



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 12, 2023

11 a.m. Morning Prayer



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; Our 9 a.m. Family Worship Service has 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 visit StJohnsSav.org for upcoming services or page 8 of this booklet for our weekday worship during Lent.**

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! We encourage you to join us for coffee hour after the service.

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**.

Ways to Give: To support the ministries at St. John's Church, you may choose to give in several ways.

- **Collection Plate** – You may give in the offering, perhaps using an offering envelope.
- **Text** – Simply text 1928BCP to 73256 and receive a link where you can donate online.
- **Online** – Visit our website at StJohnsSav.org and click GIVE (top right of menu)
- **Automated** – Give automatically by setting up bill pay through your checking account.
- **Mail** – Send your check to St. John's Church, 1 West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

HOW WE WORSHIP AND WHY – POSTURE & GESTURE IN WORSHIP

In the Anglican tradition of worship, we are encouraged to worship the Lord in and through our bodies, using our bodies to reinforce the alignment of their souls. For instance, we may cross ourselves at various points in the liturgy (especially the end of the creed, the absolution and blessing), we bow at the name of Jesus (at least in the creed), and genuflect (kneeling briefly on the right knee) at “and was incarnate”. Standing and kneeling are the two primary modes of worshipping the Lord – we stand to honor the Lord; we kneel, to humble ourselves. Sitting is reserved for listening to lessons from Scripture (but not the gospel at the Eucharist) or sermons – it's not a posture of prayer. Except when a prayer moves quickly into or out of a discourse, it is always better to stand or kneel than it is to sit “like bumps on a log”. Commonly, the worshipper joins hands, palm to palm, a gesture that originated in the Middle Ages, when a vassal knelt and placed his hands between the hands of his liege lord, to swear him fealty. For priests, the body-language of prayer is more elaborate, and retains ancient gestures (still found among ordinary worshippers in the Middle East and eastern Europe). Central to this is the *orans* (“praying”) stance, when the priest “lifts up his hands” to the Lord (Pss 134:3; 141:1) – spreading and holding them just in front of and below the shoulders – as if he were waiting for someone to throw him a beach ball. If joining hands is a gesture of sworn fidelity, lifting them up in this fashion is a gesture of receptivity.

THE ORDER FOR MORNING PRAYER.

(At the sound of the bell all kneel)

HYMN (*All stand*) #61 *The Glory of These Forty Days*.....Spires

PREPARING IN PENITENCE

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.
Proverbs 28:13

¶ Then the Minister shall say,

Sentences and ExhortationPrayer Book, Page 3-6

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us . . .

A General Confession (Said by all, kneeling)

ALMIGHTY 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

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.*

Opening Versicles & Responses Prayer Book, page 7

Minister: O Lord, open thou our lips. *Answer:* **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Minister: O God, make speed to save us. *Answer:* **O Lord, make haste to help us. (*All stand*)**

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

Psalm 95. *Venite, exultemus. (all stand)*.....Hymnal #610 (Rimbault)

Psalm 9. *Confitebor tibi*..... Prayer Book, pages 351-352

Praise and prayer of the faithful for deliverance from malice of their enemies.

The Old Testament Lesson (*All sit*) Genesis 37:2-36. *Christ prefigured in Joseph, beloved son of his father, who suffers the envy and malice of his brothers.*

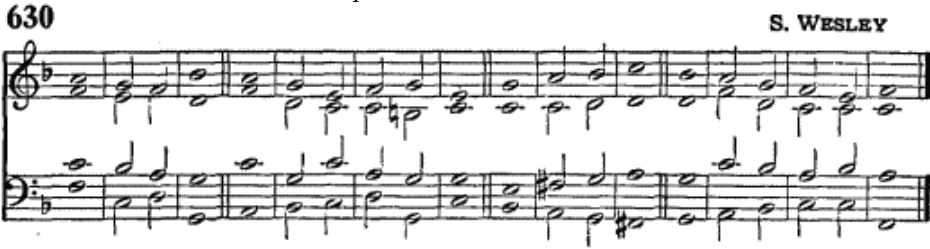
THESE are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. ⁴And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. ⁵And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. ⁶And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: ⁷For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. ⁸And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. ⁹And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. ¹⁰And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? ¹¹And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

¹²And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. ¹³And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I. ¹⁴And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. ¹⁵And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou? ¹⁶And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks. ¹⁷And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan. ¹⁸And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. ¹⁹And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. ²⁰Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. ²¹And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. ²²And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. ²³And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; ²⁴And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. ²⁵And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

²⁸Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt. ²⁹And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. ³⁰And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go? ³¹And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; ³²And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to

their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. ³³And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. ³⁴And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him. ³⁶And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

CANTICLE (*All stand.*) *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*.....#630 (Wesley)



- O** all ye Works of the Lord, / bless · ye the / Lord:
praise him and magnify / him for / **ever**.
2. O ye Angels of the Lord, / bless · ye the / Lord:
praise him and magnify / him for / **ever**.
 3. O ye Heavens, / bless · ye the / Lord:
O ye Waters that be above the / firma · ment / bless · ye the / Lord:
 4. O all ye Powers of the Lord, O ye / Sun and Moon,
O ye Stars of / heaven, / bless · ye the / Lord:
 5. O ye Showers and Dew, O ye / Winds of / God,
O ye Fire and / **Heat**, / bless · ye the / Lord:
 6. O ye Winter and Summer, O ye / Frost and Cold,
O ye Ice and / **Snow**, / bless · ye the / Lord:
 7. O ye Nights and Days, / bless · ye the / Lord:
O ye Light and / Darkness, / bless · ye the / Lord:
 8. O ye Lightnings and Clouds, / bless · ye the / Lord:
praise him and magnify / him for / **ever**
 9. O let the Earth / bless the / Lord:
yea! let it praise him and magnify / him for / **ever**.
 10. O ye Mountains and Hills, O all ye Green Things up-/on the / earth,
O ye Wells, O ye Seas and / **Floods**, / bless · ye the / Lord.
 11. O ye Whales and all that move in the waters, / bless · ye the / Lord:
O all ye Fowls of the air, O all ye Beasts and / Cattle, / bless · ye the / Lord:
 12. O ye Children of Men, / bless · ye the / Lord:
praise him and magnify / him for / **ever**.
 13. O let Israel / bless the / Lord:
praise him and magnify / him for / **ever**.

14. O ye priests of the Lord, O ye Servants / of the / Lord,
 O ye Spirits and Souls of the / Righteous, / bless · ye the / Lord:
15. O ye holy and humble Men of heart, / bless · ye the / Lord:
 praise him and magnify / him for / **ever**.
16. Let us bless the Father and the Son and the / Holy / Ghost:
 praise him and magnify him for / ever. / **A** / men.

The New Testament Lessons: (*All sit*) Ephesians 5:1 and St. Luke 11:14 Prayer Book, pages 128-130

CANTICLE *Benedictus* (*All stand*) St. Luke 1:68.....Hymnal #634 (Turtle)

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

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 (*Said by all*)

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. *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 Collects of the Day..... Prayer Book, pages 128, 124

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*) #416 *O For a Closer Walk With God*.....Caithness

The Address (*All sit*)

THE OFFERING

Sentences (*All stand*)

Charge them who are rich in this world, that they be ready to give, and glad to distribute; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may attain eternal life. 1 *Tim. vi.*

ANTHEM (*All sit*) *The Road to The Lamb* (Hymn # 416)T. Frederick H. Candlyn

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

#732 *All Things Are Thine* (Hymnal, page 787)Gardiner

All things are thine; no gift have we, Lord of all gifts, to offer thee;

And hence with grateful hearts today Thine own before thy feet we lay. *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

ALMIGHTY 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*) #551 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*.....Ein' Feste Burg

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir*.....Johann Pachebel



Reproductions of "A Man of Sorrows," by artist Sean Marnul are on display in the archways of St. John's Church during the Lenten season. Stop by to view and reflect on these twelve powerful, expressionistic works.

12:15 P.M. COFFEE HOUR, GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE

All are welcome to join us for this special time of fellowship.

VOLUNTEER TUTORING OPPORTUNITY

Our long time outreach partner, Urban Hope, is in need of tutors during their afterschool (3-5 p.m.). Please contact the Church office at 912-232-1251 if you are interested.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Monday–Thursday, March 13–16th

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

Monday: 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*

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*, Chapel

11:50 a.m. *Litany &*
Holy Communion, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

9 p.m. *Service of Compline*, Church

Thursday: 8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*

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

Friday, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day

9 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel
(Church office closed. No other services.)

Saturday:

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, March 19th, Lent IV

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

5-7 p.m. *Youth Group & Parents' Night Out*,
Cranmer Hall (Sign-up required)

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR: 8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed and 11 a.m. Mrs. Holtzclaw (Sherry)

USHER CHAIR: Mr. Robert B. Turner (Bart)

CHANCEL SOCIETY: Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mr. & Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara), Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea), Mrs. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie), Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Sr. (Cathy), Ms. Laura M. Reid, and Ms. Lydia Wright

JUNIOR CHANCEL: Mrs. Joseph R. Ross (Coren), Mrs. Frank Peluso (Meredith), and Miss Gigi Peluso

COFFEE HOUR CHAIR: Mrs. David A. Reid (Richie)

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory of our beloved Nellie Schmidt on her birthday by Peter and Rencie Schmidt.

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

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

A chasuble and stole have been given to the glory of God and in memory of Martha Littlefield Summerell by Mr. and Mrs. Timothy E. Coy

A pulpit fall and antependia have been given to the glory of God and in memory of Father Perry Michael Smith by Mrs. Timothy E. Coy and Father J. Patrick Hunt.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARKING NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



We now have spaces available for the public, or for parishioners to buy an additional spot! It costs \$25 to reserve a parking spot on **Friday, March 17th**, from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. To reserve with a credit/debit card, use the QR code.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

OUTDOOR LENTEN ARTWORK



For those who were unable to attend last Sunday's opening of the art exhibit, "A Man of Sorrows," by artist Sean Marnul, reproductions of these commissioned pieces are on display in the archways of St. John's Church for the public to interact with during the Lent season. Stop by to view and reflect on these twelve powerful, expressionistic works.

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

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

PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY USA CONFERENCE

Is there an Anglican Theology?

This conference, which runs **Thursday, March 23rd to Saturday, March 25th** in the Ralston Room of Cranmer Hall, will cover perennial topics of classical Anglicanism while inviting a fresh encounter with the very foundations of our faith. Speakers will include: Bishop Peter Robinson, Bradford Littlejoy, Deborah Sugar, Gavin Dunbar, and Drew Nathaniel Keane. Registration is \$125 (student/other discounts are available). Visit StJohnsSav.org/PBS for details.

PBS USA CONFERENCE CHORAL EVENSONG

You are invited to attend this Evensong next **Thursday, March 23rd** at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Church, which is being held in conjunction with the Prayer Book Society USA Conference. It's open to the public and no registration is needed.

EASTER OUTFIT COLLECTION UNTIL MARCH 19TH

We're collecting new girls' size 6 spring/Easter outfits, dresses, shoes (size 12/13), and accessories for the St. John's sponsored clothing closet at P.A.C.K. Contact Elaine Barrow at 912-856-1774 to arrange a pick-up or place donations into the collections basket in the foyer of Cranmer Hall from **March 1-19th**.

YOUTH GROUP + PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Our next Youth Group is **Sunday, March 19th** from 5-7 p.m. in Cranmer Hall. Students are studying spiritual beings. If your child is not old enough for youth group, we have nursery available. Please sign-up at StJohnsSav.org/youth and bring \$20/family.

WOMEN'S QUIET DAY, MARCH 29TH

All women of St. John's Church are invited to this year's Quiet Day on **Wednesday, March 29th** beginning at 10 a.m. in the Green-Meldrim House. If you'd like to attend, call the Church office at 912-232-1251 so we may have a headcount for lunch.

NEXT FAITH + FICTION

The next Faith + Fiction is on **Wednesday, March 29th** at 5:30 p.m. in the Green-Meldrim House. They'll discuss *The Death of Ivan Illych* by Leo Tolstoy. All are welcome to join this theologically focused book discussion. The only requirement is to read the book.

The upcoming selections are:

- **Wednesday, April 26:** *Babette's Feast & Sorrow-Acre* by Isak Dinesen
- **Wednesday, May 24:** *Persuasion* by Jane Austen

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S

Enrollment for summer camp 2023 and the 2023-24 school year is now open! The preschool located on the second floor in Cranmer Hall offers weekly classes ranging from infants to Pre-kindergarten. To learn more about their summer camps (June 5-August 18) and their upcoming Fall/Spring classes or to register, please visit StJohnsPreschool.org.

(Continued on page 11.)

PARISH PAPER ESSAY

PLANS AND CHANCES (II)

The account of Joseph and his brothers with which Genesis ends, is a strange story of mischances and misfiring plans, in which we may well doubt whether God knows what he is doing, let alone his chosen people! Last week I reviewed the oddities of its beginning in the thirty-seventh chapter, and I cannot do the same for the remaining thirteen. Those of you familiar with the story will have guessed what I was trying to bring to light, the strange way that God's plan and purpose works in and through the mischances and misfired plans and intentions of human beings. Joseph's own arrogant dreams of superior status that excite his brothers' angry malice, Jacob's sending Joseph to visit them, the stranger met in the field "by chance" who tells Joseph where to find them; the Midianites who scoop up Joseph and sell him to the Ishmaelites, foiling Reuben's plan to rescue him; the acceptance of Reuben's own mistaken report of Joseph's death, this comedy of errors hints at a deeper purpose at work, one that works through our failures and follies. In Egypt, Joseph is thrown into prison unjustly, but meets the butler of Pharaoh, who remembers him years later, when Pharaoh is in urgent need of a dream interpreter. From the depths of misery – forsaken and victimized by his brothers, sold into slavery in a foreign land, unjustly accused and imprisoned – Joseph vaults to the pinnacle of power in the greatest kingdom of the ancient world. Then by another strange chance, his brothers appear before him, driven by famine to buy corn from the stockpiles Joseph has gathered against the years of famine his interpretation of Pharaoh's dream had foretold. Joseph has the upper hand, and it is not clear that he is at first ready to reconcile with them or with his father, but eventually he does, and when he reveals himself to them, they are at first afraid. Joseph reassures them: "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me

hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be eating nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God..." (45:5-7). Reflecting on the strange mischances and reversals of fortune that have brought him and them together, Joseph has concluded that a greater purpose was at work in these events. And some years later, after Jacob dies, Joseph once more reassures his brothers, "Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive" (50:19,20).

As Leon Kass has perceptively argued in his study of Genesis, *The Beginning of Wisdom*, Joseph's perspective is a bit too neat, and a bit too pious, and a bit too self-exalting. Joseph thinks he has "saved" his family; and indeed he has saved them from famine, but at the cost of bringing them from the land God has promised them into Egypt, where eventually they will be subjected to oppressive tyranny that Joseph himself helped to establish, and from which God must bring them out by a mighty hand. He has "saved" them, by setting them on the road to enslavement, and putting their future with God at risk.

Nonetheless, Joseph speaks better than he knows; for even his pride and folly falls within God's providential government; for it is precisely in allowing them to fall into bondage, and bringing them out of it, that God will advance his purpose and reveal his glory as their true and only Savior. The ending of Genesis is therefore subtly ironic: Joseph has grasped the principle of God's providential action, even though he does not recognize the limitations of his own purposes. Perhaps that is both humbling and encouraging for

our own good intentions, so often braided with our pride and folly also; that God can use even them for his purposes. This is the thread that makes sense of the whole bumpy course of Israel's history in God's true love; that in and through our failures and flaws God brings about good he wills. "Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good". Through judgment he brings us to hope, through death he brings resurrection. The history of God's people written for us in Scripture and experienced still in our own lives as Christians, is not the story of (sadly unrealized) human perfectibility, but the story of the Creator working in and through the limitations of his creatures to accomplish his good and perfect will, in ways past our knowing. To him be the glory.

– GGD

(Continued from page 9.)

EASTER BRASS & EASTER LILIES

Would you like to contribute to the sound of brass or help fill the church with lilies on **Easter Sunday, April 9th**? The 8 a.m. Holy Communion will feature trumpet & organ, and the 9:30 a.m. Family Eucharist and the 11:30 a.m. Sung Eucharists will feature brass music.

To donate towards brass or Easter lilies (\$36 each), forms are at the back of the church, in the Church office, or at StJohnsSav.org/Easter. The list of donors will be published the Sunday after Easter. **Forms are due Wednesday, April 5th**.

NEXT SECOND SUNDAY SUPPER, MAY 21ST

Although we won't be holding a supper in April due to Easter, our next supper will be **May 21st** (moved to the third Sunday due to Mother's Day being on the second Sunday). This May supper is being hosted by Coren & Rusty Ross and currently has seats available. If you are interested, call the Church Office at 912-232-1251.

MAKE PALM CROSSES: APRIL 1ST

Join us 10 a.m. to noon in the Green-Meldrim House Mall. We need lots of volunteers (of all ages) to make palm crosses, which we will show you how to make. Children's activities and light refreshments will be provided. All ages are welcome!

PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY IN ROME

This summer (July 1-8), Alithea Travel – founded by parishioner Jesse Blackwood to embrace the transformative power of travel – is offering an urban excursion that is interwoven with visits to holy sites and monuments of art and history. "Becoming Human" is a journey from the pre-Christian world of the Tiber to the early Christian world of the apostles and church fathers until present day. This is for travelers seeking to experience the sacred and beautiful sites of Rome as personal moments in the journey of what it means to be human and to seek God.

Visit AlitheaTravel.com/category/pilgrimage

THE MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S

Choral Evensong for PBS USA Conference

Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

(No registration required. Open to the public.)



Solemn Choral Evensong for Easter Eve

Saturday, April 8th at 4:05 p.m.



Easter Sunday, April 9th

8 a.m. Holy Communion, *featuring trumpet & organ*

9:30 a.m. Family Eucharist, *featuring brass music*

11:30 a.m. Sung Eucharists, *featuring brass music*



Solemn Choral Evensong for Eastertide

Sunday, May 7th at 5:05 p.m.

Followed by a thank you reception for music donors



Choral Mattins for Trinity Sunday

Sunday, June 4th at 11 a.m.

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

Wardens and Vestry

Senior Warden: Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.

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: M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.

President, Women of St. John's..... Mrs. Paula W. Walker
Co-President, Chancel Society.....Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan & Mrs. Linda H. Pounds
President Emeritus, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Sean F. Finnegan