

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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The First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

ANGLICAN WAY/PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Organizing conferences is not a task I especially enjoy. But the secret of a good conference is not hard to grasp: choose a topic with real substance, invite speakers who have wisdom to share, gather people who care, and give them opportunities not only to listen, but to speak with one another—face to face—about matters that truly matter.

That is the purpose of the Anglican Way Conferences, sponsored by the Prayer Book Society and Elliott House. Their aim is to place the historic Prayer Books and the Articles of Religion back where they belong: at the center of our self-understanding as Anglicans and Episcopalians, as standards of doctrine and worship.

When I first became an Anglican in the 1980s, the Episcopal Church was engaged in a massive effort to dismantle the tradition of faith and worship those texts articulate. It is a particular joy now to see that same tradition being discovered and rediscovered by generations younger than my own. It is my hope that this same rediscovery will continue to shape our common life here at St John's, deepening both our worship and our witness.

—GGD

LENT

In an age that wants to be “spiritual, not religious”, the secular Lent is all around us. “Detoxing” and “cleansing” diets are commonplace; exotic forms of meditation are (once again) all the rage among celebrities and high-rollers; sober experts in health-care and personal wellness eagerly share the science behind gratitude. Ancient spiritual practices are being harnessed for happy living in a stressful world. The religious element, of course, is optional – or not: perhaps

following Jesus *is* the way to wellness, prosperity, and self-realization.

Or is it? At the beginning of Lent, we read St. Matthew's account (4:1-11) of Jesus' supernaturally-extended fast of “forty days and forty nights” and his subsequent temptation, or testing, in the wilderness. It's one of the most deeply layered passages in the gospels, with matter enough for a small book packed into its dozen verses. There are intricate allusions here to Israel's long history, its own trials in the wilderness, and behind that, to the probation of Adam in the garden. The central idea, however, is plain enough. Though all mankind (in Adam), and all Israel, has been called to divine Sonship, Jesus alone proves himself worthy of it. All others, called to sonship, sought to make themselves “as gods” (Genesis 3:5), in hubris grasping after, and falling short of, the glory of God. In contrast, though “being in the form of God”, Jesus “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men”. In contrast to their proud aspiration after great things, he “humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:6-8).

That is to say, he does not seek self-realization through the judicious application of techniques, but to be the instrument of the Father's will and work by fidelity to the Father's word. Enough for him to accept what the Father wills for him – hunger, thirst, the baptism of sorrow, and the bitter cup that awaits him at the cross. The rest is in the Father's hands, and it is of course nothing less than resurrection, exaltation, seated at the right hand of the Father, shame turned to glory. “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him...”

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Church Office: 1 West Macon St, 31401(912) 232-1251

Bishop of GAThe Rt. Rev. Frank Logue
Rector.....The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar
Associate Rector The Rev. Jonathan Jameson
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired].....(931) 327-5489
Hon. Assisting Priest..... Rev. J. Patrick Hunt
Hon. Assisting Priest.....Rev. David Thurlow
Organist and Choirmaster..... Mr. William Douglas
VergerMr. B. Ray Summerell
VergerMr. James E. Morris
Acolyte Dir./Master of Ceremonies.....Mr. Carter C. Hubbard

Sr. Warden: Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry); Jr. Warden:
Mr. Douglas P. McManamy; Treasurer: Mr. Floyd
Whittington, Jr; Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Stuart C.
Clifford (Susan); Clerk of Vestry: Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schu-
bert; Chancellor: Dolly Chisholm

The Vestry: Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara),
Mrs. L. Allan Reynolds, Jr. (Beverley), Mr. Charles B.
Compton, Jr. (Chip), Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary),
Mr. Patrick Worsham, Dr. Janet S. Morris, Mr. R. Scott
Howard, Mr. Wiley A. Wasden III, Mr. Charles J. Ezelle,
Mr. Graham P. Sadler, and Mrs. Duncan Pindar (Terry);
Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman Emeritus: M. Tyus
Butler, Jr., Esq.; Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett,
Mr. Edwin H. Culver, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

President, Women of St. John's: Mrs. Clarkson C. Logan
(Meta), Chancel Society: Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan and
Mrs. Linda H. Pounds; President, Men of St. John's:
Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

Mark Your Calendars for These Additional Upcoming Events

- **March 4 & 18, 4:30–6:30 p.m.** – Volunteers meet at P.A.C.K., 4 Mall Terrace, Savannah
- **March 4, 5:30 p.m.** – Faith + Fiction: *Lying Awake*, by Mark Salzman, Green-Meldrim House
- **March 5-7** – 2026 Savannah Antiques & Architecture Weekend “British Roots – Island Style” For details & tickets, visit SavAntiquesWeekend.com
- **March 12, 6–7 p.m.** – Parlor Presentation with Jon Ward, visit GreenMeldrimHouse.org
- **March 15, 5 p.m.** – Choral Evensong, Church
- **March 17, 9 a.m.** – St. Patrick's Day Family Holy Communion, Chapel
- **March 24, 10:45–11:45 a.m.** – Hope Haven's Dementia Caregiver Support Group, Cranmer Hall, Visit SavannahRespite.com

UPCOMING WORSHIP Week of Lent 1

Online Morning Prayer
8:15 a.m. Monday to Friday

Monday, February 23
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Tuesday, February 24:
Feast of St. Matthias, the Apostle
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Wednesday, February 25: Ember Day
Noon *Holy Communion*, Church
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel
9 p.m. *Compline*, Church

Thursday, February 26
Noon *Holy Communion*, Church
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*
with Holy Communion, Chapel

Friday, February 27: Ember Day
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Saturday, February 28: Ember Day
11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, March 1: Second Sunday in Lent
8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
8:45 a.m. *Nursery*, Cranmer Hall
open until 12:15 p.m.
9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church
10 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*,
Cranmer Hall & Chapel
11 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church/Online

**Visit StJohnsSav.org for
Sunday services, events during
Lent, and Easter worship.**

Lenten Reflection Series

Online Weekday Devotions to Prepare for Easter



Weekdays in Lent, join Fr. Dunbar for brief daily videos exploring the Prayer Book Catechism: a classic statement of the historic faith in the Anglican tradition.

These short reflections focus on trust, repentance, and hope in Christ, offering a steady Lenten rhythm of teaching and devotion as we prepare for Easter. New videos will be posted Monday through Friday on St. John's YouTube channel.

Four-week Lenten Course: The Scripture Practice

Sundays in March, 5-7 p.m. Green-Meldrim

This Lent, St John's will host a course called *The Scripture Practice*. Reignite your engagement with Holy Scripture and discover tools for study and prayer with time for fellowship and learning. Each session will include a Lenten soup supper and beverages. The cost for the 4-week course is \$50 and includes a study guide. The series will be held on Sundays in the Green-Meldrim House from 5-7 p.m. and the dates are March 1, 8, 22 & 29. We encourage attendance at each session. Childcare will be available upon request. Use this QR code to **RSVP by Feb 27.**



LENTEN COLLECTIONS

Living Vine Maternity Home

Beginning Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18) and running until Palm Sunday (March 29)



Support St. John's outreach partner, The Living Vine Maternity Home during Lent by picking up a baby bottle on Sunday, Feb. 22. Fill it with coins, cash, or checks and return it by Palm Sunday.

Your gifts support the moms at The Living Vine Maternity Home, helping them pursue GEDs and job training on their path to self-sufficiency.

Questions? Contact Holly McClellan or the Church office. Previous campaigns have raised up to \$2,000!

Girls' Easter Outfits for P.A.C.K.

Collection runs March 1st - March 22nd



As a sponsor of the girls' size-6 closet at P.A.C.K.' Boutique, St. John's is holding a spring collection. Little girls in foster care, under court-appointed guardianship, or needing emergency assistance get an opportunity to select special new clothes provided by our parish outreach. Consider donating new spring or Easter outfits (dresses, shoes, or accessories) for girls size 6 or shoe sizes 12 or 13. Richie Reid will be in Cranmer Hall each Sunday before, in between, and after services on March 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd. You may also drop off donations at the Church office during the week.

EASTER BRASS & EASTER LILIES: Forms are due March 29th



Easter Brass Form

Consider contributing to the sound of brass or to help fill the church with lilies on Easter, April 5. To donate towards brass or Easter lilies (\$45 each), pick up forms from the back of the church and the Church office, or use the QR codes to submit online. The list of donors will be published the Sunday after Easter.



Easter Lilies Form

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

*The nursery (infants to four-year-olds)
is available from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
on the 2nd floor of Cranmer Hall.*

8 a.m. Holy Communion, Church

*Breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following
the 8 & 9 a.m. services this Sunday.*

Introit: Psalm 91, BCP pp. 454–455

The Collects, BCP pp. 125, 124

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 126–127

9 a.m. Family Holy Communion, Church

**10 a.m. All Ages Sunday School,
St. Mary's Chapel & Cranmer Hall**

11 a.m. Morning Prayer, Church & Online

12:30 p.m. Coffee Hour, Green-Meldrim

5 p.m. Youth Group: Duckpin Bowling
Broughton Street Bowl & Brew, Savannah

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Vestry Offering Chair

8 a.m. Mr. B. Ray Summerell

11 a.m. Mr. Graham P. Sadler

Ushers

Mr. Robert B. Turner (Bart)

Mr. Frank Somoskey

Choir

Schola Choir

Coffee Hour

Mrs. David A. Young (Pam)

Chancel Society

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

Mrs. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie)

Mrs. David A. Young (Pamela)

Mrs. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce)

Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan

Mrs. W. Lee Belford, Sr. (Cathy)

Mrs. William L. Belford, Jr. (Emily)

Mrs. Charles Youles (Betty)

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Jesus isn't offering us techniques for self-realization. Instead, he is establishing a template for giving up the project of self-realization, and instead entrusting "our selves, our souls, and bodies" to God, who in Christ will bring to fulfilment in us all that he has designed for us. It is in this perspective that we may understand Jesus' own teaching about "self-realization": "whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mark 8:35). The more we try to realize ourselves – to treat the self as absolute, to make ourselves as gods – the less we succeed; the more we hand over ourselves to Christ, the more we find ourselves in him. We don't have to be 'successful' – we just have to belong to him, to acknowledge ourselves as his. He will do the rest.

And that is the meaning of the spiritual disciplines of Lent. It's not about self-realization, secular or religious. It's not about "self-improvement", spiritual or material. It is about belonging to him, and living in him, in repentance, faith, and love. Fasting and abstinence teach us that we are not ruled by our wants. Prayer teaches us to want what God wants. Almsgiving teaches us to love as God loves. Together, they are means of dying to self, that we may live in Christ, as serviceable instruments of his will. As this Sunday's collect puts it, we ask Christ for grace "to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honour and glory". – GGD

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Mrs. M. Tyus Butler, Jr.
by Mr. and Mrs. W. 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-ins.