

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 30

Third Sunday after Trinity

June 21, 2026

PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH (1)

Praying Our Mission

A mission statement says what an organization exists to do, what it hopes to become, and what principles guide its life. In the Prayer for the “whole state of Christ’s Church” in the service of Holy Communion, we have a mission statement in the form of prayer, one that engages the will as well as the intellect. In praying it we commit ourselves to the Mission that Christ has given his Church.

We may gain a sense of this Prayer’s significance by its place in the service—by which comes before, and what comes after. It comes at the end of the ministry of the Word. The faith is proclaimed and confessed; but “faith without works is dead”; it is fruitful in works of charity, such as the offering of alms and oblations. While our alms can reach only a few of our neighbours, our prayers may embrace the whole Church throughout the world. In prayer, Christian charity extends beyond the limits of our resources and places all things in the hands of God.

What comes after is the Ministry of the Sacrament—the Sacrament not only of Christ’s Body given for us upon the Cross, but also the Sacrament of Christ’s Body the Church, the Body of believers redeemed by his sacrifice. The Apostle Paul writes, “We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” Before we receive the Body of Christ sacramentally, we pray for the Body of Christ ecclesially.

First and foremost, we pray God would “inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.” Notice we do not jump immediately to human organizations and institutional structures. What we are praying for is a spiritual communion

united in truth and love – not one or the other, but both equally.

This idea of a unity of truth and love is increasingly difficult for modern people to grasp. We often imagine that truth divides while love unites, and therefore that unity requires us to soften or set aside truth claims. The Prayer Book assumes precisely the opposite. Behind this assumption lies something even deeper: the missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit that shape the Church. The Son is the eternal Word, the Truth through whom the Father makes himself known. The Spirit is the one who pours the love of God into our hearts, the giver of fellowship, the bond of peace, the one who gathers believers into one Body. The Spirit does not unite us apart from the truth revealed by Christ. Nor does Christ reveal the truth merely that individuals may possess correct ideas. The Word is given that we may be gathered into fellowship, and the Spirit is given that we may share together in the life revealed by the Word.

The order of the Prayer, therefore, mirrors the order of God’s own saving work. First comes the truth of God’s Word. Then comes unity in that truth. Finally comes the godly love, which is the perfection of unity. The pattern is Christ and the Spirit, revelation and communion, truth and love. For this reason, the Church cannot choose between truth and love, as though one were more important than the other. It must hold both together, first truth and then love. Christian love is not the suspension of truth; it is the form that truth takes when it has fully accomplished its work among us. A merely sentimental unity, detached from truth, cannot endure. Nor can a merely intellectual truth, detached from love, accomplish its purpose. Both are needed.

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

Looking for Altar Flower Volunteers

Enhancing Worship Through Flowers

Enhance the beauty and worship at St. John's by assisting with arranging altar flowers for Sunday services in the Church and Chapel, as well as for weddings and funerals. This meaningful ministry offers a creative and reverent way to serve. Volunteers are always welcome and no experience is necessary. Please contact Jeanne McMillan, Linda Pounds, or the church office to learn more.

Turn Altar Flowers into Moments of Grace

After Sunday, the altar flowers are made into smaller arrangements and delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-ins. We are always looking for volunteers to deliver flowers. To learn more, contact Margaret Wylly or the church.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Week of Trinity 3

Online Morning Prayer

No online Morning Prayer this week or next week.

Monday, June 22

No services today.

Tuesday, June 23

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Wednesday, June 24: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

No Compline today

Thursday, June 25

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

with Holy Communion, Chapel

Friday, June 26

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

Sunday, June 28:

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

8 a.m. *Said Holy Communion*, Church

9:15 a.m. *Nursery*, Cranmer Hall

9:30 a.m. *Fr. Dunbar's Class* (Next class, July 12th)

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

with a short children's talk during Morning Prayer

UPCOMING HOLY DAYS

Wednesday, June 24

Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

Monday, June 29

Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

MUSIC IN THE MALL: JACOB EVANS

*Wednesday, July 1, at 7 p.m. in the Garden Mall
(Free & Open to the Public)*

Our next summer concert features Jacob Evans, a beloved presence on the Savannah music scene who captivates audiences with his soulful voice, smooth guitar work, and signature blend of R&B, soul, and pop. He gives an intimate, one-of-a-kind performance you won't want to miss. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy an unforgettable evening of live music in a beautiful historic setting!



Photo: Somi Studios

MUSIC ON MADISON SQUARE



Category V Brass: Patriotic Extravaganza

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

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with this powerhouse brass ensemble performing uplifting and patriotic works.

Recognition of Service Members

As we gather to give thanks for the freedoms we hold dear, we want to remember the service members who have protected and defended the rights and liberties of our citizens. If you would like to give an honorarium or memorial to be included in the concert program, please scan this QR code to fill out the form. The cost per honorarium or memorial is \$10, and you may submit payment via the same form.

Purchase Tickets:
stjohnssav.org/mms



FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY

The flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God, in loving memory of Jennifer Liscomb Ross, by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Russell Ross, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Russell Ross, Jr.

And in loving memory of McDonald A. Fawcett, by his wife Susannah H. Fawcett and family.

And in loving memory of William Finn Summerell and Martha Littlefield Summerell, by Mr. and Mrs. Timothy E. Coy.

And in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Moody Culver, by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Brian Culver and Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Bryan Jones, Jr.

And to the glory of God and in loving memory of Miss Barbara Jones, by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lawton Williams and her family.

To offer flowers for the altar, please call the Church office. After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-ins. To volunteer for this ministry, call Margaret Wyllly at 912-656-6235.

NOTE: The Church office will be closed at noon on Fridays during the summer.

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

Summer schedule runs until Sept. 6th.

The nursery (infants to four-year-olds) is available on the 2nd floor of Cranmer Hall from 9:15 a.m. until after the 10:30 a.m. service.

8 a.m. Said Holy Communion, Church

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

Introit: Psalm 55, BCP pp. 359–361

The Collect, BCP p. 192

The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 192–193

9:30 a.m. Fr. Dunbar's Class *(Next class, July 12th)*

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist, Church/Online

with a children's activity in the Chapel during the sermon

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Vestry Offering Chair

8 a.m. Mr. B. Ray Summerell

10:30 a.m. Mr. Graham Sadler

Ushers

Mr. John G. Bradshaw

Mr. Frank Somoskey

Choir

10:30 a.m. Choir of Adults

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 H. McMillan

Ms. Linda H. Pounds

Dr. Robert Jarman (Bob)

This concern for unity in truth and love arises naturally from the Sacrament for which the prayer prepares us. The Body of Christ is not only the body born of the Virgin Mary, offered upon the Cross, raised from the dead, and exalted into heaven. It is also the Church itself - not merely an organization but a living communion created by union with Christ. For this reason, the Sacrament has always been understood to symbolize not only the Body Christ gave for us on the cross, but the unity of believers in his Body, the Church. St. Augustine pointed out that bread is made from many grains gathered into one loaf, and wine from many grapes gathered into one cup. The elements themselves signify the gathering together of many persons into one Body. Augustine, therefore, exhorted Christians: "Be what you see, and receive what you are." In receiving the Body of Christ, we learn that we ourselves are members of Christ's Body. What the Sacrament signifies, the Church is called to become.

That is why the Prayer for the Church begins where it does. Before we pray for rulers, ministers, congregations, the afflicted, or the departed, we pray for the Church as a whole. Before all else, we ask God to make us what we are meant to be: a people gathered by the truth of his Word, harmoniously united by the fellowship of his Spirit, and perfected in godly love. This is the first priority of our mission as a church, and as individual Christians.

– GGD

(Continued next week.)

Share St. John's History & Holiness

Visitors 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. Call the church office at 912-232-1251 to learn more.