

The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 55 No. 1

The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

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THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church

Introit: Psalm 25, BCP p. 369-370 ;

The Collect, BCP p. 90 ; The Epistle, Romans 13:8, BCP pp.90-91

The Gospel : St. Matthew 21:1, BCP pp. 91-92

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

9 A.M. – FAMILY MORNING PRAYER, Chapel

10 A.M. – SUNDAY SCHOOL

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:

Savior of the Nations, Come (Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland)

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come, Paul Manz

#9 *Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding* (Merton)

#210 *Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness* (Schmuecke Dich)

Zion hears the watchman singing, J.S. Bach (with Ben Cork, violin)

#3 *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying* (Sleepers Wake)

Final Voluntary: *Sonata no. 2 in G minor*, G. F. Handel (with Ben Cork, violin)

MEETINGS & EVENTS UPCOMING

SUN. DEC. 3 :	10 a.m.	Advent Wreath Making for All Ages. Cranmer Hall First Floor
	5-7 p.m.	Sunday Night Sessions #7: Dave Zahl (see : stjohnssav.org/sns) <i>The Religion of Everything: The Search for Enoughness & the Relief of Grace</i> ”
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group: The Royal Priesthood, Cranmer Hall
WED. DEC. 6 :	10 a.m.	Women of St John's General Meeting, Green-Meldrim House
FRI. DEC. 8 :	6 p.m.	Coelorum Gaudia: Ralston College Seasonal Choral Concert, Free admission. Church.
SAT. DEC. 9 :	9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Breakfast with Santa. Cranmer Hall First Floor
SUN. DEC. 10 :	3:30 p.m.	Pageant Rehearsal. Church.
	4:30 p.m.	Tree Trimming. All ages welcome. Music & refreshments. Mall.
WED. DEC. 13 :	5:30 p.m.	Faith + Fiction Book Group. <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> ; Green-Meldrim House
SUN. DEC. 17 :	5-7 p.m.	Sunday Night Sessions #8: Tara Isabella Burton <i>“Creating our Identities from Da Vinci to the Kardashians”</i>
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group: The Royal Priesthood, Cranmer Hall

THE BRIDEGROOM TO HIS BRIDE
Advent means “coming”, and its message is just that: Christ comes to us - we don't go to him. Or rather, it is in his coming to us that we go to him. And this is so, not just at the outset, but throughout our going to him, it is dependent on his coming to us. There is not a point where he hands the ball to us. No: the action by which we go to God is begun, continued, and brought to completion by his coming to us. And therefore “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord”. As the Caroline divine, Mark Frank, said: “the days of holy Advent are to teach us to ...bless God for his coming, to bless him for his coming, all his comings, all his ways of coming to us; to bless his day that is a-coming, whence all his other comings come; to bless him in the highest, with heart, and tongue, and hand, to the highest we can go, that he may also bless us for it in the highest. That it might be done better, Holy Church has designed four Sundays to prepare us for it, wherein to tune our pipes, and fit our instruments and voices to sing Hosanna in the right key, the highest pitch, to praise God as is fitting for Christ's coming”. The point of Advent is to alert, align, and attune us to his coming.

Following St. Bernard of Clairvaux we distinguish three moments of Christ's coming – past, future, and present: "we think not only of the coming whereby he came to seek and save the lost, but also and no less of that other coming, whereby he will come and take us to himself" – his second coming in glory. Moreover, he says, "there is another, a third coming between those

two... In the first Advent he was seen on earth and walked with men. In the second, 'all flesh shall see the salvation of our God,' and 'they shall

UPCOMING WORSHIP WEEK OF ADVENT I

Mon.-Fri., Dec. 4th –Dec. 8th
8:15 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Online

Monday:

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
12 p.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel
9 p.m. *Sung Compline*, Church

Thursday:

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

Friday:

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

Saturday:

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel
Sunday, December 10th (Advent 2)
8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
9 a.m. *Family Holy Communion*, Chapel

10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Church/Online

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Clerk of Vestry Mrs. Gary M. Schubert (Elizabeth)
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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

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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. Dr. J. Davidson Carson (David)

USHER CHAIRS

Mr. Robert A. Vinyard (Bob);

Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.

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. Rhett N. Willis (Wayne), Mrs. Morgan W. Murray (Anne), and Dr. Linda Ann McCall.

COFFEE HOUR CHAIR

Mrs. Jonathan C. Glen (Marilyn)

FLOWERS

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory of Sally O'Donnell Whittington; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George O'Donnell; and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Cook by Mr. Floyd G. Whittington, Sr. and sons; Floyd, Jr. and George ;

And in honor of

Mr. and Mrs. William Lee Belford on the anniversary of their wedding by their loving grandson, William Lee Belford III, and his parents;

And in thanksgiving for and on the occasion of the birthday of Max Cooper Hamilton by Mrs. Patti Cooper;

And in loving memory of Susan Young, our excellent colleague, teacher, and friend; In honor of Dorothy Murphy, faithful servant of the Lord, and in gratitude for Dr. Jonathan Murphy, by the Choir & Musicians of St. John's Church in Savannah.

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

look on him whom they pierced'. But the intermediate advent is a hidden one, in which only his chosen see him, in themselves, and so their souls are saved. In the first, he came in flesh and weakness; in the middle one he comes in Spirit and in power; in the final coming he will come in majesty and glory. ... So this intermediate advent is a sort of road, by which we travel from the first to the last." Because he has come already, we know what to hope for in his coming again. Because he has come already, we know what to hope for in this present moment. The more we remember his first coming, the more hope-filled are we for his coming again both now and in the future.

The ancient hymn written by St. Ambrose echoes Psalm 19 in speaking of his coming in nuptial terms (though sadly this is omitted in our hymnal):

*Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the Bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide;
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Spotless Victim all divine.*

The bridegroom comes: "Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass", and when he comes, he cleanses the temple of its worldly commerce, for "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, ... that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27).

For that reason, therefore, the bride rises to meet him, and in preparation adorns herself in good works: "now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting

and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof".

The coming of Christ leads to spiritual awakening and requires moral renewal: but what he requires he himself supplies by his coming. Again, St. Bernard: "Miserably we labour under a threefold sickness. We are easily misled, weak in action, and fragile in resistance. If we wish to distinguish between good and evil, we are deceived; if we attempt to do good, we lack strength; if we strive to resist evil, we are overcome. So the coming of the Savior is necessary. Dwelling in us, he enlightens our blindness; remaining with us he helps our infirmity; standing for us he protects and defends our fragility". "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof". **GGD**

A COLLECT FOR ADVENT

GRANT, O Almighty God, that as thy blessed Son Jesus Christ at his first advent didst come to seek and to save that which was lost; so at his second and glorious appearing he may find in us the fruits of the redemption which he wrought, who liveth and reigneth we thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

SUNDAY NIGHT SESSIONS: Dec. 3

*"The Religion of Everything:
The Search for Enoughness
& the Relief of Grace.*

5-7 p.m., Green-Meldrim House.

Dave Zahl challenges the conventional story of religious decline, claiming society has instead become "religious" about busyness and accomplishments. We seek "enoughness", which remains out of reach. As an alternative, he offers a fresh appreciation for *grace* -- the grace of God in all its countercultural wonder. RSVP/register at stjohnssav.org/SNS