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The Parish Paper

OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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Advent Sunday: The Fullness of Eternity

In our transient life, O Lord, we sense your quiet eternity. Things begin and have their time and end. At the break of day we can already feel how it will sink into evening. In all happiness is felt the coming sorrow. We build a house and do our work and know that it must all end. But you, O Lord, live and no transience touches you.

You are joyful in your holy existence, and neither necessity nor ending impinges on you. You are new in your being, and know of no weariness. You need nothing. You are deprived of nothing. You are everything. You are the epitome of all majesty.

The centre of your eternity is where you, O Father, and you, O Son, are near each other in the intimacy of the Holy Spirit. In that stillness is your love and your peace. In it is your home, O blissful God.

You, Jesus Christ, came to us from there and brought us news of what "no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart conceived". When time is ended, my dwelling also will be there. Make me confident of this. Let my longing thither never die in my heart, so that in the changes of life I may keep my sense of what alone gives shape and purpose to all life. Let my spirit be touched by the breath of your eternity, so that I may do my temporal work rightly and may in due time carry it over into your eternal kingdom.

Amen

-Romano Guardini,

PARISH KALENDAR

We receive the sacred tradition of the Christian Year as a profound inheritance. Ours is not only the joy of participation but also the responsibility to offer this spiritual formation to our families and friends. Make it your intention during Advent to attend each Sunday, and at least one of the daily services each week, along with your family.

DAILY IN ADVENT (in the Chapel)

Monday through Friday, 7:15 A.M.:

Morning Prayer and Holy Communion

Monday through Friday, 5:30 P.M.:

Evening Prayer and Holy Communion

Wednesday, 10:00 A.M.:

Holy Communion

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

We stand at the head of the Christian year. I am not sure that there is anything quite like it in the world; this composite of sanctities, this interweaving of story and prayer, of song and color, by which Christ is portrayed and brought before us. It is a solemn pageantry, which

effects association with Him whose life is being traced. It is a solemn processional, in which we actually move in spirit. It is an annual miracle, the marvel of which we only miss because we are so familiar with it.

It seems to me that, standing at the head of the Christian Year, we might well stand back for a moment, and think in the large Lord and Saviour, whose steps we are once more about to follow, as the sanctities unfold themselves.

-Miles Lowell Yates

DURING ADVENT

Grant, O Almighty God, that as thy blessed Son Jesus Christ at his first advent didst come to seek and to save that which was lost; so at his second and glorious appearing he may find in us the fruits of the redemption which he wrought; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. **Amen.**

O God, who wouldest fold both heaven

and earth in a single peace; Let the design of thy great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows; and give peace to thy Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts; through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O Thou, who hast foretold that thou wilt return to judgement in an hour of which we are not aware; grant us grace to watch and pray always, that whether thou shalt come at even, or at midnight, or in the morning, we may be found among the number of those servants who shall be blessed in waiting for their Lord; to whom be all glory now and for evermore. **Amen**

Romano Guardini

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