

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 48 No. 41

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

August 27, 2017

COMING EVENTS

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

Monday - Friday

Morning and Evening Prayer

8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*

10:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

Next Sunday September 3rd:

Guest Preacher: *Fr Douglas Dupree*

CEREMONIAL: POSTURE, GESTURE, AND MOVEMENT

Ceremonial of any kind, simple or complex, is based on the reality that we are embodied souls, and that prayer is not just an act of the soul, but of the body also. In many churches today, there is very limited use of the body in worship. The congregation relaxes in well-cushioned auditorium seating, may stand to sing or hear music, and, if they are so moved, may sway, dance, or raise their arms. Even, or rather, especially in such bodily actions, the impulse is entirely subjective, these are expressions of inner feeling and mood, and in some cases differ little from the responses of audiences at rock concerts.

In contrast, the older forms of ceremonial gesture, posture, and movement are strongly objective. What we do with our bodies is an objective act of worship, responding to the spiritual realities of which the Gospel speaks; and in those objective responses appropriate inner feeling is

both shaped and expressed. When we kneel to pray, for instance, after the example of our Lord, his prophets and apostles, we are using our bodies to train our souls in the humility appropriate to prayer. (It's striking that this biblical posture of prayer has almost disappeared from 'contemporary' worship.)

In the tradition of Christian worship there is a rich and varied vocabulary of bodily posture, gesture, and movement for use in worship, which is employed in the simplest of liturgies. The priest (together with deacon and subdeacon, if present) stands to praise, to pray, to address the people, to absolve and bless - all signs of the ministerial authority committed to him, to represent and act for Christ. When he prays, his arms are lifted up next to his body, with his palms open, an ancient posture known as the 'orans' position. At times, the people may also stand, usually for the praise of God in psalms, hymns and canticles, in the creed, and - as a gesture of respect for authority - at the proclamation of the gospel and at the entry and exit of the clergy. But in prayer the congregation usually kneels, a Biblical sign of self-humbling earnest prayer; and at the name of Jesus, and the *Gloria patri*, and some other places, all may bow their heads - a kind of modified

THE PARISH PAPER
OF
St. John's Church
ONE WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401
www.stjohnssav.org

The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

The Rt. Rev. Scott Benhase..... Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Gavin G. DunbarRector
1 West Macon Street, 31401(912) 429-3384
The Rev. Craig E. O'Brien..... Priest Associate
423 E. Gaston Street 31401(912) 308-4441
The Rev. J. Patrick HuntAssisting Priest
Mr. R. Steven Branyon Organist/Choirmaster
Mrs. Janice W. Woods Business Manager
Mrs. Thomas R. Corbin, Jr.....Parish Administrator
Mrs. Daniel J. MahfetzFinancial Administrator
Mrs. Holden T. Hayes..... Christian Education Director
Mr. Sinisa DomazetBuildings Manager

Senior Warden.....Mr. Richard L. Wright
Junior Warden..... Joseph R. Ross, Esq.
Clerk of Vestry.....Mr. E. Brian Culver
Treasurer.....Mr. David C. Barrow III
Assistant Treasurer.....Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford
Chancellor.....M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.

The Vestry: Esqs., Joseph R. Ross, Jonathan D. Sprague; Drs. J. Davidson Carson, James S. McClellan, Jr., Roland S. Summers; Mrs. Christian M. Arden-Joly, Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy, Mrs. Gary M. Schubert; Messrs. David C. Barrow III, E. Brian Culver, Edwin H. Culver, L. Allan Reynolds, Jr., R. Gilbert Wells, Richard L. Wright.

Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George Fawcett, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr., Mr. James E. Hungerpillar, Roland B. Williams, Esq.

President, Women of St. John's..... Mrs. R. Scott Howard
President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's.....Mr. R. Scott Howard

Church Office(912) 232-1251
Fax.....(912) 232-5559
Parish House(912) 233-3845
Cranmer Hall(912) 232-8887
E-mails (firstinitiallastname)@stjohnssav.org

STANDING NOTICES

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary. Please call the Church Office to notify the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital or hospice.

VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN

8:00 Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Leslie R. Johnson

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Jacob Perkins Jackson McClellan
Edwin Shepherd Philip Inglesby

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Alexander Robert Fawcett by his wife, Mrs. Alexander Robert Fawcett, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Fawcett;

And in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Carson, Jr. who were married at St. John's by the Reverent Ernest Riskey;

And in honor of Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr. by the Chancel Society.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard,
Mrs. McDonald A. Fawcett,
Mrs. Timothy E. Coy
Mrs. Adolphus J. Carter III, Mrs. John R. Reiter
Mrs. Gary M. Schubert

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Edward J. Derst III

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

READING ROOM: *II Samuel*- Father Dunbar
No class this Sunday

Childcare (Nursery through Kindergarten) is available for the 10:30 a.m. service. First grade and up may remain in church.

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- *St. Luke* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m., Reading Room, CH3
Thursday- *Men's Small Group* with lunch
Noon- Fellowship Hall, CH1

JANE'S CANNERS

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Cranmer Hall
Fellowship Room and Kitchen.

THE WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Board Meeting: Tuesday September 5th at 10 a.m. in the Reading Room of Cranmer Hall
Installation of Officers and Standing Committee Chairmen will take place during the 10 a.m. Chapel Service on Wednesday, September 6th.

General Meeting immediately follows the 10 a.m. Chapel Service in the Green-Meldrim House

Official Kickoff of 2017 Holly Days Bazaar – all chairmen are urged to attend if possible.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

kneeling, which is also a way of honoring the authority of God. As they pray, they usually clasp their hands, either palm to palm, making a kind of spire, in a sign of fealty; or with fingers interlocked, an expression of inner concentration.

Sitting, oddly enough, is almost always purely utilitarian, a concession to the discomfort of standing or kneeling for long periods. Pews did not catch on until the Middle Ages, and even today are often not found in the ancient churches of southern and eastern Europe. The one exception is the ceremonial enthronement of the bishop in his *cathedra* (which gives the cathedral its name) - the ancient sign of teaching authority. (In the sermon at the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus reads the scripture standing, but sits to preach.) But the seating for the congregation is not a sign of their enthronement with Christ! it is just relief when standing or kneeling becomes irksome.

According to a very ancient tradition, the prayer of the church is made facing east, the direction of the rising sun. It's a kind of cosmic symbolism: in our praise and prayer, we look for the dawning of God's new day of salvation, the coming of the Risen Lord in his power and glory. Where possible churches were usually built so that their liturgical center lay towards the east (a custom known as 'orientation', from the Latin word 'oriens', which means 'rising', and therefore 'east'). St. John's location requires that its liturgical center lie towards the west end of the plot, but the immense image of the risen Lord upon the reredos functions as a kind of "liturgical east" - if not geographi-

cally, yet spiritually we are oriented to the risen Son/Sun. So the priest when he prays at the altar is not "turning his back" on the congregation: rather we with him are turning toward the Lord, in an outward sign of our inward conversion (which of course means 'turning'). When clergy face the people to make their prayers the symbolism is all wrong - it's as if they were praying to the congregation. (Cardinal Dulles once saw a banner in a church that read, "God is other people": he wanted to take an enormous marker and insert a comma after the word 'other': "God is *other*, people".)

On high holy days at St. John's Church there may be a more elaborate ceremonial for the clergy at the altar - usually a priest, deacon, and subdeacon, in eucharistic vestments. Usually they stand either aligned in single file (for prayer), or in a row (for the praise of God). If the priest or deacon addresses the people, the deacon and subdeacon "split" symmetrically to each side. When moving from the center to the horn of the altar, they move together. (There are some other complications for functional reasons.) This ancient and elaborate choreography may seem strange, but it is an 'other-worldly' strangeness, another indication (along with vestments) that in Christian worship we have indeed entered into another world, which is known as yet by faith alone. "Our citizenship is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil 3:20, 21). We may respond to the strangeness by wondering "what just happened here?", but perhaps that is the very question we ought to be asking. GGD

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL.....Prayer Book, page 204, 205
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

9:30 A.M. – ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Cranmer Hall)

10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery (Cranmer Hall)**

10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER & SERMON

HYMN: #288 <i>O Worship the King</i>	Hanover
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses.....	7-8
VENITE: #610.....	9
Psalm #51	403
First Lesson: Daniel 9:1-19 <i>Daniel's prayer for his people in their captivity</i>	<i>insert</i>
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #615	10
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1 & St. Luke 18:9.....	204, 205
BENEDICTUS#634.....	14
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Responses	16
Collect of the Day.....	204
Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers	17-20
Welcome and Announcements	Fr O' Brien
HYMN: #60 <i>With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh</i>	Babylon's Streams
Sermon	Father O'Brien

OFFERING

Sentences	
Anthem: <i>Turn Thy Face From Thy Sins</i>	Thomas Attwood
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)	
General Thanksgiving (<i>said by all</i>) and Aaronic Blessing	19
HYMN #282 <i>Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven</i>	Lauda Anima
VOLUNTARY: <i>Sortie</i>	Noel Rawsthorne

*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.
 If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known.*

12:00 P.M. (Noon)—HOLY COMMUNION (Chapel - as at 8:00 a.m.)