

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 54 No. 43 The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (Trinity 16) September 24, 2023

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THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church

The Collect, Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 212-213, Ps 102:1-22
A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9 A.M. – FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION, Chapel

10:00 A.M. – SUNDAY SCHOOL

*A full list of Sunday Classes and room assignments is available
online at StJohnsSav.org/grow*

11:00 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER, Church & Online

The nursery will be available for this service.

12:15 P.M. – COFFEE HOUR, Green-Meldrim House

All are welcome to this time of fellowship and refreshment.

Music for this Sunday:

#484 *Lift Up Your Heads* (Truro)

#376 *Come Down, O Love Divine* (Down Ampney)

O For A Thousand Tongues, Richard Shephard

#344 *O Love How Deep* (Deus Tuorum Militum)

Festive Trumpet Tune, David German

THE SUNDAY NIGHT SESSIONS

Wine. Small Bites. Big Ideas. Real Conversation.

This Sunday evening, September 24th, at 5 p.m. will be the 3rd installment in our series of thought-provoking speakers at the Green-Meldrim House. This session will feature Harrison Scott Key, Thurber Prize winning author of the new book *How to Stay Married: The Most Insane Love Story Ever Told*. Well-known for his hilarious and confessional style, in this book Key engages honestly with faith, marriage, infidelity, and the strangeness of God's grace. The title for his talk is "*Love is a Joke: on the death and rebirth of a marriage.*" Reserve your place early— this will be a very popular event and will likely reach capacity quickly. RSVP and learn more at StJohnsSav.org/SNS or contact Melanie Finnegan at 912-856-6210 .

LESSONS OF HISTORY

September is a busy time of year, but last week a halt was imposed on my projects in the form of a kidney stone that would not pass. Once the pain medications had begun to take effect, I had some measure of relief, and in the intervals between sleep and waiting for the next dose of medicine I was able to sleep, and even sometimes to read. The right kind of book is a real comfort in bodily weakness: it gives you something else to think about than the present misery. I recall with gratitude how *Pride and Prejudice* kept me sane during a severe bout of sinusitis some years back. This time, what brought me comfort was a fat volume (six hundred pages) of church history by Colin Morris, entitled *The Papal Monarchy* (Oxford, 1989), an account of the western church from 1050 to 1250, one of the most creative and critical periods in all of Christian history. Just to choose a few examples at random, it's the age when they began to build the great cathedrals, made informed consent a legal requirement of marriage, launched the crusades, and yes, invested hopes for reform of church and society in a papal monarchy with universal jurisdiction above all earthly kingdoms. As such, therefore, it is a history that throws a great deal of light on the emergence of Anglicanism three hundred years later.

That may sound arcane or specialized, but hear me out: in the hands of a scholar who can think clearly and write in lucid prose (such as this author certainly is), history is not just an accumulation of facts and dates. He tells an engaging story of great sweep

UPCOMING WORSHIP WEEK OF TRINITY XVI

Monday-Friday, September 25th-29th

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*, Chapel

12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

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: Feast of St. Michael & All Angels

12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Sunday, October 1st,

St. Michael (Trinity XVII)

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

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

10 a.m. Sunday School

10:40 a.m. **Music of the Brass**, Church

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*,

Church/Online

5 p.m. **Choral Evensong & Prelude**,
Church

6:15 p.m. (app.) Evensong Reception,
Green-Meldrim House

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ONE WEST MACON STREET
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To receive the Parish Paper by email (on Fridays), send name and email address to information@stjohnssav.org

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The Rev. J. Patrick Hunt.....Assisting Priest

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Mr. Sinisa Domazet.....Buildings Manager

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STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary. Please call the Church Office to notify the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital or hospice.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed

11:00 a.m. Mrs. Richard C. E.

Jennings (Stacy)

USHER CHAIRS

Mr. Robert L. Sparks

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

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C.

Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara), Mrs. B. Ray

Summerell (Melanie), Mrs. Timothy

E. Coy (Dorothea), Mrs. John G.

Bradshaw, Jr. (Sally), Mrs. Shack B.

Wimbish, Jr. (Laura), Mrs. W. Lee

Belford (Cathy), and Mrs. Thomas C.

McCay (Connie).

JUNIOR CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Joseph R. Ross (Coren)

COFFEE HOUR CHAIR

Dr. Melanie Helmken

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney T. Nutting, Sr. and Mr. Sidney T. Nutting, Jr. by their families.

And in loving memory of Virginia L. Brower by her family.

And in memory of The Reverend Jack E. Altman, The Reverend William H. Ralston, Jr., The Right Reverend G. Paul Reeves and The Reverend Jack E. Altman by Mr. and Mrs. G. Scott Stephens.

And to the glory of God and in loving memory of Father Ralston by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Reed Welch and Ralston Kennedy Welch.

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

In loving memory of Mrs. M. Tyus Butler, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Belford.

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

BRASS FOR MICHAELMAS & EVENSONG

Contributions are welcome toward the cost of brass music for Michaelmas next Sunday, October 1st at 11 a.m. (10:40 prelude).

Choral Evensong will be sung that evening, with prelude beginning at 5p.m. A reception will follow at the Green-Meldrim House.

and drama, enlivened by crisp description, incisive analysis, juicy quotations, and dry wit. A history like this shows the consequential actions of many individuals in the context of larger structural social patterns in ways that are illuminating both about the individual and about society. There is a moral interest here that has to engage any serious human being – it's about the choices made by human beings, and their consequences. So if you are a serious history reader, I recommend the volume – it is amazing in its range and depth, lucid in its prose, fascinating in the story it tells. Nonetheless, this isn't a book report, or a history lesson, but rather something about the lessons of history. We might think the "lessons of history" are in the category of "mistakes not to be repeated" – and perhaps that is so. Though the memory of American isolationism and Neville Chamberlain's "peace in our time" has obviously worn thin in certain quarters of late (ahem), until recently they provided a valuable touchstone for public policy. Yet the lessons of history of which I speak are rather different: to see yourselves and your own struggles, achievements, and failures, in the light of the struggles, achievements, and failures of those who precede us. To read history is to step outside my own limited and isolated perspective on my life, and the relentless pummeling of the daily media that disrupts any real thinking, that in a quiet backwater, by contemplating the history of those who have gone before us, we may start to acquire a larger, and less fevered, perspective on our own.

And what do we see? that the best-laid plans of men often come to nothing, and their greatest achievements turn into their opposite; the humbling of our pride, usually through our own devices, even or especially in our apparent successes; but also of those who died as failures yet whose

work lived and flourished after them in ways they only dreamed of, the exaltation of the humble. It is to see the wisdom and folly of human kind, both the bad and the good, the cruel and the humane; the full gamut of human possibility, in which the noble is so often intermixed with the base. It is to become aware that what we have received over so great a distance of time was hard won, and not to be despised in our own; to recognize that anything worth achieving only comes through hard striving and much error.

That's sobering, but in a good way: it's a necessary calming of the spirit, that allows us to think about things with a measure of dispassionate deliberation, and not simply react to them in the Pavlovian fashion ingrained in us by our respective opinion-bubbles. It makes for detachment: but does it make for despair or fatalism? At times it may seem we are just flotsam and jetsam in the tidal surges of history, like the migrants capsized in the Mediterranean, or the latest victims of earthquake, fire, and flood, or the wretched slaves of inhuman tyrannies around the globe; for them too often there is no remedy in this world: but for those of us spared to live in the world, there is room for consequential choices, and a need for a deeply-grounded perspective in which to make them, a faculty of sound judgment. Earthly wisdom – even technocratic reason – can play a part in the formation of that judgment, but Scripture invites us to consider the wisdom that reaches from one end to another mightily, and doth sweetly order all things: the inscrutable providence by which God accomplishes his good and perfect will in and through all things – even those least promising to our eyes. Perhaps even in a kidney stone that will not pass. GGD