

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 8

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2018

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ YSJ - LASER TAG ◆

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

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

◆ WORSHIP ◆

Monday 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, January 25th

CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL 8:15 a.m.

Morning Prayer with Holy Communion

12:45 p.m. – *Holy Eucharist*

◆ PBS/EHS CONFERENCE ◆

"DOCTRINE, LITURGY, LIFE"

January 24th at 12:45 p.m. - January 26th

CONFERENCE CHORAL EVENSONG

Thurs, Jan. 25th 5:30 p.m.

Preacher: the Right Reverend Michael Hawkins, Bishop of Saskatchewan.

◆ CANDLEMAS EVENSONG ◆

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR CANDLEMAS

Sunday, February 4th at 5:30 p.m.

5:05 p.m. Prelude.

◆ OYSTER ROAST ◆

Saturday, February 10th 12:00 – 4:00

Camp Villa Marie - Tickets \$30

(\$35 at door) - no charge for those under 21 years old. On sale at Coffee Hour and in the Church Office.

THE MYSTERY OF GOD PT. II

The conclusion of Fr Ralston's sermon.

In the time when the great poet wrote [Is. 45:1-15], the Persians, under Cyrus, had destroyed the Babylonian Empire and the

woeful city of slavery and exile. What the poet claims is that God, the God of Israel, is responsible for it all.

This saith the Lord to his anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, To subdue nations before him ... I will give you the treasures of darkness, And hidden riches of secret places, That they might know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel ... I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. *Isaiah 45:1,3, 4*

Just as Cyrus was part of the Providence of God, so also for us there is no escape. We lie in the hollow of God's hand. And who and what is He?

I am the Lord, and there is none else ... There is no God besides me; I girded thee, though thou hast not known me ...

And then, in the boldest flight of the imagination in the Old Testament:

I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil; I the Lord do all these things. I am God, and there is none else. I am God, and there is none like me. *Isaiah 45:7*

What the poet knew I think all of us can verify from the less than the little we really know of our world.

What kind of universe is this in which we live? What kind of God must He be of whom we say He is the creator of this heaven and this earth? – the maker of all things visible and invisible, from the most minute particle of energy in the smallest sub-atomic structures on to the radiant galaxies now far beyond the range that their light can ever make visible to us;

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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 Joseph R. Ross, Esq

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

ACOLYTES

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Robert A. Burnett by Mary, Wendy, and Decie

And in loving memory of Julia Floyd Smith, Sanford G. Simmons, John Pindar Bradshaw Schaller and loved ones by Mrs. Marie Simmons

And in loving memory of Leonard Trosten on his birthday by Mrs. Ali Trosten and Jay Overstreet

And in thanksgiving for deliverance from death of his father, A. Carlyle Dunbar, by Father Dunbar

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Mrs. B. Ray Summerell, Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr., Mrs. James C. Pedrick, Mrs. Henry F. Inglesby, Jr., Mrs. Shack B. Wimbish, Jr., Mrs. Charles R. Youles

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Lee M. Alderman, Jr.

ROAMING GREETER

Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry III

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 on 1 Kings Will Meet This Sunday

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
Next Meeting Thursday, February 1st

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday, January 25th - 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

from the sun in his strength to the impenetrable dark matter which we are told makes up most of the measurable substance of the cosmos.

This is the God sung in the poetry of Isaiah. He is the only God there is. And He is the God who is incarnate in our Lord Jesus Christ. If this great God is not in Christ, then Jesus is an illusion, not reality, and we remain isolated in our universe and at the disposal of its terrible energies and powers. Bertrand Russell, despairing of significant meaning in the universe, and dismissing any idea of God, wrote: "Human life is of no more cosmic significance than the mold on a rotting orange." Contrariwise, Dante sees written over hell's gate: "Divine power made me, and primal wisdom, and eternal love. I come before all things, and I exist eternally." This is the great realist's response to Isaiah's oracle of the God who is Lord of darkness and of evil.

IV.

But even when we recognize we are in the hands of the hidden God of this mysterious universe, are we really in better estate to understand?

Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker. Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, what makest thou? Or thy work, he hath no hands? Thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel and his Maker; ... I have made the earth, and created man upon it. I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

We are in the hands of this mystery. There are no other hands but these.

What we must know, then, is what these hands are like. "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me. Thou knowest my reins and my heart". So be it: there is God and there is none else; and God hides Himself – in the universe, in the vast intricacies of space and time, and in the dark recesses of the human

heart. All knowledge of Him and of His world is as if it were nothing; and all our righteousness and virtue are equally as nothing. Our clothing of human pride is filthy rags before a God who wears the galaxies as a robe, and calls the King of Persia to do his bidding when He is finished with Babylon.

The sea is his and he made it ... In His hand are all the corners of the earth ...

Yes, and all the spaces and all the times of this whole universe. Nonetheless, what you and I need to know of this mystery, and what we must know, we do know. We know from Isaiah that God is a Creator, and a Saviour of what He has created. And we know that once, coming from the depths of this mystery into the limitations of human nature and this earth's space and time, "truth, embodied in a tale, didst enter in at lowly doors." We see a person, and in that person we are shown all that human beings can know or need to know about what God intends for us: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." The hands of God are the hands of Jesus. The hands that fashioned all that exists are the hands which were once nailed to the cross for you and for me.

That is the glorious revelation we celebrate this Sunday in Epiphany. The boldness and the strangeness of the Christian Gospel deepens even as it illuminates the mystery of God. It is, and will remain forever, the greatest miracle in our world that Jesus ever happened. He is himself the one, absolute miracle. That he did happen, shining out of darkness, is part of the deeper, hidden mystery of the being of that God with Whom we have to do. 'I am God, and there is none else'. 'Verily thou art a God that hidest Thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour'.

WHR

8:00 A.M.—HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 112. 114 (gospel)
A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

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

9:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Noon) - **Nursery (Cranmer Hall)**

10:30 A.M.— SUNG EUCHARIST, SERMON & CHILDREN’S CHURCH

HYMN #545 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*..... Woodbird

ANTE-COMMUNION

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 KYRIE ELEISON: #710 Healey Willan
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 Sermon Father Dunbar

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 VOLUNTARY: *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (Opus 67)* Max Reger

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.)