



# THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, November 27, 2022

11 a.m. Choral Mattins



## 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 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. The 11 a.m. is also livestreamed. **Please see page 10 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.

**For Guests and Visitors.** We extend a warm welcome to guests and visitors worshipping with us. **We invite you to join us for coffee hour in the Green-Meldrim House after the 11 a.m. service today.**

**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 – ADVENT

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This Sunday, the fourth before Christmas, the Church's Year begins with the season of Advent, which means the time of Christ's coming in the flesh. The Church is dressed in rich purple or violet hangings, the color that symbolizes preparation and repentance. (That's why the festal canticles *Te Deum* and *Gloria in Excelsis* are not sung in this season, and the altar flowers are muted.) Though ignored by many, Advent is a strangely thrilling season. As nature prepares for winter's long sleep, the Church calls the soul to awake. As the days grow darker, and the light fails, the Church calls us to open our eyes to the rising of a new and glorious sun. "Behold, thy king cometh unto thee". We look with growing hope and joy for the coming of Christ (which is what the word "advent" means). That's why the ancient custom in Advent is to read Isaiah, the "gospel prophet", the great witness of the coming of Christ. His advent in the flesh is threefold: past, present, and future. His first coming was in humility, born in a manger to die for sinners on the cross; he will come again, in all glory, to judge the world, and reap the harvest of salvation; but even now he is coming invisibly by his Spirit, wherever the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached, to make believers partakers of his kingdom. Many churches and families make an Advent wreath, a circle of evergreens on which four candles are progressively lit, to symbolize the growing hope and joy we have of Christ's coming to "lighten the darkness of our hearts". Advent is repentance, but it is also rejoicing.

# THE ORDER FOR MORNING PRAYER.

*(At the sound of the bell all kneel.)*

HYMN (*All stand.*) *Savior of the Nations Come*.....Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland



## Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

*Words, St. Ambrose 340-397, Martin Luther, 1524, trans. William M. Reynolds, 1860, alt.*

1. Savior of the nations, come;  
Virgin's Son, here make Thy home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood;  
By the Spirit of our God  
Was the Word of God made flesh,  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Wondrous birth! Oh wondrous child  
of the Virgin undefiled!  
Mighty God and Mary's son,  
eager now his race to run!
4. From the Father forth He came  
And returneth to the same,  
Captive leading death and hell  
High the song of triumph swell!
5. Thou, the Father's only Son,  
Hast over sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;  
When shall we its glories see?
6. Come, O Father's saving Son,  
who o'er sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall your kingdom be;  
grant that we its glories see.

## PREPARING IN PENITENCE

Repent ye, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. *St. Matt. iii. 2.*

Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah xl. 3.*

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

**Sentences and Exhortation** ..... Prayer Book, Page 3-6

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us . . .

**A General Confession** (*Said by all, kneeling.*)

**A**LMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. *Amen.*

(*Continue kneeling as priest stands to pronounce the Absolution.*)

**The Declaration of Absolution, or Remission of Sins** .....Prayer Book, page 7

**Lord's Prayer** (*said by all, kneeling*) .....Prayer Book, page 7

**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.*

**Opening Versicles & Responses** (*Sung by the choir*) .....William Smith

*Minister:* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Answer:* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise. (*All stand.*)

*Minister:* O God, make speed to save us.

*Answer:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Minister:* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

*Minister:* Praise ye the Lord.

*Answer:* The Lord's Name be praised.

## PRAISE OF GOD'S GLORY

*Antiphon:* Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O Come, let us adore him.

**Psalm 95. Venite, exultemus.** (*all stand*) .....Hymnal #606 (Macfarren)

*Antiphon:* Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O Come, let us adore him.

Psalm 85. *Benedixisti, Domine.* (Choir) .....Samuel Wesley, Prayer Book, page 446  
*The congregation is seated, and stands at "Glory be to the Father."*

The First Lesson (*All sit.*) Isaiah 1:1-20.

*An indictment of Israel's rebellion against God and a call to repentance.*

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth:  
for the LORD hath spoken,  
I have nourished and brought up children,  
and they have rebelled against me.

<sup>3</sup>The ox knoweth his owner,  
and the ass his master's crib:  
but Israel doth not know,  
my people doth not consider.

<sup>4</sup>Ah sinful nation,  
a people laden with iniquity,  
a seed of evildoers,  
children that are corrupters:  
they have forsaken the LORD,  
they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger,  
they are gone away backward.

<sup>5</sup>Why should ye be stricken any more?  
ye will revolt more and more:  
the whole head is sick,  
and the whole heart faint.

<sup>6</sup>From the sole of the foot even unto the head  
there is no soundness in it;  
but wounds, and bruises,  
and putrifying sores:  
they have not been closed, neither bound up,  
neither mollified with ointment.

<sup>7</sup>Your country is desolate,  
your cities are burned with fire:  
your land, strangers devour it in your presence,  
and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

<sup>8</sup>And the daughter of Zion is left  
as a cottage in a vineyard,

as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers,  
as a besieged city.

<sup>9</sup> Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant,  
we should have been as Sodom,  
and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom;  
give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

<sup>11</sup> To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me?  
saith the LORD:

I am full of the burnt offerings of rams,  
and the fat of fed beasts;  
and I delight not in the blood of bullocks,  
or of lambs, or of he goats.

<sup>12</sup> When ye come to appear before me,  
who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

<sup>13</sup> Bring no more vain oblations;  
incense is an abomination unto me;  
the new moons and sabbaths,  
the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with;  
it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

<sup>14</sup> Your new moons and your appointed feasts  
my soul hateth:  
they are a trouble unto me;  
I am weary to bear them.

<sup>15</sup> And when ye spread forth your hands,  
I will hide mine eyes from you:  
yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear:  
your hands are full of blood.

<sup>16</sup> Wash you, make you clean;  
put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes;  
cease to do evil;

<sup>17</sup> Learn to do well;  
seek judgment, relieve the oppressed,  
judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

<sup>18</sup> Come now, and let us reason together,  
saith the LORD:  
though your sins be as scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they be red like crimson,

they shall be as wool.

<sup>19</sup> If ye be willing and obedient,  
ye shall eat the good of the land:

<sup>20</sup> But if ye refuse and rebel,  
ye shall be devoured with the sword:  
for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

**Canticle** *The Advent Prose. (Sung by the choir - congregation may be seated.)*

*Refrain: Drop down, ye heavens, from above, \* and let the skies pour down righteousness [Isaiah 45:8].*

*Cantor: Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. [Isaiah 64:10, 11]*

*Refrain: Drop down, ye heavens, from above, \* and let the skies pour down righteousness [Isaiah 45:8].*

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. [Isaiah 64:6, 7]

*Refrain: Drop down, ye heavens, from above, \* and let the skies pour down righteousness [Isaiah 45:8].*

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. [Isaiah 43:10, 11, 13]

*Refrain: Drop down, ye heavens, from above, \* and let the skies pour down righteousness [Isaiah 45:8].*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry. I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. [Isaiah 40:1; 44:22; 43:3; Jeremiah 30:10]

*Refrain: Drop down, ye heavens, from above, \* and let the skies pour down righteousness [Isaiah 45:8].*

**The Second Lesson:** Romans 13:8 and St. Matthew 21:1 (*all sit*) ..... Prayer Book, pages 90-92

**CANTICLE:** Benedictus (*All stand.*) St. Luke 1:68. .... [Hymnal #638 \(Marsh\)](#)

## **PRAYERS FOR GOD'S GRACE**

**The Apostles' Creed** (*Said by all, standing*) ..... Prayer Book, page 15

**I** Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. *Amen.*

Versicles and Responses Prayer Book, page 16 (*Sung by the choir*) ..... William Smith

*Minister:* The Lord be with you. *Answer:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Minister:* Let us pray. (*All kneeling.*)

*Minister:* Lord, have mercy upon us. *Answer:* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Minister:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer (*Sung by the choir*)

**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. *Amen.*

*¶ The priest alone standing up shall say, and the choir sings the responses*

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

*Answer:* **And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the state.

*Answer:* **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

*Answer:* **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

*Answer:* **And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord,

*Answer:* **For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Answer:* **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

The Collect of Advent..... Prayer Book, page 90

The Collects for Peace and for Grace, Other Prayers.....Prayer Book, pages 17-20

For the Faithful Departed

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

*Minister:* Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord;

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

*Minister:* May they rest in peace. *Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom & the Grace ..... Prayer Book, page 20



Notices (*All sit.*)

HYMN (*All stand.*) #9 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*.....Merton

The Address (*All sit.*)

### THE OFFERING

Sentences (*All stand.*)

**W**hile we have time, let us do good unto all men; and especially unto them that are of the household of faith. *Gal. vi. 10.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*All sit.*) *Sleepers, Wake*.....Felix Mendelssohn

Sleepers, wake! a voice is calling, it is the watchman on the walls: thou city of Jerusalem! For lo! the Bridegroom comes! Arise, and take your lamps! Hallelujah! Awake, His kingdom is at hand!  
Go forth to meet your Lord!

At the Presentation of Alms and Oblations (*All stand.*)

#139 The Doxology.....Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; / Praise him all creatures here below; /  
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts; / Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*At the offering:* All things come of thee, O Lord  
*Answer:* **and of thine own have we given thee.**

*Minister:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Minister:* Let us pray. (*All kneel.*)

A General Thanksgiving (*May be said by all.*).....Prayer Book, page 19

**A**LMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Aaronic Blessing (*Remain kneeling.*)

HYMN (*All stand.*) #3 *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying*.....Sleepers, Wake

FINAL VOLUNTARY Choral, "Nun danket alle Gott".....Franz Liszt



## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

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### VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed

11 a.m. Mrs. Thomas McCay (Connie)

### USHER CHAIR

Mr. Robert L. Sparks

### CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara), Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea), Mrs. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie), Mrs. David A. Young (Pam), Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Sr. (Cathy), Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan, Ms. Linda H. Pounds, Mrs. William L. Belford Jr. ( Emily) and Mrs. Thomas M. McCay (Connie)

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents, by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Johnston.

And in loving memory of Louis Woodbury (Ray) Schmidt on the 108th anniversary of his birth, by his daughter, Susan; and his son, Peter.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Belford, Sr. by Mr. and Mrs. W. Lee Belford.

*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.*

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

### *New weekday schedule for Advent*

**Monday–Friday, Nov. 28–Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**Monday:** 5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Tuesday:** 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Wednesday:** 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*  
12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Church  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*  
9 p.m. *Sung Compline*, Church

**Thursday:** 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel  
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel

**Friday:** 5 p.m. *Evening Prayer with Holy Communion*, Chapel

### **Saturday:**

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

### **Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>,**

#### **Second Sunday in Advent**

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

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

10 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*,  
Cranmer Hall/Chapel/Zoom

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church/Online

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

5 p.m. *Youth Group*, Cranmer Hall

## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

### ADVENT WREATH MAKING TODAY

**10-11 a.m., Fellowship Hall.** All parishioners are invited to make wreaths for Advent, which begins this 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 [sross@stjohnssav.org](mailto:sross@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.

### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL RECOMMENDATION

In conjunction with our Thursday evening Advent programming, the Rector and Associate Rector would like to recommend a daily devotional for this important time in the Church Year. The book, *The Art of Advent* by Jane Williams (theology professor and wife of Rowan Williams), offers daily theological reflections on beloved works of art from Advent through Epiphany. This is a wonderful way to begin each morning with our Lord as we prepare our hearts for his advent (coming), meditating on his nativity and anticipating his coming again. To view online visit, [IVPress.com/the-art-of-advent](http://IVPress.com/the-art-of-advent)

### 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".



## 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 [sross@stjohnssav.org](mailto:sross@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)



## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

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### 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.

### 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.

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.

### 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.



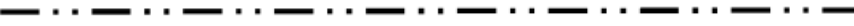
**Christmas 2022**  
**Wreaths, Garlands and Poinsettias**

*For the decoration of St. John's Church*

**Poinsettia - \$35 each Wreath/Garland - \$80 each**

To order a decoration please complete this form and include a check payable to St. John's Chancel Society. Forms may be submitted in the offering plate or directly to the church office.

Dedications will be published in the January 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Paper.



**Giver Name(s):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the how many of each type of decoration and the dedication

\_\_\_\_\_ **Poinsettias**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Wreaths/Garlands**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IN THANKSGIVING FOR, IN HONOR OF, OR IN CELEBRATION OF:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact the Church Office—(912) 232-1251

### THE LAST JUDGMENT (II)

It is often said that the Christ depicted in Michelangelo's fresco of the Last Judgment in the Sistine Chapel is an image of divine wrath; and the entire fresco is interpreted in light of this reading. As Steinberg notes, "Begin by seeing an angry God, and the Madonna and saints will be quaking in fear, the martyrs inciting their Lord by calling for vengeance ... and the whole turn into a *Dies Irae*". Yet, as we noted already, the figure of Christ is depicted without wrath, in the imperturbable impassivity of an impartial Judge. The Madonna is not quaking in fear, but cleaving as close as possible to the body of her Son, the way one does for comfort: for comfort is what he brings the saints. The supposed clamor of the martyrs for vengeance is more plausibly a pleading for the vindication of their faithfulness in suffering, whose tokens they bear. Moreover, (as we have seen in the first part of this essay), the greater part of the fresco is taken up with images of resurrection, exaltation, and the exultation of the redeemed with the saints in glory. Still, the ascent of the redeemed (on Christ's right hand and our left) has its counterpart in the descent of the damned (on Christ's left hand, and our right), who are being thrust down by the avenging angels and dragged down by malicious demons, before being loaded into Charon's boat for further transportation – a figure drawn not from Scripture, but from classical mythology, by means of Dante's *Inferno*. In the imagination of theological liberalism, as Neibuhr said, "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a Kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross." As there is no love without wrath – no "yes" to the wellbeing of the beloved that entails a "no" to all that would exploit, oppress, or destroy the beloved – so there is not loving God without wrath; yet it is not a wrath in God himself, but in sinners,

in so far as they set themselves against his just and holy love. God's wrath, moreover, is not the imposition of some arbitrary punishment from without, but simply this, that God allows us to have our way, and to experience the consequences we do not want, but which follow of necessity from the choices we have made and willed.

Apparently not immune to the attractions of theological liberalism, Steinberg works hard to claim Michelangelo's fresco for a milder vision, though even he acknowledges the evidence is far from conclusive, and the reader may be unconvinced. Yet Steinberg is correct in one respect, concerning the nature of the torments Michelangelo depicts. He points to the famous figure of the "stricken shameface" closest to Christ among the damned, who covers one eye with his hand, as two fiends drag him down and a serpent gnaws at his loins. "But his mind" Steinberg notes "careless of outer torture, squirms in exposure to its own ghastly eye. It is not the pangs of the sensible body nor fear of the pains to come that torments, but horror of guilt. This dire image... so prominent in the overall scheme of grace, built, and rejection, expresses a notion... that the pains of hell are but the shame and remorse of the sinner made aware of his state; that the undying worm spoken of in Holy Writ is not applied physical torture but psychic agony".

In this regard as in others Michelangelo's fresco is at odds with the counter-reformation orthodoxies that were to be affirmed at the Council of Trent, which opened in 1545, four years after the unveiling of the fresco. Like his muse, the aristocratic poet Vittoria Colonna, Michelangelo must be counted among the "spirituali", catholics of the Roman obedience who had nonetheless embraced "Lutheran" ideas of justification by faith alone, and hopes for the regeneration of a corrupt church. Under her influence Michelangelo – who had been deeply

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affected by the austere penitential preaching of Savonarola in his youth – had undergone a conversion in the 1530s, prior to the painting of the Last Judgment; and in the same decade the reformist ideas of the spirituali were very much in play, even at the highest levels of the curia. By the time the fresco was unveiled on All Souls Day 1541, however, the tide had begun to flow the other way, and Michelangelo's own painting would narrowly escape total destruction at the hands of Counter-reformation puritans. Michelangelo's faith belongs neither to the puritanical strain of the Counter-reformation nor to the cheap optimism of Liberal Christianity: it's not impossible for us to find in his witness to judgment and mercy a kindred spirit to the reformed Catholicism that was emerging at the same time in the Church of England.

– GGD

### OTHER PRAYERS FOR ADVENT

**STIR UP**, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy power and come: that from the dangers of our sins which beset us we may be set free by thy protection, and saved by thy deliverance; who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

**GRANT**, O Almighty God, that as thy blessed Son Jesus Christ at his first advent didst come to seek and to save that which was lost; so at his second and glorious appearing he may find in us the fruits of the redemption which he wrought, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

**O GOD**, who wouldest fold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of thy great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows; and give peace to thy Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts; through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**O THOU**, who hast foretold that thou wilt return to judgment in an hour of which we are not aware, grant us grace to watch and pray always, that whether thou shalt come at even, or at midnight, or in the morning, we may be found among the number of those servants who shall be blessed in waiting for their Lord; to whom be all glory now and for evermore. *Amen.*

# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

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