be.

At the station.

Priest: We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God;

Answer: **In the midst of thy temple.**

Priest: Let us pray (*all standing*). Almighty and everlasting God, who didst send thine only-begotten Son into the world to be the true and unfailing light; Mercifully grant that he may so illuminate our hearts and minds, that we may be found worthy to be presented in the holy temple of thy glory; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

HYMN #329 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*..... Frankfort

THE ANTE-COMMUNION

Priest: The Lord be with you;

Answer: **And with thy spirit**

Priest: Let us pray.

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

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

KYRIE ELEISON (*all kneel*) Hymnal #710 (p. 752)..... Healey Willan
Lord have mercy have upon us. / Christ have mercy upon us. / Lord have mercy have upon us.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Answer: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray.

The Collects of the Day (*all kneel*)..... Prayer Book, p. 231, 115

The Epistle (*all sit*) Malachi 3:1..... Prayer Book, p. 232

HYMN (*all stand*) #116 *O Sion Open Wide Thy Gates*.....Bedford

The Holy Gospel (*remain standing*) St. Luke 2:22.....Prayer Book, p. 232-233

The Nicene Creed (*Standing, said by all*).....Prayer Book, p. 71

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 (*all sit*)

The Address

THE OFFERTORY

Sentences (*all stand*)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*all sit*) *Simeon's Prayer*..... Alex Hegenbart

Presentation of Alms (*all stand*) Doxology #139..... Old Hundredth

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.**

The Biddings and Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Minister: Of your charity I bid your prayers for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed:

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord;

Answer: **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace. Amen.

The Prayer for Christ's Church (*all kneel*).....Prayer Book, p. 74-75

THE COMMUNION

Invitation, Confession (*Said by all, all kneeling until Blessing*).....Prayer Book, p. 75

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. 76

Sursum Corda #734..... Hymnal #734, p. 788 or Prayer Book, p. 76

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

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, and Invocation..... Prayer Book, p. 80-81

The Lord's Prayer (*Said with the congregation.*).....Prayer Book, p. 82

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.*).....Prayer Book, p. 82

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 (Hymnal, page 754).....Healey Willan

- Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world **Have mercy upon us**
- Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world **Have mercy upon us**
- Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world **Grant us thy peace.**

Receiving the Sacrament.

Those who are baptized and who have been admitted to communion (which at St. John's, is normally by confirmation, but for visitors may have taken place by some other means) are welcome to receive the sacrament. All others are welcome to receive a blessing at the altar rail (please kneel and cross arms over your breast to signify your intention).

To receive the host, please place right hand over left, palm up, at the level of your chest, and lift the host to your lips. To receive the chalice, keep your neck and head straight, and lightly grasp the bowl or stem of the chalice to guide it to your lips. For reasons of hygiene, self-intinction (dipping) of the host in the chalice is not permitted. If you are not comfortable with receiving the chalice, you may get up after receiving the host, or cross your arms over your chest. The grace of Christ is fully available to the believer by both elements or by either.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY *Communion, Op. 8*..... Louis Vierne

HYMN #17 *I Know a Rose Tree Springing*.....Rosa Mystica

COMMUNION MOTET *Nunc Dimittis* (Hymnal #670).....John Blow

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS #713 (Hymnal, page 756).....Healey Willan

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

HYMN #49 *From the Eastern Mountains*Valour

FINAL VOLUNTARY *Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern*Max Drischner



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRS

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed

11 a.m. Mrs. Paul M. Pressly (Jane)

USHER CHAIR

Mr. Joseph R. Ross (Rusty)

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

Mrs. Donald A. Fawcett (Susie)

Mrs. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Alva)

Mrs. Wiley A. Wasden (Anna)

Ms. Lydia Wright

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in honor of Susie Miller Arden on her birthday by her children and grandchildren.

And in loving memory of William Perry Thompson, Robert Mather Thompson, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mather by Mrs. William P. Thompson.

And in memory of John H. Calais and Mr. and Mrs. John S. Calais by the Chancel Society.

And in loving memory of Sara Jane Kuszak by Cheshire Nash McIntosh, Christopher Wood Dixon McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Walker, Jr., and James Andrew Walker.

And in celebration of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Haupt Culver on February 5th, by their children and grandchildren.

If you would like to offer flowers for the Altar, please 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.

NEW & NEWSWORTHY

WELCOME REV'D JONATHAN JAMESON!

We are excited that our new Associate Rector, Fr. Jonathan Jameson, joined us at St. John's this week! A full-time professional musician since 2005, Jonathan was drawn to traditional Anglican worship as a layman and went on to study divinity at Nashotah House (2019) and Montreal Diocesan Seminary. The Rev'd Jonathan Jameson was ordained into the priesthood by Bishop Brewer at the Bishop's Chapel in Orlando on Jan. 21.

He and his family recently moved to Savannah from Montreal. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves to him, and to welcome him, his wife Amy, and their children, Henry and Agnes into our congregation.

CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

With Fr. Jameson's arrival, we are setting up his clergy discretionary fund — monies set aside for use at his discretion for charitable purposes, especially helping parishioners and non-parishioners in need. If you would like to contribute to Fr. Jameson's Discretionary Fund, please make out checks to St. John's and write "Fr. Jameson's Discretionary Fund" in the memo. All donations are tax deductible.

THANK YOU FROM THE MEN OF ST. JOHN'S!

The Men of St. John's wish to thank everyone who helped, attended, and brought desserts for yesterday's Annual Oyster Roast & Barbeque at Camp Villa Marie. The opportunity for parish-wide fellowship and to bring guests and introduce them to our St. John's community is always enjoyable.

NEW WEEKDAY SERVICES ADDED

Starting next week, we will offer in-person Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday through Thursday in the chapel. Tuesday & Wednesday will offer Holy Communion with Morning Prayer. Online Morning Prayer will continue to be offered at 8:15 a.m. Monday to Friday.

COFFEE HOUR SUNDAY, FEB. 13TH

Plan to join us after 11 a.m. Morning Prayer Sunday, Feb. 13th in the Green-Meldrim House. We hope to see new and returning faces!

With the return of Coffee Hour on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, we will need volunteers. If you are able to help, email mimi1joyce@aol.com.

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S MEETINGS

The next Board meeting will be this Monday, Feb. 7th at 10 a.m. in the Green-Meldrim House [Note the location change]. Please note that the Women of St. John's will not hold a General Meeting in February, March, or April.

ALL ARE INVITED TO P.A.C.K.

Thank you to everyone who joined us this past Wednesday at P.A.C.K.'s facility to help fill bags for local children. Parishioners of all ages are invited to come to our next scheduled packing night on Wednesday, Feb. 16th from 4-6 p.m. at 4 Mall Terrace, Savannah. If you are unable to join us then, come as you are able on either the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month. This is a great outreach opportunity for families to do together! If you have any questions, contact Cathy Baxter at cathybaxter@gmail.com.

NEW & NEWSWORTHY

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO FILL P.A.C.K.'s SNACK PANTRY!

As a result of your generosity in January, we are at 50% of our snack goal. We still have the month of February to collect the remaining 50%. If you'd like to donate, snacks may be purchased from St. John's Amazon list. During check out, scroll down to choose the shipping address "St. John's Church Outreach c/o The Finnigans' Gift Registry Address". You may also drop off donated snacks at church on Sunday mornings (Suggest adding a Post-it note with "Outreach/PACK"). To see a list of suggested items or to order, you may visit StJohnsSav.org/outreach.

ADULT CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP BEGINNING FEB. 13TH

Next Sunday, Feb. 13th, the Rector will begin a new class on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for adults seeking Confirmation, reception into membership at St. John's, or a refresher/introduction to the Anglican tradition of Christianity. It will run through Palm Sunday, and will touch on the history of Anglicanism, and its distinctive approach to Christian faith and worship. If interested, please notify the Church office at 912-232-1251 or Fr. Dunbar at gdunbar@sjohnssav.org.

CHURCH PARKING LOT DECALS

To ensure parking is available for as many parishioners as possible on Sundays and for special services and church meetings during the week, please make certain your cars have St. John's parking decals. If you need one, please contact the church office at 912-232-1251.

LIVESTREAMING SUPPORT

We are always looking for livestreaming support on Sunday mornings. Each session lasts between 1-1½ hours. This is a compensated activity. Interested individuals should contact Ray Summerell at rsummerell@stjohnssav.org, or by phone at 912-777-9532.

DO YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE PARISH PAPER BY MAIL?

As St. John's Church has expanded its efforts to communicate news and events in a variety of ways: weekly emails, Facebook posts, website, and Sunday service booklets, we realize you may no longer need us to mail you the Parish Paper. If you wish to be removed from the weekly Parish Paper mailings, please call the Church office at 912-232-1251.

If you are not currently receiving our electronic newsletters, you may sign up by visiting the homepage of StJohnsSav.org and scrolling down to the bottom of the page.

SHARING OUR HISTORY AND BEAUTY

Our beautiful, historic buildings are regionally significant and a draw for visitors. Guiding tours through the church and the Green-Meldrim House is our pleasure and a part of our broader volunteer outreach ministry. If you have a few hours to volunteer each month, please consider being a docent. It's easy and builds stronger relations in our parish.

The Church: Consider being a docent to give tours of our beautiful and historic church. If you are available Tuesdays or Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., call 830-608-4939 or email Frank Somoskey at frank-denny@sbcglobal.net.

NEW & NEWSWORTHY

Green-Meldrim House: We open the Green-Meldrim House on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to share the beauty and history of our parish house, contact Jane Pressly at 912-667-1584 or janepressly@aol.com.

CRADLE OF PRAYER

Slow down, reflect, and return to prayer. Our friends at Cradle of Prayer continue to serve and draw those seeking daily prayer according to the 1928 Prayer Book. If you haven't visited their website recently, take a few moments to explore. Their website, CradleofPrayer.org, is supported solely by listener donations.

- **PODCASTS:** Podcasts are now being published through Spotify and continue to be available through iTunes. These links can be found on the Home page. Podcasts are scheduled a week ahead.
- **CANTICLES:** For those interested in learning or brushing up on the singing of canticles look for the "Canticle Tutor" tab and choose from different options for both morning and evening prayer.
- **LITANY:** Join in the reading of the Litany by choosing the "This Week's Prayers" tab from the Home page." Listen to the Litany" is on the right side of the Weekly Prayer page.
- **FACEBOOK:** To help spread the Word choose to "Like" or "Follow" Cradle of Prayer on Facebook. Weekly collects and scriptures are regularly published on their Facebook page.

UPCOMING WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Monday–Friday, Feb. 7 – 11th
8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Online

***New!* Tuesday–Thursday**
8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel
(with *Holy Communion* on
Tuesday and Wednesday)

Monday –Thursday
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel
(with *Holy Communion* on Thursday)

Sunday, Feb. 13th, Septuagesima
8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church
10 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School**,
Cranmer Hall

**Adult Confirmation & Membership
class begins this Sunday.*

11 a.m. *Youth Confirmation Class*,
Fellowship Hall

11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*,
Church & Online

12:15 p.m. *Coffee Hour*,
Green-Meldrim House

SERVE AS AN USHER

We are always in need of parishioners to volunteer as ushers, and we will provide training. If you would like to know more about serving your church as an usher, call the Church office at 912-232-1251.

PARISH PAPER ESSAY

WHAT IS “EPISCOPALIAN”? (II)

Beginning February 13th I will be teaching a class for adults on the essentials of the Anglican or Episcopalian tradition of Christianity – instruction for new members, those seeking confirmation or reception in the Episcopal Church, or who want a refresher in the basics.

Last week I began looking at the question of what we mean by the word “Episcopalian”. The name itself originates as a reference to government by bishops (“episcopoi” in Greek), but the tradition is much more than its system of church government. Another common description is “reformed and catholic”, which grounds the Episcopal tradition in the ancient tradition of Catholic Christianity (Scripture, Creeds, Ordained Ministry, Sacraments) and the sixteenth-century Reformation.

Beginning in the late 17th century and gathering strength through the 19th and 20th centuries, there was a move away from this catholic and reformed heritage. Moralism detached works from justifying faith, rationalism accentuated human reason at the expense of divine revelation; and liberalism the freedom from traditional authorities, doctrines, and practices, and even (in its most recent manifestations) from reason and nature. Over against the rise of these secularizing trends were a series of revivals that sought in different ways to affirm the divine and supernatural character of the Christian religion. The evangelical revival of the 18th century associated with Wesley and Whitfield, built on the 16th century divines; the catholic revival of the 19th century built on

the old high church Anglicanism of the 17th century; and the charismatic of the 20th century, the Anglican counterpart to Pentecostalism, drew on the pietistic “enthusiasm” of the 18th century. Though reacting against liberal secularization, each in turn was further removed from the historic fabric of Anglicanism. The evangelical revival produced the Methodist secession; the catholic revival led at its extreme to Anglo-Papalism; the charismatic revival fueled much of the more recent secessions from the Episcopal Church. By a particular irony, the conflict with evangelicals unleashed by Anglo-Catholic denial of the Reformation heritage of Anglicanism, led to liberal ascendancy, as the putative upholders of ecclesiastical peace. But such theological and liturgical diversity comes at the expense of rootless incoherence that bedevils the Anglican world today, both in the Episcopal Church, and outside it.

At this point in the history of Anglicanism, it is not possible simply to undo all these later developments. Each of them, moreover, has sometime of value to contribute – even liberalism, which has become such a loaded and pejorative term in our time. If we venture to criticize its limitations, and especially its later decadence into freedom from reason itself and even from nature, we do so from within the liberal tradition itself of freedom of thought and speech. If we criticize its destructive excesses, we do so as those who claim the freedom that is given us in the truth. Yet none of these by themselves (much less in combina-

PARISH PAPER ESSAY

tion) can provide a coherent Anglicanism: for that, there must be a rediscovery of the classical Anglicanism forged in the 16th and 17th centuries, and embodied in the historic formularies – the Book of Common Prayer (especially in its 1662 edition), the Articles of Religion, the official Homilies, together with the teaching of the classical divines (Cranmer, Jewel, Hooker *et al*). The rediscovery of classical Anglicanism's doctrine and worship will not abolish all later developments, but will give them the foundations they need, and the coherence they are not themselves capable of.

– GGD

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
Associate Rector – The Rev. Jonathan Jameson..... jjameson@stjohnssav.org
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired] (931) 327-5489
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
Administrative Assistant – Mrs. John C. Nelson (Margaret)..... (912) 232-1251 mnelson@stjohnssav.org
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Junior Warden: Mr. Mark D. Stevens

Clerk of Vestry: Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth); Treasurer: Mr. Robert L. Sparks;

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

Chancellor: Dolly Chisholm

The Vestry: Mrs. Benjamin W. Baxter (Cathy), Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.,

Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip), Mrs. R. Scott Howard (Betsy), Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings (Stacy),

Mrs. Thomas C. McCay (Connie), Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr. (Holly), Mrs. Paul M. Pressly (Jane),

Mr. Joseph Ross (Rusty), Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth), Mr. Robert L. Sparks, & Mr. Mark D. Stevens

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpiller, Mr. Edwin H. Culver

Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman Emeritus: Mr. M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.

President, Women of St. John's Mrs. Paula W. Walker

President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers

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