

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 22

The Third Sunday after Easter

April 26, 2026

THE JOY OF HIS PRAISE

Last Sunday at Evensong, Fr. Andrew Mead, OBE, and Rector Emeritus of St. Thomas Fifth Avenue, offered these reflections on the occasion of the Admission of five new Choristers to the Girls' Choir of St. John's.

Our lessons today (Exodus 33, John 21) each tell of intimate personal encounters with God – Moses with the Lord at the Tent of Meeting, and Saint Peter with the risen Lord Jesus by the Sea of Tiberias. These “I and Thou” encounters involve awe, love, sin and our limitations (including Moses's and Peter's), forgiveness and healing, strengthening...on we could go.

These encounters are not confined to Moses and Peter and famous saints and leaders. In different ways they happen to everyone who is drawn to the Lord, ways that are suited to the person and the need of each of us. You can start with Holy Scripture and go through the history of the people of God down to the present to see this wonder of God's grace.

I've been a priest for over a half century, and it has been one of the greatest privileges of ordained ministry to witness, or to hear of, people's encounters with the Lord; and how thereby they were “born from above” either early or late in life. Even though they are extraordinary, they are also universal.

What does one do in the wake of such experience of grace? One thing is to sing. The experience seems to call for more than just words. There is a saying, “He who sings prays twice.”

Two examples from the Bible. When Israel was delivered from Pharaoh's army at the miracle of

the Red Sea, Moses and his sister Miriam (with her tambourine) sang out, “I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously. The horse and its rider hath he thrown into the sea.” Those verses are very likely among the oldest in Scripture. Again, almost two millennia later, after Jesus had washed his disciples' feet in the Upper Room and shared his last supper with them, they sang a hymn before going out to face what came next. Song, music, is not an additional extra in the life of faith. It is basic to the life of faith. Jesus's last words from the cross were fragments of the Psalms he knew so well. They were his songbook.

For nearly twenty years, I was rector of Saint Thomas Church in Manhattan, where there has been a Boys' Choir School for over a century. Each year, the new choristers were clothed with their white surplices when they qualified to be full choristers. More recently, for a month each summer, the Choir School hosted girl choristers, and their excitement was contagious. Whether boys or girls, the joy among the newly clothed choristers provided one of the great pleasures of being there in the Rector's stall. Today here brings it all back.

So I say to the young choristers being clothed with their surplices this evening: May the joy of singing the Lord's praises remain ever with you. I recall “old boys” from Saint Thomas visiting and telling me their time in the choir was the experience of a lifetime. Some even became professional singers, musicians and composers; or even clergy.

However your life develops, may the knowledge of the Lord and the pleasure of singing his praises, remain with you all the way. —ACM

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

Bishop of GA..... The 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
Verger Mr. B. Ray Summerell
Verger Mr. 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

- **April 27 & May 11, 18, 25, 4:30 p.m.** – Teatime at the Meldrims' for details visit GreenMeldrimHouse.org
- **April 29 & May 6, 4:30 p.m.** – PACK
- **April 29 & May 6, 13, 20, 27, 4 p.m.** – Green-Meldrim House & St. John's Church Combo Tour with porch refreshments.
- **May 10, 9 a.m.** – Fifth Sunday in Easter with Children & Youth Sunday School Awards
- **May 17, 4–7 p.m.** – End of year pool party for children & youth Sunday school families
- **May 24** – Summer worship schedule begins Sunday, May 24 and ends on Sunday, Sept. 6.
- **May 31** – Choral Mattins for Trinity Sunday, followed by the parish picnic in the Garden Mall and Green-Meldrim House

UPCOMING WORSHIP Week of Easter 3

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

Monday, April 27
No services today.

Tuesday, April 28
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Wednesday, April 29
Noon *Holy Communion*, Church
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel
9 p.m. *Compline*, Church

Thursday, April 30
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel
5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*
with Holy Communion, Chapel

Friday, May 1:
Feast of Saints Philip & James
Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, May 3:
The Fourth Sunday after Easter
8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church
9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church
10 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*,
St. Mary's Chapel & Cranmer Hall
11 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church/Online



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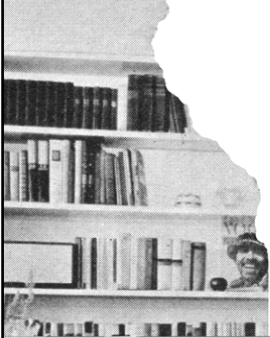
Apply for EYCS Scholarships by May 31st

The Episcopal Youth and Children's Services (EYCS) of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia offers need-based, undergraduate college scholarships. Visit GaEpiscopal.org/eysc.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AT ST. JOHN'S


If you are interested in any of the following ministries, please email info@stjohnssav.org or call the Church office at 912-232-1251.

- Lift Your Voice; Enrich Your Worship:** Now is a great time to consider joining the Choir of Adults. This choir leads Sunday services in rotation with our Choristers and the Schola choir. If you or someone you know might be interested, please email Mr. Douglas at wdouglas@stjohnssav.org to learn more.
- Share St. John's Beauty, History & Holiness:** Visitors to Savannah enjoy learning about our beautiful, historic church, but we can't keep these tours open without volunteer docents. Consider offering a few hours each month to share our sacred history. Tours are Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Be the Reason Someone Smiles This Week:** Thinking about getting involved in Hope Haven – St. John's new respite care for those living with brain changes? Whether you're sharing music, helping with activities, or spending time with members, you'll make a difference.
- Help Build Fellowship One Cup at a Time:** Like to connecting with current and new parishioners? We offer coffee hour after principal worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and need help to run them smoothly.
- Turn Altar Flowers into Moments of Grace:** After Sunday, the beautiful altar flowers are made into smaller arrangements and delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-ins. We're always looking for volunteers to deliver flowers.
- Be the Steady Presence in Someone's Storm:** After 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training, you'll be prepared to care for someone in need. Walk alongside them, pray with them, care for them during their crisis. Contact the church office to be connected you with one of our Stephen Ministry leaders.



FAITH & Fiction

Led by novelist and parishioner Heather Cross, Faith & Fiction engages the ethical and theological themes of good literature, seeking to enable deep conversation about what it means to be human in God's world.

6 MAY	A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ <i>Walter Miller, Jr.</i>	
3 JUNE	THE LAST BATTLE <i>C. S. Lewis</i>	

NEW SAVE THE DATE: Parish Picnic

Sunday, May 31, after the final service in the Garden Mall and Green-Meldrim House

All parishioners are invited to join us for good food and fellowship! More details will be shared soon.

SAVE THE DATE! Women of St. John's May Meeting & Picnic

Friday, May 8, Noon, Nita Ann Klein's Home

Women of the parish are invited to the home of Nita Ann Klein for an afternoon of fellowship. RSVP info@stjohnssav.org, and let us know if you need a ride. Please bring a covered side.

Holly Days Bazaar Wants Your Treasures! *Spring Cleaning? Downsizing? or De-Cluttering?*

If you have unwanted china, silver, linens, art, antiques or fine home decor, consider donating them to the Silent Auction and Treasure Room. Contact Meta Logan or Chambliss Stevens to coordinate the pick up of accepted items.

Holly Days Bazaar Save the Date! *November 12 & 13*

Planning is underway for the Women of St. John's yearly fundraiser, and your support is vital. This is a wonderful opportunity for parish fellowship and growth through service.

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 66, BCP pp. 417-418

The Collect, BCP pp. 173

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 173-174

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

ADMISSION OF CHORISTERS

At Evensong on Sunday, April 19, 2026, the following persons received the surplice in token of their admission to the Choir of Girls at St. John's Church.

Lila Colón

Callie Cooke

Emmiline Koweh

Mailani Reeves

Helena Talsness

“Bless, O Lord, us thy servants, who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY

The flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of
Nita Morgan Williams and
Edgar Pomeroy Williams by their family.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Vestry Offering Chair

8 a.m. Mr. B. Ray Summerell

11 a.m. Mr. Douglas P. McManamy

Ushers

Mr. Frank Somoskey

Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr. (Chip)

Choir

11 a.m. 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. B. Ray Summerell (Melanie)

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

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)

Mrs. Jeanne Howell McMillan

Ms. Linda H. Pounds

Mrs. Charles Youles (Betty)



MUSIC ON MADISON SQUARE

The North Carolina Baroque Orchestra:

Les Éléments: Celebrating Spring

Sunday, May 24, at 5 p.m., St. John's Church

Enjoy music by Georg Telemann, Wolfgang Mozart, and others! This ensemble returns to perform for the second time with a larger group of performers and more period instruments.

Tickets: stjohnssav.org/mms