

## THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

### 8 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION, Church

Introit: Psalm 55, BCP p. 406

The Collect, Epistle, and Gospel: BCP pp. 203-204;

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

### 9:30 A.M. – ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL, Chapel

*The Rector's class has been reading in St. Matthew's gospel.*

### 10:30 A.M. – SUNG EUCHARIST & SERMON, Church & Online

*The nursery will be available for this service; childrens' lesson & activity will be held in the Chapel during the sermon, led by Mr. Vanderlip & Mrs. Ross*

#### Music for this Sunday:

*Folk Tune (from Five Short Pieces) Percy W. Whitlock*

*#384/780 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (Westminster Abbey)*

*#378 Come Gracious Spirit (Mendon)*

*O Lord, Support Us All the Day Long, Cark Shalk*

*Prelude on Union Seminary, Arr. Charles Callahan*

*Day by Day, Martin How*

*#381 Triumphant Sion, Lift Thy Head (Wareham )*

*#383 Blessed City Heavenly Salem (Oriol)*

*Toccata, Roland Erismann, Arr. Robert Tall*

#### P.A.C.K. RESUMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup>

P.A.C.K. ministry starts up Wednesday, **August 21** and continues on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

4 Mall Terrace

Join us to pack food for children in need on the following dates:

Wednesday, August 21

Wednesday, September 4

Wednesday, September 18

Wednesday, October 2

Wednesday, October 16

Wednesday, November 6

Wednesday, November 20

There are a variety of volunteering opportunities for people of all ages, so please come by if you are able! People of Action Caring for Kids is a Savannah-based organization fighting child hunger.

Contact Stuart Clifford with questions at [stuartclifford@comcast.net](mailto:stuartclifford@comcast.net)

#### OFFICE STAFF NEWS

Abbey Terry has stepped down as Communications Coordinator and Music Administrative Assistant, to take up some opportunities for teaching music. We thank her for her service to St. John's, and wish her the best in her new endeavors. In the interim, please send all publicity requests to Doreen Karls, [dkarls@stjohnssav.org](mailto:dkarls@stjohnssav.org)

# The Parish Paper

OF  
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

#### NO LONGER OUR OWN—PART II

*This essay is based on the sermon preached by Mr Steven Vanderlip for the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene. For continuity we have reprinted the final paragraph of Part I.*

That is the nobility of erotic love - to be caught up by another, to love with such abandon, to give oneself entirely to another in devotion. That is the sublimity shared between lovers. "In one high bound," writes CS Lewis, "[Eros] has overleaped the massive wall of our selfhood; it has made appetite itself altruistic... and planted the interests of another in the centre of our being. Spontaneously and without effort we have fulfilled the law [to love another as oneself]" [*The Four Loves*, p. 130]. This is the stuff of song - if only the lover sings, then Eros gives us the Song of all Songs! The greatest song - how great it is.

Yet here, we need to be careful, not that we risk loving another too much but that Eros, in speaking "like a god" [p 124] as Lewis says, in sounding so divine, and commanding total devotion, might lead us short of love's end. This little god of Eros might set up shop as the omnipotent, and in his service we might excuse ourselves, as all lovers tend to do, that we did even horrible things "for the sake of love", as a man or woman may break their wedding vows for the sake of another. We are very confused about this we say things like "Love is Love", absolutizing Eros and his commands. But there is only one who has

the capacity to command the very center of our lives only one who can command the love of all thy heart, soul, and mind.

What we read in the Song of Songs can only be fulfilled in the Gospel. This morning we read that

#### UPCOMING WORSHIP: WEEK OF TRINITY 10

##### Online Morning Prayer:

8:15 a.m. Monday-Friday

##### Monday:

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

##### Tuesday:

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

12 p.m. *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*, Chapel

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

##### Friday:

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

#### Sunday, August 11: The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity (Trinity 11)

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School, Chapel  
(Rector's class only)

10:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer & Sermon*, Church/Online

11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour/Outreach  
Forum, Green-Meldrim House

THE PARISH PAPER  
of  
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ONE WEST MACON STREET  
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The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired].....(931) 327-5489  
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Dr. Jonathan Murphy.....Interim Organist & Choirmaster  
Mr. Wesley Perkins.....Assistant Conductor  
Mrs. Angela Fisher.....Assistant Organist  
Mrs. Janice W. Woods.....Business Manager  
Ms. Doreen L. Karls.....Parish Administrator  
Mrs. Kristi Bryson.....Director, St. John's Boy's Choir  
Mrs. Daniel J. Mahfet.....Financial Administrator  
Mrs. Joseph Ross, Jr. (Sarah).....Children's Ministry Director  
Mr. Steven D. Vanderlip, Jr. Minister w/Youth/Pastoral Intern  
Mr. Sinisa Domazet.....Buildings Manager  
Master of Ceremonies..... Mr. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr.  
Verger.....Mr. B. Ray Summerell

Senior Warden.....Mr. Robert L. Sparks  
Junior Warden.....Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.  
Clerk of Vestry.....Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert  
Treasurer.....Mr. Floyd Whittington, Jr.  
Assistant Treasurer.....Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan)  
Chancellor.....Dolly Chisholm

The Vestry: Mr. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mr. E. Brian Culver, Mr. Charles J. Ezelle, Mr. Stephen Ezelle, Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry), Mr. R. Scott Howard, Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings (Stacy), Mrs. Thomas C. McCay (Connie), Mrs. Duncan Pindar (Terry), Mr. Graham P. Sadler, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert, Mr. Robert L. Sparks, 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.....Melanie Finnegan  
Co-President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan  
Mrs. Linda H. Pounds

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President, Men of St. John's.....Mr. Sean F. Finnegan

Church Office..... (912) 232-1251  
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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  
10:30 a.m. Mr. Stephen D. Ezelle

#### USHER CHAIRS

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. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce)

Ms. Linda H. Pounds,

Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan

Mrs. Charles Youles (Betty)

#### FLOWERS

The flowers in church this Sunday  
are given to the glory of God,  
and in loving memory of  
Julie Backus Smith by Bill Cathcart,  
And in loving memory of  
Martha "Denny" Somoskey who died  
August 4, 2020 by Frank Somoskey;

And in loving memory of  
Ralph and Betsy Bowden by  
Margaret and Johnny Wylly

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

#### DEMENTIA RESPITE MINISTRY AT ST. JOHN'S

The outreach committee is exploring opening a respite ministry for persons with dementia. Come learn about this exciting program during Coffee Hour on **Sunday, August 11th. From 12-12:30** Robin Dill will speak about the 30+ respite ministries she has helped launch. **Click to RSVP** or call the church office at 912-232-1251 to ensure we have enough food and chairs!

Mary Magdalene is searching (St. John 20:11ff) she is searching for him whom her soul loveth. She tells the angels she weeps *because they have taken away my Lord and I know not where they have laid him*. And a second time, addressing the supposed gardener, she says *tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away*. Truly, *I sought him whom my soul loveth, I sought him, but I found him not*. Mary, of whom we learn elsewhere that she was possessed, indwelt, united to seven devils, here seeks the Lord Jesus and not for gratification or satisfaction of some itch. After all, she supposes him to be dead and what good is a dead body to her; but she seeks after Him in love because she is possessed no longer of seven devils but she is possessed by Jesus Himself, because He is the center of her life. All of the erotic love of the woman in the Song of Songs is present here. And in turn, with what must have been like the startling of birds into the skies, the very Lord whom her soul loveth calls her intimately by name, and she knows Him. Here is the man and woman of the Song of Songs. And though Jesus forbids Mary to touch him, her heart is enflamed by the promise of love, the eager expectation, the orientation around the Beloved Jesus. Mutual indwelling and union will follow upon such love, and Jesus ascends to God in order that he might bring her into God's life, there to be united forever.

"We are then compelled to try to believe what we cannot yet feel, that God is our true Beloved." [Lewis, The Four Loves, p. 158]. It is He who commands that we love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind; but the awful weight of that total devotion, the erotic love so sublime-

ly sung in the Song of Songs, is in actuality a divine gift. It is by the gift of charity, the very love of God Himself, that we may entirely love the God who is Love with all our heart, soul, and mind. Eros is but a foretaste of this supernatural devotion. No doubt, we are very poor at cultivating this love and perhaps our experience is simply in the lack of such devotion. But to give the last word to Lewis "if we cannot practice the presence of God, it is something to practice the absence of God, to become increasingly aware of our unawares." [p. 160]. If we seek Him whom our soul loveth, and find him not, if it feels simply like the tomb, all is dark and unfruitful, yet we can follow St Mary to the tomb, we can follow her in expectation, and where Christ's death is, there will be Christ's resurrection; and we might at the last hear the Beloved call our name, and let us answer, *Rabboni, which is to say, Master*. SDV

#### NARTHEX CLOSURE

Monday August 5th we begin to rebuild the structural supports for the narthex floor, a project that is expected to take four to six weeks. During this time, there will be no access to the church by the main doors facing Madison Square. During construction, the main entrance on Sundays will be by the South Doors on Charlton Street, where ushers and security personnel will be stationed. We regret that there will be no wheelchair access to the Church until the main entrance is again usable. We are grateful to the parishioners whose anonymous contribution offset the considerable cost of this necessary reconstruction.