

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 54 No. 51 The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity November 19, 2023

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church

Introit: Psalm 130, BCP p.507 ;

The Collect, BCP p. 223 ; The Epistle, Colossians 1:3-12, BCP pp. 223-224

The Gospel : St. Matthew 9:18-26, BCP pp. 224

A light breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9 A.M. – FAMILY MORNING PRAYER, Church

10:00 A.M. – ALL PARISH EDUCATION HOUR:

DR. GARWOOD ANDERSON, Ralston Room, Cranmer 3rd floor

Other adult classes cancelled; Children's classes are held as usual today.

See list of classes and locations online at StJohnsSav.org/grow

11:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, 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:

#300 *Before the Lord Jehovah's Throne* (Winchester New)

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

There is a balm in Gilead, William L. Dawson

#455 *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds* (St. Peter)

O Taste and See, Ralph Vaughan Williams

#347 *Alleluia Sing to Jesus (omit Stanza 2)* (Hyfrydol)

MEETINGS & EVENTS UPCOMING

SUN. NOV. 19 :	10 a.m.	•All Parish Education Hour with Dr. Garwood Anderson• Ralston Rm, Cranmer 3rd Floor. (children's classes as usual)
	4 p.m.	Nashotah House Alumni & Friends Reception Green-Meldrim House
THURS. NOV. 23:	11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist for Thanksgiving Day (office closed)
FRI. NOV. 24 :		Church Office closed.
SUN. NOV. 26 :	11 a.m.	Choral Mattins & Sermon
FRI. DEC. 1 :	5:30 p.m.	Anniversary Celebration of the Green-Meldrim House Purchase
SAT. DEC. 2 :	4:30 p.m.	First Saturday at Starland Yard (2411 De Soto Ave 30401)
SUN. DEC. 3 :	10 a.m.	Wreath Making for All Ages. Cranmer Hall First Floor
	5-7 p.m.	Sunday Night Sessions #7: Dave Zahl (see : stjohnssav.org/sns)
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group: The Royal Priesthood, Cranmer Hall

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GIVING THANKS

Secular spirituality has glommed onto the benefits of gratitude for mental health and healthy relationships. To be conscious of one's life as a gift is life-enhancing: it reduces stress and releases joy. Yet there are limits to secular gratitude. You may experience your life as a gift, but that knowledge does not bring you into relationship with the giver. The movement beyond the self is at best incomplete. In the secular outlook the giver cannot be known, nor is there any possibility of entering into communion with such a one, of finding ourselves outside ourselves. We may turn to the immensity of the universe with gratitude, but it does not respond: or rather it does, but we do not hear what it says. "For the invisible things of [God] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful" (Rom. 1:20, 21).

Thankfulness thus entails the reverent acknowledgment of the Creator, infinite in wisdom, power, and goodness, as the Giver of all gifts. Such gratitude is not to be despised, yet it still keeps us finite and fallible creatures at a distance from the Creator. The supreme gift, therefore, is one beyond all creaturely experience, and that is the gift of his own Son, by whom we enter into communion with

the Father. In that act of unmerited generosity, do we find liberation from the constraints of the self, and therefore the whole of the Christian's life is properly centered on his grace in the practice of gratitude. So we give

UPCOMING WORSHIP WEEK OF TRINITY XXIV

Mon.-Wed., Nov. 20th –22nd
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

Thursday: (office closed)

11 am. Sung Eucharist, Church

Friday: (office closed)

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Sunday, November 26th
(Sunday Next Before Advent)
8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
9 a.m. *Family Holy Communion*,
Church

10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Choral Mattins & Sermon,
Church/Online

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Verger Mr. B. Ray Summerell
Senior Warden Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.
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Clerk of Vestry Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth)
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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. Holtzelaw (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. Thomas C. McCay
(Connie)

USHER CHAIRS

Mr. R. Leslie Johnson;
Mr. Frank Somoskey

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. W. Lee Belford (Cathy), Mrs. William L. Belford, Jr. (Emily), and Ms. Linda H. Pounds.

COFFEE HOUR CHAIR

Mrs. Rodney F. Banks (Susan)

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Kippy Adams on her birthday from Dicky, Caroline, Ted, Reid, Katharine, Dee, Ellie and Mary-Porcher;

And in honor of the wedding anniversary of Amanda and Tom Heath, who were married on Nov. 2, 2002 at St. John's Church by Dorothy and Susan Kingery;

And in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Jules Victor, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Neil H. Victor;

And in loving memory and in honor of the birthday of our sweet mother and grandmother, JoAnn Clark Troxler by her family;

And in thanksgiving for, and on the occasion of the birthday of William Reese Cooper by Mrs. Patti Cooper.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry King McCormick and Mr. and Mrs. L. Rodgers Wells by Mr. and Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells ;

And in honor of Charles & Julia Lawton Williams on their 46th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 19th

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

thanks "for life and health and safety, for power to work and leisure to rest, for all that is beautiful in creation and in the lives of men", but above all "for our spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus". "We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory".

The whole of the Christian religion may be regarded as the transformation of our inward motivation from self-gratifying greed to God-glorifying gratitude. What effects this radical reorientation from self to God, from greed to gratitude, is the free gift of grace we have received, beyond all entitlement and deserving. The more we understand how little we deserve his favor, the more his grace awakens and strengthens our gratitude. And the more grateful we are for his grace, the more we are motivated to serve and please him, in obedience to his holy will and commandments, in service of our neighbour in need. For if our gratitude were but a matter of words and feelings, it would be a cheap thing. Gratitude entails committed action. That's why we pray, "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 ourselves to thy service, and walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days". That's why, in praise and thanksgiving for our redemption, we offer "our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice".

The practical consequences of giving thanks are spelled out most clearly in final verses of the Invitatory (Psalm 95) at Morning Prayer (sadly omitted in the 1928 Prayer Book):

*Today if ye will hear his voice,
harden not your hearts
as in the provocation,
and as in the day of temptation
in the wilderness;
When your fathers tempted me,
proved me, and saw my works.
Forty years long was I grieved with
this generation, and said,
It is a people that do err in their
hearts,
for they have not known my ways:
Unto whom I swear in my wrath,
that they should not enter
into my rest.*

Harsh words of warning: but they tell us something worth knowing: that the giving of thanks entails "hearing his voice" in the gratitude of faith, learning his will, walking in his ways, doing the works which he has prepared for us to do, and thereby entering into his rest, the kingdom of his eternal peace. The end of our gratitude not the gratification of self but the glory of God. **GGD**

EYCS SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

Sunday, November 19 will be Ingathering Sunday for the Episcopal Youth and Children's Services scholarship drive. This organization provides needs-based college scholarships and Honey Creek scholarships to deserving children within our diocese.

Either use the envelopes conveniently placed in your pew or program (make checks payable to EYCS) or visit www.eycs.georgiaepiscopal.org to donate safely and securely online.

OUTREACH: COATS FOR URBAN HOPE

Child and adult size coats are needed for Urban Hope, new or gently used. To donate, bring them to 1601 Barnard St. 31401, or write to Holly McClellan at hmcclellan01@gmail.com.