

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 10

Sexagesima

February 4, 2018

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ 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

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

◆ CANDLEMAS EVENSONG ◆

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR CANDLEMAS

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

5:05 p.m. Prelude. Reception follows in Green Meldrim House.

◆ WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S ◆

BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 5th at 10:00 a.m.

Green Meldrim House – Dining Room

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 7th Following

10:00 a.m. Chapel Service

Green Meldrim House

All Women are Invited

◆ 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. Benefits the Fresh Air Home.

◆ SHROVE TUESDAY ◆

SHROVE TUESDAY – PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Tuesday, February 13th at 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy Pancakes, Sausage & Apples prepared by the Children's School Families!

\$10 Adults and \$5 Children (12 and under).

Call 912-232-1251 for reservations.

GOOD AND EVIL

Accounts of how the world came to be – cosmogonies, creation myths – are various. A warrior god slew a primeval chaos-dragon, and made the world from its carcass – that's one pre-scientific version, popular in ancient Mesopotamia. The popular version in our day, is that nothing gave itself being, and organized itself through random mechanistic and material interactions. I am not that the Mesopotomian creation myth is not more persuasive. How does nothing cause something? And how can random material mechanisms produce reason, beauty, justice, and love?

The ancient account thinks of the world as fundamentally evil – made of dragon's blood and dragon's flesh, a power of chaos that at any point may rise up and destroy us. The modern account thinks of the world as fundamentally meaningless – matter fit only to be mastered and manipulated according to our own arbitrary wills. They are both very ambiguous accounts of the world, to say the least.

In contrast, Genesis says that in its origins the world is altogether good, and nothing but good, because it is nothing but the work of God's Word and Spirit – a God who is infinite Being, and who can therefore donate being to other things, creatures. Moreover, Genesis says that man (both male and female) is made in his image

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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 Mrs. Gary M. Schubert

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. Robert Austin Vinyard, Esq

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne

10:30 a.m. Jamie McClellan Jacob McClellan

Philip Inglesby Jacob Perkins

Hawkins Pindar Finn Repella

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Perry Thompson, Robert Mather Thompson, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mather by Mrs. William P. Thompson.

And in loving memory of John H. Calais and Mr. and Mrs. John S. Calais by the Chancel Society.

And in loving memory of Sara Jane Kuszak by Cheshire Nash McIntosh, Christopher Wood Dixon McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Walker, Jr., and James Andrew Walker.

And in honor of Susie Miller Arden on her birthday by her children and grandchildren.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III, Ms. Anne H. Hingledorff, Mrs. James C. Pedrick, Mrs. Rebecca P. Rhinehart, Mrs. William E. Dillard III, Mrs. Jeanne W. McMillian, Mrs. John C. Wylly, Jr.

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Edward J. Derst, III

ROAMING GREETER

Mrs. R. Gilbert Wells

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

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

Middle School Parents and Grandparents

Study and Discussion group in
Reading Room.

FOR ADULTS:

Father Dunbar's Class on 1 Kings - Chapel

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
7:00 a.m. Third Floor Cranmer Hall

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Book Study *A Wrinkle in Time* with Father O'Brien
9:15 a.m., Reading Room, CH3

Wednesday, February 14th WILL NOT MEET

Next meeting Wednesday, February 28th
C. S. Lewis Group

11:00 a. m. Reading Room, CH3

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Wednesday, February 7th at 6:15
following evening prayer in Cranmer Hall

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

and likeness, and therefore is capable of memory, reason, and will (or love), the three dimensions of spiritual life. Moreover, it indicates that man is made for God – to glorify him and enjoy him for ever. We are made for rest in the great Sabbath rest of God; to rest in him, as he rests in himself (Gen. 2:1,2): “thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee”.

Where then does everything go wrong, if evil is not in the world as created? Why are we not still in the original harmony and peace of Eden? Here again the narratives of Genesis illuminate our experience. It is not in the nature of things, not even in the nature of man, not even in the freedom of the will, but in the perverse abuse of this freedom, that discord enters the world, alienating man from God, male from female, man from nature, brother from brother; darkening the mind, inflaming the passions (Genesis 3 and 4, Romans 1, Ephesians 4). We do not begin where Adam began, with power to choose good or evil, but where Adam left off, with an inclination to do evil which affects everything (even the best things) that we do. It’s called the doctrine of original or inherited sin, and it makes sense of the flaws and limitations we encounter in every aspect of life. That’s why, with the best of intentions and the amazing power of modern science and technology, we have made and do make the world the dreary mess that it mostly is. That’s why we have such difficulty thinking straight, doing good, loving truly. That’s why we experience the world so often with guilt, fear, anger, pride, discouragement, and despair rather than trust, hope, love, peace, and

delight. Sobering as this account undoubtedly is, it is nonetheless full of hope. Because the evil is not in the nature of things, nor in God, but in the bondage of the will to sin, there is hope it can be set free. And though we cannot of ourselves overcome the bondage, God can, and (as he promised Genesis 3:15) God has done so, in Christ, and through faith in him and repentance, we are and shall be delivered “from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God”. The doctrine of original sin is sobering, but it is integral to our hope. The disease indeed is bad, but the remedy, and the prognosis, is good.

It is this perspective, of creation, and fall, that underlies the season of shared spiritual disciplines we call Lent. As a community of penitent and forgiven sinners, who put our entire trust in Christ for our salvation, we are not only forgiven, but also being healed and made holy by the grace of his Spirit. That’s why we give ourselves together to the practice of good works in gratitude for his grace, that we may amend our lives, and repair the damage sin has wrought, to the healing of our souls, and of our world. GGD

◆ WELCOMING TALENTS ◆

Put your welcoming talents to good use and sign up to be a Roaming Greeter at Coffee Hour. Your Mission: to make every newcomer at St. John’s go away feeling really welcome. No training necessary; just attentive, warm and friendly interaction with our visitors. Helpful tips to identify visitors will be provided! Email Elizabeth Schubert banklady10@bellsouth.net to sign up.

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 (*Chapel and Cranmer Hall*)

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

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