

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 7

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 14, 2018

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ HOLIDAY CLOSING ◆

The Church Office is closed Monday,
January 15th. No daily services.

◆ WORSHIP ◆

Tuesday to 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. *Eucharist*

In addition, on Thursday

5:30 p.m. *Evening Prayer*
and *Holy Communion*

◆ SENIORS' LUNCHEON ◆

Wednesday, January 17 at 11:30 a.m.

All Ladies 70 and older are invited to for luncheon in the Parish House. Call the Church Office (232-1251) to make your reservation or if you need transportation.

◆ OUTREACH WORKDAY ◆

AT THE TYBEE FRESH AIR HOME

Sat. Jan. 20th 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Cathy Baxter at 704-5111 or
cathy@twistedwarrior.com.

◆ YSJ - LASER TAG ◆

Sunday, January 21st 12:15-2:30

Join the Youth of St. John's (6th-12th grade) for laser tag and pizza! Cost \$15.00. RSVP dsvihel@stjohnssav.org

◆ OYSTER ROAST ◆

Saturday, February 10th 12:00 – 4:00

Camp Villa Marie - Tickets \$30
(\$35 at door)

Under 21 years of age: No Charge
On sale at Coffee Hour and in
Church Office.

THE MYSTERY OF GOD

A sermon preached by Fr Ralston in 1998

This Sunday we ascend the summit of the Old Testament revelation of God, the very apex of Biblical monotheism. The first 15 verses of the 45th chapter of Isaiah are among the absolute marvels of philosophical poetry in all the world. They are also among the most disturbing insights into the nature of the One whom we, following our Lord Jesus, call God and Father.

Verily thou art a God that hidest Thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.
45:15

What can it mean that we are bidden to read these dark and mysterious oracles of the deep things of God during the season of illumination? – in Epiphany, when we stress the manifestation of God to all people; when we speak of light and of new knowledge? Then, suddenly, we come upon such a verse as this: “Verily, thou art a God that hidest Thyself...”

I think it is because, apart from the mystery of God no revelation of His nature would even be important. It would mean no more than our discovery of electricity, a wonderful thing to be sure, and still in many ways mysterious and beyond us. Nonetheless it is part of our own world of experience, something within our range.

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ONE WEST MACON STREET
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

www.stjohnssav.org

To receive the Parish Paper by email (on Fridays), send name and email address to information@stjohnssav.org

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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 Mr. L Allan Reynolds, Jr.

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne
10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Jackson McClellan
Finn Repella William Taylor

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. William J. Deal and Mr. Edward J. Derst, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Derst III and family.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,
Mrs. B. Ray Summerell, Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr.,
Mrs. James C. Pedrick, Mrs. William E. Dillard, III,
Mrs. William T. Moore, Jr.

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. W.M. Howard Helmken, Jr.

ROAMING GREETER

Mrs. Gary M. Schubert

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR YOUTH:
CRANMER HALL-3RD FLOOR

Middle School Parents and Grandparents
New Study and Discussion group in
Reading Room.

FOR ADULTS:

Fr Dunbar's Class Will Meet This Sunday
Taught by Jack Wray

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- *Men's Breakfast, St. Mark*
with Father O'Brien
6:45 a.m., Parish House

Thursday- *St. Luke* with Father Dunbar
NO MEETING THIS THURSDAY

Thursday- *Men's Small Group* with lunch
Noon- Fellowship Hall, CH1

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday, January 18th - Book Study with Father
O'Brien 9:15 a.m., Reading Room, CH3
The Colony of Unrequited Dreams

Wednesday, January 24th - C. S. Lewis Group
11:00 a. m. Reading Room, CH3

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

But God is not within our experience, and He is forever and absolutely beyond our range. All of our revelation of Him, and most of all the incredible light and charity we can see in the face of Jesus the Christ, whom we call God's only-begotten Son: - all of this is a mystery. What we know is that we are creatures of God, something made by Him, in whatever strange way; and that through Jesus we are remade as children of His heavenly Father, whom we are privileged to call "ours." Jesus is marvelous in our eyes because of the incomprehensible mystery of the reality which lies behind him and in him. That reality is God Himself – the God who said: "I will dwell in thick darkness"; the God whose face no man has ever seen; the God whose name no one can ever know; the Saviour God who hides Himself.

I think we may be in a better position to feel this mystery in our bones than any generation for a long time. Even if your interest in contemporary science does not proceed beyond television, the series of programs on micro-biology and chemistry, on the physics of electronics, on the uncountable galaxies; with photographs of the smallest and the largest things we can discern, creations wondrous in their intricacy, beauty, and power; even such as these can reduce us to silence. Our only comment is: "Let be." We are mute before the astounding mysteries of the universe we inhabit, and the mystery of ourselves as part of it.

Here we are, in a Christian Church of a specific denomination, on a given Sunday morning, speaking of Jesus as the light of the world – as the incarnate Son and Word of the God of that world, and as the saviour of mankind.

What can this possibly mean in our vast, incomprehensible universe?

II.

We must be clear about one thing first. Only God can save, because only God can create. If "Jesus saves" it is because he is part of the Saviour God, the sublime Creator who hides Himself. Christianity means that God was in Christ. If God was not in Jesus, then we Christians are of all men most miserable, and most foolish. If the Word of God was not made flesh, then the flesh of Jesus is simply more of ourselves; better, perhaps even the best, but still of ourselves. We study him as we do electricity.

Who then is this God, the Creator of the infinities and the abyss; of the stars in their courses; of the Pleiades and Orion; of the peacock's tail and the human hand; of the lamb and the tiger; of Mozart's brain and the wolverines' teeth? – the God who was in Christ?

Today is a day when we are forbidden by what is said in the Bible to simplify our religion. I know we want it simple, and in a certain way it is. I know God is too much for us, and that we all try to measure Him out in coffee-spoons. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. I suppose the ultimate comfort of Christ for us is that he himself, knowing this very fear in his heart, yet trusted in the God of unknowing and lay down in the darkness of death, passing though it to the other side of fear. With Jesus holding our hand we can pass through it, too. But we dare not comfort ourselves by minimizing God.

(First of two parts)

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT & EPISTLE.....Prayer Book, page 111 (GOSPEL on p. 113)

*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery** (*Cranmer Hall*)**9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** (*Cranmer Hall*)**10:30 A.M. - MORNING PRAYER, SERMON & CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

HYMN #46 <i>Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning</i>	Morning Star
Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord's Prayer	Prayer Book, pages 3-7
Versicles and Responses.....	7-8
VENITE (<i>with Epiphany antiphon</i> Hymnal #606).....	9
Psalm #66, 67 <i>All the world shall worship thee</i>	417-419
First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10,11; 62.1-5 <i>The Joy of Salvation</i>	
JUBILATE DEO (Hymnal #645)	15
Second Lesson: Romans 12:6 & St. John 2:1	111, 113
BENEDICTUS #638.....	14
<i>Children may exit following the cross for CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Kindergarten – Grade 5)</i>	
Apostles' Creed.....	15
Versicles and Responses.....	16
Collect for the Day	111
Other Collects, Prayers and the Grace	17-20
HYMN #48 <i>Earth Has Many a Noble City</i>	Stuttgart
Sermon	Father O'Brien

OFFERING

Sentences	
Anthem: <i>As With Gladness</i> (Text at Hymn #52)	Herbert Sumsion
Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139 and America, Hymn #141, Stanza 4	
General Thanksgiving (<i>said by all</i>) and Aaronic Blessing	19
HYMN #52 <i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i>	Dix
VOLUNTARY: <i>Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern</i>	Andreas Armsdorff

*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.)