



SEPTUAGESIMA

Sunday, February 5, 2023

11 a.m. Holy Communion



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 non-holiday Sunday schedule is: 8 a.m. Holy Communion in the church; **Please note that starting in February our 9 a.m. Family Worship Service will have a new schedule** (Morning Prayer in the church on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month and Holy Communion in the chapel on the second and 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. Morning Prayer is online each weekday at 8:15 a.m. **Please see page 7 for this week's services or visit StJohnsSav.org.**

Children's Nursery. This 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 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

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 – THE GESIMA SUNDAYS

In the Church's ancient calendar there are three Sundays before Lent, with quaint old Latin names - Septuagesima, (which means 'seventieth'); Sexagesima ('sixtieth'), and Quinquagesima (fiftieth). Obviously, we are in a countdown first to Lent (once known as Quadragesima, in reference to its forty days), and ultimately to Easter itself, the festival of our redemption. Long before we begin the observance of Lent and its corporate disciplines of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, the Church announces its approach and invites us to prepare for it. As the Eastern Orthodox theologian Alexander Schmemmann put it, "the Church knows our inability to change rapidly, to go abruptly from one spiritual or mental state to another. Thus, long before the actual effort of Lent is to begin, the Church calls our attention to its seriousness and invite us to meditate on its significance. Before we practice Lent we are given its meaning". In Epiphany we celebrated the transformation to which we are called by the grace of Christ; now in the Sundays before Lent we consider how this transformation requires our disciplined effort. Though good works do not earn us God's grace and favor, in good works do we testify to our gratitude to the grace we have received, and in them we are also sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In general the lessons of these Sundays represent the corporate disciplines of Lent in images of purposeful, fruitful labor and pilgrimage. In particular they address the purpose of fasting (on Septuagesima), of prayer (on Sexagesima), and of almsgiving (on Quinquagesima), the three Biblical practices (Matthew 6:1-18) by which we bring forth "fruits worthy of repentance" (Luke 3:8). "Why stand ye here all the day idle? Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive" (Matthew 20:6, 7).

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

Arise, shine; for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. *Isaiah 60:1*

HYMN #288 *O Worship the King*..... Hanover

THE ANTE-COMMUNION

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 #701 (p. 743)..... John Merbecke

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 Collect of the Day (*All kneel.*)..... Prayer Book, p. 114

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 1: 1-5, 26-28, 31, 2:1-3. *God's work in creating the world.*

IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ²And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. ³And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

²⁶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

³¹And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

The Epistle (*all sit*) 1 Corinthians 9:24-27Prayer Book, pages 119

HYMN (*all stand*) #573 *Go, Labor On!*.....Angel’s Song (Song 34)

The Holy Gospel (*all stand*) St. Matthew 20:1 Prayer Book, pages 119-120

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.*)

Ye shall not appear before the LORD empty; every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee. *Deut. xvi. 16, 17.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*all sit*) *Fight the Good Fight*..... John Gardner

Fight the good fight with all thy might. Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on line, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God’s good grace, lift up thine eyes and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies, Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy guide; His boundless mercy will provide; Trust, and thy trusting
soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; He changeth not, and thou art dear; only believe, and
thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee. Amen!

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.**

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

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 WordsPrayer 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 ...**

Proper Preface for Epiphany.....Prayer Book, p. 77

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS #704 & #796..... John Merbecke
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 #706 (Hymnal, page 749) John Merbecke

- 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.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY *Agnus Dei* Georges Bizet, Arr. Harry R. Shelley

HYMN #463 *O Thou Who Camest From Above* Hereford

COMMUNION MOTET *Psalm 121* Walford Davies
(Text found in Prayer Book, p. 502,)

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

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

HYMN #272 *Thou Whose Almighty Word*..... Moscow

FINAL VOLUNTARY *Toccata in f minor*..... Edna L. Manifold



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRS

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
11 a.m. Mr. Mark D. Stevens

USHER CHAIR

Mr. Robert L. Sparks

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mr. & Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara), Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea), Mrs. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie), Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally), Mrs. W. Lee Bedford, Sr. (Cathy), Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr. (Penny), Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan, Ms. Linda H. Pounds, Mrs. David A. Reid (Richie), and Mrs. Thomas McCay (Connie)

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.

The flowers on the baptismal font are given in honor of the Christening of Elizabeth Buchanan Adams, daughter of Dr. Richard Adams, on February 4, 2023.

To offer flowers for the Altar, call the Church office at 912-232-1251. After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-in.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Monday–Friday, Feb. 6–10th

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

Monday: 5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

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

Sunday, Feb. 12th, Sexagesima

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
9 a.m. *Family Holy Communion*, Chapel
10 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*, Cranmer Hall/Chapel/Zoom
11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Church/Online
12:15 p.m. *Coffee Hour*, Green-Meldrim

SAVE THESE UPCOMING DATES:

- **2/6: Women of St. John's Board Meeting**, 10 a.m., Green-Meldrim
- **2/6: Oyster Roast** discounted tickets end
- **2/9: Word at Work, Session #3**, 12:15-1:15 p.m., Cranmer Hall
- **2/11: Annual Oyster Roast & BBQ**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Camp Villa Marie
- **2/15: PACK**, 4:30-6 p.m., 4 Mall Terrace
- **2/19: Youth Group & Parents' Night Out**, 5-7 p.m., Cranmer Hall
- **2/20: Presidents' Day**, Church office closed
- **2/21: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast**, Cranmer Hall
- **2/22: Ash Wednesday services**, 7 a.m. in chapel, noon & 5 p.m. in the church

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

TWO NEW SUNDAY CLASSES!

Every Sunday through Palm Sunday, starting, Feb. 5th, at 10 a.m.

The Cardinal Virtues (3rd Floor, Cranmer Hall): Parishioner Cody Moran will offer a class for adults this Lent — a season in which, by God’s grace, we seek to throw off the tyranny of the world and the flesh in our hearts through fasting and self-denial in imitation of our Lord. However, a negative chastisement of our souls and bodies will produce only a limited spiritual freedom unless our inordinate passions are replaced by some positive good. As Christ himself said, “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.” (Luke 11:24-26). Therefore, this class will seek to understand those positive goods which the tradition calls the cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. With the help of readings (provided) from St. Thomas Aquinas and Josef Pieper’s *Four Cardinal Virtues*, we will not only seek to know these virtues in an intellectual way, but will also investigate ways we can apply them practically during this Lenten season. If interested, notify the Church office.

The class will use two resources: *The Four Cardinal Virtues* by Josef Pieper and *Summa Theologica* by St. Thomas Aquinas

Adult Confirmation & Reception into Membership (in the chapel): The Rector is offering a new class for adults seeking Confirmation, reception into membership at St John’s, or a refresher/introduction to the Anglican tradition of Christianity. The class will touch on the history of Anglicanism, and its distinctive approach to Christian faith and worship. If interested, notify the Church office .

SUPER MUSEUM SUNDAY TODAY

From 1-4 p.m., participating sites, including the Green-Meldrim House, will open for free admission. For a list of sites, times, and more details, please visit GeorgiaHistoryFestival.org.

THE WOMEN OF ST. JOHN’S

Every woman who is a member of St. John’s Church is a member of the Women of St. John’s organization. The next Board meeting is at 10 a.m. **Monday, Feb. 6th** in the Green-Meldrim House.

ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST & BARBECUE

Tomorrow is the last day to take advantage of discounted prices!

The Men of St. John’s are hosting the Annual Oyster Roast & BBQ on **Saturday, Feb. 11th** at Camp Villa Marie, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oysters are served at 11:30 a.m.; BBQ and hot dogs are served at 1 p.m. All bakers are encouraged to bring a dessert to share. You may purchase advanced tickets by Monday, Feb. 6th by calling the church office or visiting the website at StJohnsSav.org/oyster. Prices are \$40/adults, \$30/guest, \$10/youth, Children under 5 are free. After Feb. 6th, tickets may only be purchased at the door for \$5 more. For questions, contact Sean Finnegan at 912-441-3267 or savfinn@gmail.com.

You may also enter to win a stunning, framed oyster photograph donated by Winslett Watson. This fine art print is valued at \$2,400. Tickets are available online at StJohnsSav.org/oyster or at the door for \$5 each, 5 for \$20, or 15 for \$50. The winning ticket will be drawn at 2:30 p.m. at the Oyster Roast. The winner does not need to be present to win.

JUNIOR CHANCEL SOCIETY

The young women of St John’s Youth Group will begin working with the Chancel Society **Saturday, Feb. 11th** to arrange altar flowers in the chapel for the 9 a.m. Family Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays. They’ll have hands-on experience in

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

an artistic skill for which St. John's is well-known; and the privilege of contributing in a special way to the congregation's worship. If you are a St. John's member who is a young lady in grades 4-12 interested in the Junior Chancel Society, email Coren Ross at mom4travel@aol.com.

JOIN US FOR P.A.C.K. THIS MONTH

Volunteers from St. John's will pack bags **Wednesday, Feb. 15th** from 4:30-6 p.m. All are welcome to join our intergenerational group of volunteers who pack bags every first and third Wednesdays of the month. All children must be accompanied by at least one parent. Please email emilinebaxter@gmail.com with questions.

THE WORD AT WORK

The next session of our eight-part lunch series on how different parts of the Bible fit together is **Thursday, Feb. 23rd** at 12:15 p.m. in Cranmer Hall. You may sign up for any session at StJohnsSav.org/Word. The remaining sessions are: Feb. 23rd; March 9th & 30th; and April 13th & 27th. Registration is required: \$25 per session, which includes lunch catered by The Dive Savannah.

THE NEXT SECOND SUNDAY SUPPERS

If you are looking to connect with fellow parishioners in a more intimate setting, you may wish to sign-up for the next supper on **Sunday, March 12th**, which is being co-hosted by Mrs. Cathy Jarman and Mr. Rick Wright in the Midtown/31406 area. We won't hold a supper in April due to Easter and May's supper — hosted by Coren & Rusty Ross — is moving to **May 21st** due to Mother's Day the previous Sunday. If you are interested in attending either supper, please call the Church Office at (912) 232-1251.

If you're interested in hosting or co-hosting a supper, please call Coren Ross (912) 398-6884 to reserve the date of your preference.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023

The Maryland State Boychoir
Young Men's Chorus - LIVE IN CONCERT

Sacred Heart Church
1707 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401

CONCERT - 7:30 PM
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THE MARYLAND STATE BOYCHOIR

SAVANNAH ANTIQUES & ARCHITECTURE WEEKEND (SAAW)

March 9-11, 2023

Become a patron of the seventh annual Savannah Antiques & Architecture Weekend, which will celebrate the influence of Savannah's antiques and architecture on great works of art, while helping to preserve the Green-Meldrim House and the Andrew Low House Museum. To learn more, purchase tickets, or become a patron, visit SavAntiquesWeekend.com.

GIFT A PIECE OF ST. JOHN'S HISTORY

Are you looking to find a unique gift to mark a holiday, birthday, or anniversary? For a \$100 donation, gift a unique piece of St. John's Church history with a limited-edition memento of a wooden plank of the Nave's original flooring. These planks include a beautiful commemorative plate and the limited-edition number. Funds raised from these planks will be used for a much-needed refurbishment of the Choir Room, on the third floor above office and chapel, where the organist and choir prepare the music that adorns our worship. Email crmccay50@comcast.net with your details and we can ship to you.

PARISH PAPER ESSAY

LOVE AND WRATH

Last week some of us attended the “Mere Anglicanism” conference in Charleston, hosted by our neighbours in the Anglican diocese of Charleston. The topic was “Telling a More Beautiful Story: Lessons from C.S. Lewis on Reaching a Fractured World”. Lewis is one of the few Anglicans in the 20th century to find readers right across the theological spectrum from Roman Catholic to Evangelical (a spectrum represented in the conference speakers.) An Oxford don, and a literary historian whose work on medieval and renaissance literature remains standard in the field, he experienced a “reluctant conversion” to the Christian faith, and became (rather to the dismay of his academic colleagues) a writer of apologetics for a popular audience, with a celebrity that has only increased since his death in 1963. (“Apologetics” does not mean “apologizing” for the Christian faith but rather defending and commending it by rational persuasions.) Like countless others, I myself have a personal debt to Lewis, as the reading of his *Screwtape Letters* as a teenager did more than anything to bring about my own conversion. His other works – *The Great Divorce*, *The Abolition of Man*, *Mere Christianity*, to name only a few – did much to strengthen it.

The speakers at the Charleston conference were polished communicators, and if at times the curmudgeonly clergy in our party would have preferred a bit more to chew on, even they could not complain about what was said in such an accessible fashion. Some speakers discussed Lewis’ apologetic works; others sought to bring his apologetic approach to the current climate. The impressive woman director of the Oxford Center for Christian Apologetics bravely broached apologetics in today’s social justice culture, from a conservative Christian feminist perspective

sympathetic to oppressed and abused women. As she noted, Christianity is not indifferent to injustice: the certainty that every wrongdoer will have to face an exact justice for wrongdoing, is an integral element of the Christian belief. In Christian moral teaching, as has been noted here before, love is not incompatible with justice. To the contrary, one cannot speak of God’s love without acknowledging his wrath against injustice; for the love that seeks the wellbeing of the beloved must resist all that abuses or oppresses the beloved, or it is not love at all. Love without wrath is merely sentimental enabling. An effective apologetic will thus align the gospel in authentic solidarity with women who are abused or oppressed. Not only is there justice for the offender, but there is also justice for the victim: it’s called resurrection.

To those impatient for justice *now*, however, I doubt this would go far enough – and this is where I would have liked the Oxford speaker to have said more. Why wait for justice yet to come instead of demanding it *now*? The assurance of an eternal justice for a woman who has been raped or abused may seem like another version of “pie in the sky when you die by and by”. The same demand for justice *now* underlies the idea that anything less than condemnation of a wrongdoer amounts to the condoning of wrongdoing, a stance that leaves little room for tolerance of other points of view, much less compassion, forgiveness, or reconciliation. This same demand for justice underlies the intolerance of other views in our present “cancel culture”, and the echo chambers, purity tests, and rotating execution squads that characterize our public discourse on moral and political issues. How can there be a compassion that is not enabling? And a justice that is not hasty and harsh? How can there be room for the tolerance of opposing views that is necessary to critical thinking? (Without tolerance for opposing views it is unlikely that once-unpopular views on


PARISH PAPER ESSAY

equal rights for women or blacks would ever have gained credence in the first place.) Populist applause-lines and group-think are no substitute for the hard work of discerning truth.

Ironically, the judgmentalism of which Christians used to be accused is now what the social justice culture demands: and instead Christianity is accused of an enabling compassion. To say that the cost of forgiveness – the penalty of wrongdoing – has been paid on the cross is certainly true; but it is a truth unlikely to be convincing to a social-justice warrior. To my mind,

a robust apologetic argument needs to establish by careful argumentation the problems of harsh judgmentalism and the need for the reconciliation of justice and compassion that is found in and through the cross – and how Christians might model this reconciliation of justice and mercy in their own responses to injustice. The Christian moral tradition has a wealth of profound reflection on this question. This is the “more beautiful story” we must learn to tell, if we expect to persuade a confused and hurting world.

– GGD




Solemn Choral Evensong
for **Candlemas**

Sunday, February 5, 2023 ■ 5:05 p.m.

**If you've never been to an evensong,
discover the beauty of this ancient
tradition of worship in song.**

Featuring Organist, Steven Branyon, and
the choir of St. John's Church presenting
the music of Ouseley, Woodward, and Parsons

No admission. Free parking is available.
Livestream link on StJohnsSav.org



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH

Worship in the Anglican Tradition

325 Bull St, Savannah, GA ■ 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
Associate Rector – The Rev. Jonathan Jameson.....(858) 583-2309 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
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Junior Warden: Mr. E. Brian Culver
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.,
Dr. J. Davidson Carson (David), Mr. E. Brian Culver, Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry),
Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings (Stacy), Mrs. Thomas C. McCay (Connie), Mrs. Paul M. Pressly (Jane),
Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth), Mr. Robert L. Sparks, Mr. Mark D. Stevens, and Mr. Richard Wright (Rick)

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., 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