

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 54 No. 47 The Feast of Dedication (Trinity 20) October 22, 2023

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THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church

Introit: Psalm 84, BCP pp. 445-446;

The Collect, BCP p. 217, ; The Epistle: Revelation 21: 2-5

The Gospel : St. Luke 19:1-10

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:

#780 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* (Winchester Abbey)

#385 *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken* (Austria)

With a Voice of Singing, Martin Shaw

#589 *O What Their Joy and Their Glory* (O Quanta Qualia)

Final Voluntary: *Trumpet Tune on 'Winchester Abbey'*

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

“THE HARVEST IS PLENTEOUS”

Our work at St. John's is to sow the seed of God's word, to reap the harvest of souls in the day of salvation. That's why we ask every parishioner to make a pledge of giving for the coming year (2024). Your pledge card allows the Vestry to budget responsibly for the year to come: it also allows givers to practice giving as a spiritual discipline, a means of spiritual growth.

**Please return your pledge card on or before this Sunday,
October 22nd, Stewardship Sunday.**

If you need a pledge card, see the back of church, contact the office, or simply fill one out online at stjohnssav.org/pledge.

THE FENRIS WOLF

Sometimes a pastor's job is to encourage, comfort, console and soothe: but sometimes his job is to sound the alarm alarm. That's what this is: "The Fenris wolf is loose". (For those who don't get the allusion: in Norse legend, the Fenris wolf is the power of chaos who will be loosed at Ragnarok, 'the twilight of the gods,' when the world is destroyed in fire and water.) It is a line from 'Bonfires on the Ice', a poem written by Rudyard Kipling in 1933, in reaction to ominous events in Germany - Hitler's appointment as chancellor in January, the Reichstag fire in February, and the assumption of emergency powers by the Nazi party in March. It was a warning to a Britain which was unprepared for war and unwilling to rearm. Kipling was aiming at policies built on wishful thinking, which, like "bonfires on the ice", cheer for a time, but in the end fall through through the foundations on which they are built.

We know the Mountain and the Mouse.

We know Great Cry and Little Wool.

We know the purseless Ears of Sows.

We know the Frog that aped the Bull.

*We know, whatever Trick we pull, (Ourselves
have gambled once or twice)*

A Bobtailed Flush is not a Full.

We know the Bonfire on the Ice.

Kipling's prescient warning went unheeded at the time: as his poem itself testifies, the political community was too invested in its wishful thinking to

pay attention. It's a poem that has struck a chord with me in recent years, and even more since the retreat from Afghanistan, the invasion of Ukraine, the recent terrorist atrocities in Israel, and the threat

UPCOMING WORSHIP WEEK OF TRINITY XX

Monday-Friday, October 23rd –28th

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:

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel
(Eve of Sts. Simon & Jude)

Sunday, October 29th
Sts. Simon & Jude (Trinity 21)
8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church
10 a.m. *Sunday School*
11 a.m. *Holy Communion*,
Church/Online

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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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Mr. Wesley Perkins Assistant Conductor
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Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager
Master of Ceremonies Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.
Verger Mr. B. Ray Summerell
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. Edwin H. Culver, and Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

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. McMillan
..... Mrs. Linda H. Pounds
Pres. Emeritus, Chancel Society .. Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's Mr. Sean F. Finnegan

Church Office (912) 232-1251
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E-mails (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

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. Benjamin W. Baxter
(Cathy)

USHER CHAIRS

Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr (Chip)
Mr. Robert L. Sparks

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. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce), and Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr. (Margaret).

JUNIOR CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Michael J. Schubert (Katy)
Miss Ellie Kate Schubert

COFFEE HOUR CHAIR

Mrs. Daniel Gilfillan (Marilyn)

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Barrow, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Thornton M. Deas by Mr. and Mrs. Craig Barrow III,

And in loving memory of
Father Ralston on his birthday,
October 25th.

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

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

The Annual General Congregational Meeting will be after the 11 a.m. Morning Prayer on **Sunday, Nov. 12th**. At this meeting, four new members will be elected to the Vestry for a three-year term. Members are encouraged to submit nominations by the deadline of **Monday, Oct. 29th at noon** to the Vestry's Nomination Committee. Nominees must be communicants in good standing (for at least 5 years).

of engulfing war. The enemies of the post-1945 order have scented weakness, and emboldened in their belligerence, are making a bid for power, at almost any cost in human suffering, even of their own people. Rather than protect their people from harm, Hamas uses them as human shields, and uses the subsequent casualties to stoke rage against Israel in the Arab world, and also in the west. And we know that Hamas is itself but a catspaw of more ominous adversaries – Iran, Russia, and China, who, like Hamas, regard even their own people as disposable pawns of their belligerence.

These are wolves, and need to be dealt with as such. Yet the political communities of the west, and especially of its indispensable leader, the USA, are rife with wishful thinking. What I am seeing (and I acknowledge here that some readers will look at it differently) is this: the zealots of the populist right and the progressive left are peddling their own fantasies, while the establishment elites, having pandered to technocratic arrogance, are now pandering to their party bases rather than seeking to build broad coalitions to unify the country. Defeatist isolationism masquerading as patriotism is on the rise, while authoritarian identity politics poisons debate and fosters conformist mediocrity in institutions, educational, cultural, religious, economic and even military. Then there is the unprecedented size of the federal deficit (for which I note *both* presumptive presidential candidates bear a large share of responsibility), that with the rise of interest rates is set to hobble the country's financial capability to meet real challenges. There's a word for us now: "decadence". This is precisely what

the wolves are counting on: that's why they are willing to shed their own people's blood like water, because they are sure that decadent western powers no longer have what it takes to resist their assaults.

*We know that Ones and Ones make Twos -
Till Demos votes them Three or Nought.
We know the Fenris Wolf is loose.
We know what Fight has not been fought.
We know the Father to the Thought
Which argues Babe and Cockatrice
Would play together, were they taught.
We know that Bonfire on the Ice.*

'We know the Fenris Wolf is loose': I am not the only one to sound the alarm; it is what I have been hearing from a surprising number of folk. It's a deeply disquieting prospect. What does it call for? Not panic, but sober and rigorous thought about the challenges we face, and what is required to face them; not memes but self-critical clarity of vision, moral and spiritual rearmament. A people gets the leaders it deserves: and if we demand quick and easy fixes we shall get leaders who pander to that desire. In the present decadence of our societies such sobriety and clarity of judgment may be hard to find: we should be praying for it, and demanding it in our putative leaders.

As Samson did more than once, it is indeed possible that the United States may again awake, and shake off the accumulated follies of our time, as we have done before: but the example of Samson warns us not to take that for granted. Enfeebled by his own folly, as yet unaware of his self-betrayal, "he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him".

GGD