



# THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday, November 20, 2022

11 a.m. Holy Communion



## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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SAVANNAH

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

## WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

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**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 non-holiday Sunday schedule is: 8 a.m. Holy Communion in the church; 9 a.m. Family Worship Service (Family Morning Prayer in the church on the first, second, third, and fifth Sundays of the month and Holy Communion in the chapel on the fourth Sunday); 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. The 11 a.m. is also livestreamed. Morning Prayer is online each weekday at 8:15 a.m. **Please see page 7 of this booklet for our services this week or visit [StJohnsSav.org](http://StJohnsSav.org).**

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

**For Guests and Visitors.** We extend a warm welcome to guests and visitors worshipping with us today and 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

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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 – GRATITUDE AND HOPE

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This Sunday – “next before Advent” – is the last Sunday in the Church's year, a time to look back in thankfulness to the year of grace just past and to look forward in hope to the year about to begin. Today in thankfulness we “gather up the fragments” from the feast of grace God's love has spread for us in time past, “that nothing be lost”; and in those gifts of grace we discern the signs of God's ripening purpose, the coming of our redemption in Christ. And thus, our gratitude is the matrix of hope; for in giving thanks for the good work of grace that God has begun in us, we are moved to hope that he will bring it to completion. This hope we have in Christ is hope not only for the short term, hope for the world and our lives in it – but also hope in the long term, hope that what we do in this world is not all going to come to nothing in the end. It is hope for the resurrection, a new heaven, and a new earth, where “all sad things come untrue”, the “hope of glory” which we lay hold of, by grateful use of the “means of grace”. It is this heavenly hope that gives final meaning to all our earthly hopes – hope in the short term, hope for doing something worthwhile with our lives in the world; and, to put it the other way around, we have no way to grasp at heavenly hope, than by pursuing hopeful tasks here and now. We pray that the Lord being our ruler and guide, “we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal”.

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

Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of thy faithful people,  
and kindle in them the fire of thy love.

*Please kneel at the sound of the bell.*

THE ANTE-COMMUNION

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HYMN (*all stand*) #137 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* ..... St George's Windsor

THE OPENING PRAYERS

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*Answer:* **And with the spirit.**

*Priest:* Let us pray.

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

PREPARING IN PENITENCE.

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. / Lord have mercy have upon us. / Lord have mercy have upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us. / Christ have mercy upon us. / Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy have upon us. / Lord have mercy have upon us. / Lord have mercy have upon us.

*Minister:* The Lord be with you.

*Answer:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister:* Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day (*All kneel.*) ..... Prayer Book, p. 225

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Epistle (*All sit.*) Jeremiah 23:5-8 ..... Prayer Book, p. 225

HYMN (*All stand.*) #285 *The God of Abraham Praise* ..... Leoni

The Holy Gospel (*Remain standing.*) St. John 6:5-14 ..... Prayer Book, p. 225-226

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.*)

**H**e that soweth little shall reap little; and he that soweth plenteously shall reap plenteously. Let every man do according as he is disposed in his heart, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 *Cor.* ix. 6, 7.

**ANTHEM:** *O Saviour Sweet,* ..... J. S. Bach

O Saviour sweet, O Saviour kind, Thy Father's will has all Thy mind; From heaven Thou hast vouch-safed to come, with me, as man, to make Thy home, O Saviour sweet, O Saviour kind.

O Saviour sweet, O Saviour kind, the way to please Thee we would find; Whate'er we have, it comes of Thee, O let us ever near Thee be, O Saviour sweet, O Saviour kind.

O Saviour sweet, O Saviour kind, Who came to earth the lost to find, who died to save us on the tree, Our hearts are filled with love to Thee, O Saviour sweet, O Saviour kind.

**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.**

### *At the offering*

*Priest:* All things come of thee, O Lord,

*Answer:* and of thine own have we given thee.

## **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 PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

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

**A**LMIGHTY 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 & #797 ..... Healey 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

**O**UR 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

**W**E 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, have attained to years of discretion, 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 do not wish to receive the chalice, you may get up after receiving the host, or cross your arms over your chest.*

HYMN #462 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* .....Windsor

COMMUNION MOTET (*All sit.*) *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* (Cantata 147), .....J. S. Bach,  
Arr. W. Gillies Whittaker

Jesu, joy of man's desiring, Holy wisdom, love most bright. Drawn by Thee, our souls, aspiring, Soar to uncreated light. Word of God, our flesh that fashion'd with the fire of life impassion'd, striving still to Truth unknown, Soaring, dying round Thy Throne.

Through the way where Hope is guiding, Hark, what peaceful music rings. Where the flock, in Thee confiding, drink of joy from deathless springs. Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure; Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure; Thou dost ever lead Thine own, in the love of joys unknown.

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 #357 *Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus!*..... In Babilone

FINAL VOLUNTARY: *Postlude in D* .....Healey Willan



**12:15 P.M. – COFFEE HOUR, Green-Meldrim House**  
*We invite everyone to join us for coffee hour and fellowship after service today.*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

### VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
11 a.m. Mrs. Paul M. Pressly (Jane)

### USHER CHAIR

Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip)

### CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara), Mrs. Richard C.E. Jennings (Stacy), Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea) Ms. Linda H. Pounds, Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Sr. (Cathy), and Dr. Linda Ann McCall

### COFFEE HOUR CHAIR

Mrs. David A. Young (Pam)

### UPCOMING WORSHIP

**Monday–Wednesday, Nov. 21–23<sup>rd</sup>**

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

#### **In addition, on Monday**

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

#### **Tuesday & Wednesday**

8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel  
(with *Holy Communion* on Tuesday)

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

#### **In addition, on Wednesday**

12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Church  
*No Compline this week.*

#### **In addition, on Thanksgiving Day**

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church/Online  
*No other services today or Friday.*  
*Church office closed today & Friday.*

#### **Sunday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday in Advent**

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church  
9 a.m. *Family Holy Communion*, Chapel  
10 a.m. *Advent Wreath Making*, Fellowship Hall  
*Bishop Lambert's & Fr. Dunbar classes will meet. All other classes will meet in Fellowship Hall.*  
11 a.m. *Choral Mattins*, Church/Online

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kippy Adams on her birthday from Dicky, Caroline, Ted, Reid, Katharine and Mary Porcher.

And in honor of the wedding anniversary of Amanda and Tom Heath, who were married on November 2, 2002 at St. John's Church by Dorothy and Susan Kingery.

And in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Jules Victor, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Neil H. Victor.

And in loving memory and in honor of the birthday of our sweet mother and grandmother, JoAnn Clark Troxler by her family.

And in thanksgiving for, and on the occasion of the birthday of William Reese Cooper by Mrs. Patti Cooper.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry King McCormick by Mr. and Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells.

And in honor of Mrs. Roland S. Summers (Sylvia) for her many years of devoted service to the chancel society and her love of St. John's by the clergy and the chancel society.

The flowers on the altar on Thanksgiving Day are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Albert Sidney Newton by Dr. and Mrs. Roland S. Summers.

*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

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### EYCS SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE TODAY

We are having a special collection today for the Episcopal Youth and Children's Services scholarship drive. You may place cash or checks in the collection plate (made out to EYCS with St. John's Church in memo); visit [StJohnsSav.org/give](http://StJohnsSav.org/give) (Choose "Special Collection" with EYCS in memo), or mail checks to EYCS, 18 E. 34<sup>th</sup> St., Savannah, GA 31401 (made out to EYCS; St. John's Church in the memo). If you have questions, contact the church office at 912-232-1251.

### COFFEE HOUR THIS SUNDAY

This **Sunday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>**, join us in the Green-Meldrim House after 11 a.m. service for coffee hour.

### YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Our Youth Group is meeting today in Cranmer Hall from 5-7 p.m.. They now meet on the first and third Sundays of the month. There is childcare for younger children too. Let us know if you plan to attend by using the RSVP link at [StJohnsSav.org/youth](http://StJohnsSav.org/youth).

### THANKSGIVING DAY

Plan to give thanks to the Lord for his many blessings during our 11 a.m. **Thursday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>** Holy Communion in the church. This service will be livestreamed as well. There will be no other services that day or Friday, and the church office will be closed on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>.

**ADVENT WREATH MAKING: *Sunday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 a.m., Fellowship Hall.*** All parishioners are invited to make wreaths for Advent, which begins next Sunday. All supplies will be provided, but if you have your wreath form from last year, please bring it. Also, if you have any magnolia or boxwood greenery that you would like to add to your wreath, bring that with you as well! Email Sarah at [ssross@stjohnssav.org](mailto:ssross@stjohnssav.org) if you have any questions.

### *New!* THE ART OF ADVENT

We will offer a new three-week series exploring the theology of Christ through works of art (including an art exhibition in the colonnade by a Ukrainian iconographer). We will meet **Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8 & 15** from 6:15–7 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend! Plan to stay for light refreshments at the end of the sessions.

### WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

Their next board meeting will be **Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** at 10 a.m. in the Green-Meldrim House. For the General Meeting on **Wednesday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** they will meet in the chapel at 10 a.m. for Holy Communion followed by a program at 10:35 a.m. by Jamie Credle about "Women in Preservation".

### DOCENTS NEEDED URGENTLY

We are in urgent need of docents to give tours of our beautiful, historic church, which draws many visitors during the week. Guiding tours through the church is part of our broader volunteer outreach ministry. Unfortunately, due to a lack of docents we may not be able to offer tours in the coming months.

If you have a few hours to volunteer each month, prayerfully consider being a docent. It's easy and builds stronger relations in our parish. We open our doors Tuesday and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are called to serve this important outreach ministry, please contact Frank Somoskey at 830-608-4939 or [frank-denny@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frank-denny@sbcglobal.net).

### CHURCH DOCTRINE & COFFEE

Join St. John's clergy to explore the week's topic every Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. (after 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Holy Communion in the chapel) in Cranmer Hall in the Reading Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) Christians who want to be part of this discussion are welcome. Parishioners in leadership or in other ministries in the congregation are welcome.



## NEW & NEWSWORTHY

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### LIVESTREAM QUALITY

Our livestream ministry is an important component of our service in total to the parish and beyond. Yet occasionally, we learn that the received livestreams have gaps or static or may cut in and out. Sometimes this is the result of faults inherent with digital broadcasting (a.k.a. livestream), yet there are steps you may take that may be helpful.

The systems at the church are not infallible; therefore, we diagnose the livestream system in advance of a broadcast, tweak as needed, and regularly have our system support vendor visit for updates and adjustments. After each service, we receive a broadcast quality report; it is most always perfect. Moreover, we locally record every service. These files are clear and unmanipulated by software. Unfortunately, the files are too large to attach to email. If you ever want a copy, please contact the church office.

We notice that when a live broadcast isn't high quality, it is often due to external factors. Frequently, if you watch or listen the recorded service at another time, it appears fine. However, and prior to watching a livestreamed service, we suggest you try the following to maximize the quality:

1. Check internet speeds to your location, making sure your house or neighborhood isn't experiencing slow performance.
2. Refresh your internet modem and router. Often, these devices become clogged with digital junk and a reboot will clear things up.
3. Do the same for your computer, tablet, or PDA. A reboot (cold start) may help, as those devices tend to hold extraneous data that adversely affects performance.
4. We recommend that you watch and listen on YouTube versus Facebook as quality is better there, particularly for sound.

*(Continued onto next page.)*



### A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

The ministry of the women of the Chancel Society of St. John's – the care of the Altar, its linens, silver, frontals, floral decorations, and the vestments of the clergy – contributes greatly to the reverence and dignity of this parish's worship. In her seventeen years of service as President of the Chancel Society, Mrs. Roland (Sylvia) Summers built on the traditions she received from those who went before her. Under her courteous leadership a team of talented and faithful women have made the flowers and other appointments of the altar at St. John's a byword for excellence. This autumn Mrs. Summers has stepped down as President, and has been appointed President Emeritus of the Chancel Society. In recognition of her exemplary service, exquisite taste, unfailing courtesy, and devotion to our Lord and his Church, a sterling silver ciborium (a footed vessel which holds the hosts for Holy Communion) has been presented to St. John's, and will be blessed at this Sunday's 11 a.m. Eucharist.

Mrs. Jeanne Macmillan and Mrs. Linda Pounds have been appointed co-presidents of the Chancel Society, Mrs. Rhett (Wayne) Willis continuing as treasurer.

## PARISH PAPER ESSAY

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### THE SACRIFICE OF GRATITUDE

There is a restaurant in Los Angeles called Café Gratitude, and at this restaurant – unlike a New Jersey diner where one might be accosted by a seasoned waitress with a “whatcha want?” – the patron is greeted with a “question of the day,” something along the lines of “What are you thankful for?” Though I prefer not tell a perfect stranger that I’m grateful that my child recently learned to use the bathroom independently before ordering a \$17 black bean burger, I guess in some strange way it *might* disorient one’s perpetual self-focus by an acknowledgement of something outside of oneself – even if it is silly and (less than) half-hearted. And that I can, reluctantly, applaud. Yet the manner of ordering returns – in a no less awkward way than the “question of the day” – to the cultural norm of “self-affirmation.” The menu items: “Sharing” (nachos), “Enchanting” (warm broccolini), “Humble” (curry bowl), for example, are ordered by saying “*I am Humble*” or “*I am Enchanting*.” And missing no chance for awkward pseudo-positivity, the dishes are delivered by the server with an affirmation: “*You are Sharing*” (aka, “Here’s your nachos”).

While it’s always tempting simply to poke fun at cultural silliness from one’s theological high horse, it would be unfair to the truly positive effects that many have experienced from a “practice of gratitude.” While I feel comfortable denouncing the trappings of Café Gratitude – if not their food – as pure self-indulgent fluff, what might a Christian make of the more serious, if secular, practices of “cultivating gratitude” in one’s life? What might differentiate a truly Christian approach from the general cultural practice?

Psychology Today defines gratitude as follows: “Gratitude is the expression of appreciation for what one has. It is a recognition of value independ-

ent of monetary worth. *Spontaneously generated from within*, it is an affirmation of goodness and warmth.”<sup>1</sup>

Considering this definition, I want to suggest that there two ways that distinguish a Christian understanding of gratitude from our current cultural understanding: *the source and the end*.

First, *the source*. The above definition imagines that we don’t simply cultivate a “practice of gratitude” but that we “generate it from within.” It imagines that we are the primary agents, that we are *creating* something: “a feeling of goodness and warmth.” While the definition admits that there is something already existing – “what one has” — that we can be reflective about, it suggests that the serious work is one that the individual agent manifests.

A Christian view pushes back the needle to the primary agent of creation: *the Creator*. Whatever we have, a Christian affirms, is a gift from God, through whom all things exist, in whom “we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28). We cannot spontaneously generate anything from within ourselves, as we are creatures. We begin not even as those who are merely reflective upon some pre-existent goodness, but ultimately as those who are primarily *receptive*. And from that posture of receptivity, we recognize the distinction between the Creator and his creatures.

Secondly, we must address *the end* of gratitude. Culturally, the end (or we might say purpose or destination) of gratitude is, as noted above, “affirmation.” In one sense, this is not wholly wrong. In recognizing the condescension of God’s love, as expressed by his giving us life, and sustenance, and community, and even a share of agency, we are surely “affirmed” as the apple of his eye. Our life is not meaningless, just “one damned thing after

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<sup>1</sup> [www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/gratitude](http://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/gratitude)

## PARISH PAPER ESSAY

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another.” Most profoundly, Christians believe that God not only affirms us, but that he took on human nature. He not only tells us distantly that he loves us, but he gives us his very self in his Son, Jesus. And because of this unbelievable gift, the gift to us not simply of some benign “goodness and warmth,” but of life in him, we must respond.

But a Christian response, is not primarily a matter of individual agency: instead it is a corporate offering, in the liturgy we offer to God, in response to his gift of our very lives, “ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice.” We offer him a “sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.” Gratitude for a Christian is a recognition that *God is both the source and end of our lives*. In our birth he gave us life, and in our death we will entrust ourselves to him. Every time that we gather to worship it is an opportunity to stand back from the busyness of our lives and to recognize the endless gifts bestowed upon us by the God who loves us and gave himself for us.

In this week where the whole nation is giving thanks, let us offer back to God what he has given us: our very lives, in a sacrifice of gratitude.

– JIJ

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*(Continued from previous page.)*

Experience tells us that these steps will normally resolve any potential problems that you might experience. Then again, if you consider how many switches, servers, filters, miles of cable, software and satellites, etc., lie between the church and you, sometimes there’s trouble that cannot be explained. But if you are having persistent problems, please contact the church office and we will do our best to help resolve your issues.



## Advent & Christmas at St. John’s

SUNDAY, NOV. 27, 10–11 A.M.

Advent Wreath Making

Parishioners of all ages are encouraged to join us in Fellowship. Supplies will be provided.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 10 A.M. – NOON

Breakfast & Photos with Santa

Details at [StJohnsPreschool.org](http://StJohnsPreschool.org)

SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 4:30 P.M.

Tree Trimming (*Pageant rehearsal 3:30 p.m.*)\*

All ages are welcome to trim the Christmas tree in the church mall! Music and refreshments included. \*To participate in the pageant, email Sarah Ross, at [ross@stjohnssav.org](mailto:ross@stjohnssav.org).

SUNDAY, DEC. 18, 11 A.M.

Lessons & Carols (Eggnog at Coffee Hour)

Christmas carols and Scripture readings with coffee hour featuring homemade eggnog.

SATURDAY, DEC. 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

5 p.m. Christmas Pageant & Eucharist

11 p.m. Solemn Sung Eucharist

SUNDAY, DEC. 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist

TUESDAY, DEC. 27, 5:30 – 7 P.M.

St John’s Day Trolley & Caroling

Celebrate the third day of Christmas with light refreshments and Christmas caroling on trolleys through Savannah!

To find out more about our regular services and programs for our children and families, visit our website:

[StJohnsSav.org](http://StJohnsSav.org)



# 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  
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Verger – Mr. B. Ray Summerell .....(912) 777-9532 rsummerell@stjohnssav.org

### **Wardens and Vestry**

Senior Warden: Mrs. James S. McClellan, Jr. (Holly)  
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  
Co-President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Jeanne H. MacMillan & Mrs. Linda H. Pounds  
President Emeritus, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers  
President, Men of St. John's ..... Mr. Sean F. Finnegan