

The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 49 No. 31

The Fifth Sunday after Trinity – Sunday before Independence Day

July 1, 2018

UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

Monday to Friday (Not Wednesday)

Morning and Evening Prayer

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

In addition, on Monday, July 2nd

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Morning and Evening Prayer with

Holy Communion

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

In addition, on Wednesday

July 4th INDEPENDENCE DAY

10:30 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

Church office is closed in observance of the holiday. No Morning or Evening Prayer.

Next Sunday, July 8th

TRINITY 6

10:30 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*

"mutually pledge[d] to each other [their] lives, [their] fortunes, and [their] sacred honor". In recent decades legal authorities have insisted that "in God we trust" is just a rhetorical flourish in the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem, but it is hard to read the Declaration of Independence this way. The argument mounted by the Founding Fathers for the rights and freedoms human beings have by nature, is explicitly based on a doctrine of God as Creator, Judge, and all-ruling Providence, protecting, upholding, and vindicating the order of creation. Christianity says more than this, of course - the full implications of all-protecting Providence are set forth in the doctrine of redemption through Christ - but it does not say less.

How do we build the argument that the Creator has endowed us with inalienable rights? At its basis, I think, the argument derives from the character and purpose of God himself, who made mankind, both male and female, in his own image. As bearers of the divine image, with an innate capacity for God, however impaired by sin, all must be treated with respect and honor. The justice of the Law of God forbids taking away man's life, liberty, and property without lawful cause, and charity requires we seek his happiness. Christians sometimes assert that Christians don't believe in rights but in duties - but what are their rights, but the

RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

You can't read the Declaration of Independence without noting that the religious foundations of the argument of it mounts for freedom: "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness". The founders affirmed that it is "Nature and nature's God" which entitles the American people to take their "separate and equal" place among the nations of the world; and they appealed to the "Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of [their] intentions"; and "with a firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence" they

THE PARISH PAPER
OF
St. John's Church
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

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. James G. Sharpley (Lisa)Parish Administrator
Mrs. Daniel J. MahfetFinancial Administrator
Mr. David Svihel. Minister with Youth
Mrs. Robert Evangelista..... Children's Ministry Director
Mr. Sinisa Domazet Buildings Manager

Senior Warden*Dr. J. Davidson Carson*
Junior Warden*Mr. Holden T. Hayes*
Clerk of Vestry..... *Mr. W. Miller Glover, Jr.*
Treasurer.....*Mr. David C. Barrow III*
Assistant Treasurer.....*Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford*
Chancellor*M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.*
Vice Chancellor*Richard C.E. Jennings, Esq.*

The Vestry: M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq., Dr. J. Davidson Carson, Mrs. Christian M. Arden-Joly, Mrs. Austin O. Kennedy, Mrs. Gary M. Schubert, Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr.; Messrs. David C. Barrow III, Edwin H. Culver, R. Gilbert Wells, Mr. Holden T. Hayes, Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter, Mr. John M. Wilson III

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

President, Women of St. John's.....Ms. Laura Reid
President, Chancel Society..... Mrs. Roland S. Summers
President, Men of St. John's..... Mr. Martin R. Sullivan, Jr.

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 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed
10:30 a.m. Mr. Holden T. Hayes

USHER CHAIRMAN

Mr. John D. Riley

ACOLYTES

8:00 a.m. Edwin Shepherd
10:30 a.m. Jack McClellan Jamie McClellan
Turner Stevens William Taylor
Haddon Watson Whit Watson

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Paul Godfrey Hass by Dr. Thomas Philbrick.

CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr., Mrs. Jayne G. Holland,
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,
Mrs. James C. Pedrick, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry,
Ms. Anne H. Minglehoff, Miss Amara DeRienzo,
Mrs. Jeanne W. McMillian, Mrs. Joseph R. Ross,
Dr. Linda Ann McCall

COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN

Ms. Catherine G. Cooper

ROAMING GREETER

Mrs. Gary M. Schubert

GUEST MUSICIANS

Kirk Lee – Trumpet
Sarah Eliasoph – Tympani

SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH:

CRANMER HALL-3RD FLOOR

Upper & Middle School – D. Svihel

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:

Collects Study With Father O'Brien and Will &
Mary Helen Burdell. CH3-Reading Room
Father Dunbar's Class on 2 Kings - Chapel

MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Tuesday- *Men's Breakfast*,
with Father O'Brien 6:45 a.m., Parish House
Will not be meeting again until
Tuesday, September 11th.

Thursday- *Jeremiah* with Father Dunbar
7:00 a.m. Third Floor Cranmer Hall

WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION

Thursday- Book Study "That Hideous Strength"
with Father O'Brien 9:15 a.m.,
CH3-Reading Room

◆ UPCOMING EVENTS ◆

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Wednesday, July, 11th at 6:15 p.m. following
Evening Prayer in Cranmer Hall, first floor.
The topic will be "Effective Prayer in the
Bible" followed by intercessory prayers.
All are welcome!

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR - JANE'S CANNERS

NEED: Figs, pears off the tree and jars. If you are interested in participating, please call Jane Pressly at 912-233-651.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

duties that we owe our neighbours? Moreover, what justice of God requires we do, God himself freely fulfills, in sending his Son to liberate mankind from death and sin, and to bring us from misery into eternal joy. Since the redeemed are to be found in "all sorts and conditions of men", even among those who do not as yet believe, there is no one that is beyond the pale of God's claim on us or his promise to us, no one whose rights we do not have a duty to uphold, whose eternal happiness we are not to seek. When devout believers among the Founders signed the Declaration, it was because they found in it, the translation into terms of civil law, both the arguments both rational and revealed.

Many people today say that belief in a God who is Creator, Judge, and Providence, is not necessary to the affirmation of universal human rights. When they do so, however, they are denying what they assume. On the one side, the secular world says there is no Creator, that everything about us (including our moral sense) can be explained by evolutionary biology, we are just highly developed mechanisms developed for survival, but in essence no different from a virus. And viruses don't have rights. On the other hand, the secular world tells us, we have rights and freedoms that are absolute, and it is our duty to respect and protect them. But then where exactly do these rights and freedoms come from? The secular world seems to be saying that we have them because we have them. To which one can only say, sez who? (Don't say, "the government"). If we are just products of evolutionary biology, then there is actually nothing absolute about rights and freedoms – they are just evolutionary adaptations

we are free to discard at will and convenience.

As a society we can go two ways from here: either we are going to notice that without God there is no argument for rights and freedoms, and we don't have to respect them – or we are going to notice that there is no rationale for rights and freedoms, without a God who is Creator, Judge, and Providence. At this worrying point in our history, it seems we are taking the first alternative, a prospect I can only regard with the deepest misgivings.

For your prayers on Independence Day, a thanksgiving composed in 1786 for the first American Prayer Book:

O God, whose Name is excellent in all the earth, and thy glory above the heavens, who [as on this day] didst inspire and direct the hearts of our delegates in Congress, to lay the perpetual foundations of peace, liberty, and safety; we bless and adore thy glorious Majesty, for this thy loving kindness and providence. And we humbly pray that the devout sense of this signal mercy may renew and increase in us a spirit of love and thankfulness to thee its only author, a spirit of peaceable submission to the laws and government of our country, and a spirit of fervent zeal for our holy religion, which thou hast preserved and secured to us and our posterity. May we improve these inestimable blessings for the advancement of religion, liberty, and science throughout this land, till the wilderness and solitary place be glad through us, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose. This we beg through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION

COLLECTS, EPISTLE & GOSPEL Prayer Book, page 195
 (Collect for Independence Day page 263)

A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.

*Summer Children’s Nursery for newborns to age 3 (Cranmer Hall, 1st floor),
 is available from 9:15a.m. till 12:15 p.m.*

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

10:30 A.M. – MORNING PRAYER, SERMON & CHILDREN’S CHURCH

VOLUNTARY: *Chant for Dead Heroes* Harvey B. Gaul
 HYMN: #518 *Judge Eternal* St. Leonard
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer Prayer Book, pages 3-7
 Versicles and Responses 7-8
 VENITE: #609 9
 Psalm #18.1-20 359
 First Lesson: Deuteronomy 8 *Insert*
 TE DEUM LAUDAMUS #613, 617 10
 Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-8, St. John 8:31-36 *Insert*
 BENEDICTUS#634 14
 Apostles' Creed 15
 Versicles and Responses 16
 Collects of the Day 263, 195
 Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers 17-20, 41
 Welcome and Announcements The Rector
 HYMN #521 *O God of Earth and Altar* King’s Lynn
 Sermon Father Dunbar

OFFERING

Sentences

VOLUNTARY: *O Beautiful For Spacious Skies* Samuel A. Ward, arr. Emma Lou Diemer
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139

HYMN #142 THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (*both stanzas*)

For Our Country 36

General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing 19

HYMN #143 *God of our Fathers* National Hymn

VOLUNTARY: *Festival Prelude on “Thaxted”* Gustav Holst, David Howard Pettit

*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.)