

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 15

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

A Country at War

Our country is at war—and as with all wars, there is no telling where that will take us. In the aftermath of “forever wars” in Iraq and Afghanistan, there is vigorous debate about its justification and its aims. Given the tribalized state of our politics, it will be a challenge for Americans to conduct that debate soberly and responsibly. I trust we will be earnest in our prayers for our country, for its leadership, for the public debate about the war, as well as for the armed forces, and that we will be praying for wisdom and courage and devotion to the common good. I trust we shall also not omit to pray for the non-combatant civilians caught in this conflict. As for the Iranian regime that has for decades proclaimed “Death to America” as a national goal, we may well pray for its defeat—but with the caveat made in the national anthem: “Then conquer we must / when our cause it is just”.

– GGD

Insistent Prayer

We need to pray, and how shall we pray? By both example and exhortation, the Scriptures tell us to pray *hard*—as if your life depended on it (it does). Pray “without ceasing”, “continue instant in prayer”: that is, both persistently and insistentlly. Be earnest, urgent, importunate. Like the woman of Canaan in last Sunday’s gospel, who refused to be discouraged, and in the face of judgment clung to hope, We are to pray as Jacob prayed: “I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.”

Earnest supplication of this kind is precisely what the service known as the Litany teaches us, if we are willing to learn. It is not merely interces-

sion, but intercession shaped by urgency—prayer offered, as Thomas Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury (c.1768), described it, “for averting God’s judgments and procuring his mercy.” In time of war or calamity the character of the Litany comes to vivid life; but it is always seasonable; both because it encourages us to pray in solidarity with those who do suffer, and it is a reminder of our own vulnerability without which we fall into complacency.”

After the opening invocations of the whole Trinity, the rest of the prayer is addressed to Christ, and Christ *in his humanity*. F. D. Maurice (c.1848) comments on its profoundly human character: “What do you mean by saying it is human but this: That it calls upon the Son of God as one who has actually entered into the depths of human sorrow; who has borne the agony and bloody sweat, the cross and passion, who has been dead, and buried, and has known the darkness of the unseen world? What do you mean by calling it human but this: That it speaks of the actual vulgar sorrows to which flesh is heir; that it supposes men to be praying who know them for themselves and for others, who are too much crushed by them to have any power except to lift up such a cry as this, “Good Lord, deliver us,” “Lord, have mercy upon us”? It is in the press and tumult of life you learn the tones in which these prayers should be uttered; it is amidst the terrible realities of sickness and death, of conflict with flesh and blood and with principalities and powers that you are taught what kind of garlands, with what measures, you shall approach the divine altar.”

Continued on back page

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

Bishop of GAThe Rt. Rev. Frank Logue
Rector.....The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar
Associate RectorThe 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 12, 6–7 p.m.** – Parlor Presentation with Jon Ward, visit GreenMeldrimHouse.org
- **March 18, 4:30–6:30 p.m.** – Volunteers meet at P.A.C.K., 4 Mall Terrace, Savannah
- **March 24, 10:45–11:45 a.m.** – Hope Haven's Dementia Caregiver Support Group, Cranmer Hall, Visit SavannahRespite.com
- **April 7, 10:30** – Hope Haven's Decoding Dementia Care with Donna McMahan, Cranmer Hall. Free & open to the public. Register at SavannahRespite.com



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

**UPCOMING WORSHIP
Week of Lent 3**

Online Morning Prayer

8:15 a.m. Monday to Friday

Monday, March 9

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Tuesday, March 10

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Wednesday, March 11

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

9 p.m. *Compline*, Church

Thursday, March 12

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with Holy Communion, Chapel

Friday, March 13

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Saturday, March 14

11 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, March 15: Fourth 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. *Choral Eucharist*, Church/Online

5 p.m. *Choral Evensong*, Church/Online

St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17th



9 a.m. St. Patrick's Day Family Holy Communion: Join us for Holy Communion in St. Mary's Chapel followed by the chasing of the snakes in the Garden

Mall. Parade attire welcome (*No other services will be offered that day. The Church office will be closed.*)

Parking Spaces: Purchases are limited to parishioners (one spot per family) for use on March 17, from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. for \$25. Spaces not purchased by parishioners by March 10th will be opened to the public or for parishioners to buy an additional spot. Reserve your spot by using this QR code.



Quiet Day: Into the Deep Waters *Praying the Passion with the Psalms* Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a day of quiet Lenten reflection led by The Rev'd David B. Alenskis, a longtime SAMS-USA missionary and priest. He and his family will be moving to the Netherlands, where he will serve on the faculty of Tyndale Theological Seminary.

Schedule:

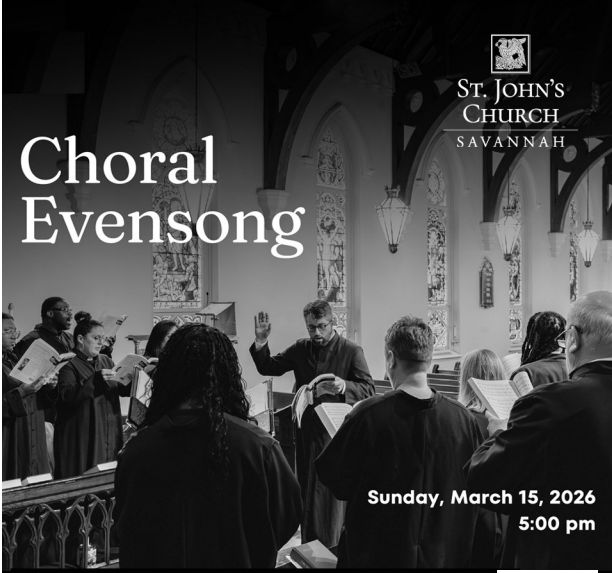
- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer, Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee and Address, Ralston Room, Cranmer Hall
- Noon Holy Communion, Chapel
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, Fellowship Hall

This Quiet Day offers a prayerful journey into Christ's Passion through the Psalms with an opportunity to go deeper, listen closely, and be renewed. We invite you to take part. Please register by calling the Church Office at 912-232-1251 or emailing dkarls@stjohnssav.org.

Lenten Collections at St. John's

Girls' Easter Outfits for P.A.C.K.: Donate a 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 8th, 15th & 22nd. You may also drop off donations at the Church office during the week.

Baby Bottle Collection: Support of St. John's outreach partner, The Living Vine Maternity Home, a Christ-centered maternity home for women experiencing crisis pregnancies. Fill the bottle with coins, cash, and/or checks. Return the full bottles to St. John's by Palm Sunday, March 29th.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SAVANNAH

Choral Evensong

**Sunday, March 15, 2026
5:00 pm**

The Choirs of St. John's will sing Choral Evensong with works by Richard Lloyd, Thomas Tallis, and Richard Ayleward. *Free and open to the public*



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

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 9, BCP pp. 351–352

The Collects, BCP pp. 128, 124

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 128–130

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. Lenten Course: *The Scripture Practice*, Green-Meldrim House (registration required)

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Vestry Offering Chair

8 a.m. Mr. B. Ray Summerell

11 a.m. Mr. Wiley A. Wasden III

Ushers

Mr. Frank Somoskey

Mr. Robert L. Sparks

Choir

Schola Choir

Coffee Hour

Mrs. Robert Vinyard (Frankie)

Chancel Society

Mrs. Timothy E. Coy (Dorothea)

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland

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

Mrs. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie)

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

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

Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr. (Penny)

Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan

Ms. Linda H. Pounds

Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr. (Margaret)

Continued from page 1

“Did you ever meet with words which expressed more distinctly, simply, passionately, the sense of that oppression and the hope of that refuge? From first to last the prayer supposes you to be surrounded with enemies; some visible, some invisible; both equally real; the secret pestilence no more than the drawn sword; the pride and malice and envy of our own hearts, no less than those of the persecutor and slanderer.”

Only a mediator who is one with God, and one with us in suffering the consequences of sin under the judgments and providence of God, can relieve our need and deliver us from misery. That's why it is to him that we turn in earnest supplication.

The structure of the Litany follows the familiar Pauline triad of “guilt, grace, and gratitude”. After the *Invocations* of the Trinity, which teach us to ground our hope in God's own mercy, in the *Deprecations* it turns to our great need and misery, both sin and suffering. Then, in the *Obsecrations*, it calls on the works of Christ as the basis of our deliverance. In the *Intercessions* it seeks the supply of every need, both outwardly in society and inwardly in our souls. In the concluding *Supplications*, our prayer becomes pure pleading both earnest and insistent. “I will not let thee go, except thou bless me”.
– GGD

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of A. Carlyle Dunbar by his son, Gavin G. Dunbar.

And with God's blessing and in love and celebration of the 56th Anniversary of Barbara & Carter Hubbard's wedding which took place here at St. John's on February 28, 1970.

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