

GCI Grace Church of the Islands

Presbyterian Church in America

6901 CONCORD ROAD • SAVANNAH, GA 31410
912.898.0170 • WWW.GCIPCA.ORG

GCI
Events

MORNING WORSHIP

10:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:15 AM

PRAYER MEETING

4:15 PM

EVENING WORSHIP

5:00 PM

WNF - MEAL & LESSON

6:00 - 7:30 PM

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

10:00 - 12:00 PM

MARCH EVENTS...

UPCOMING EVENTS - GET CONNECTED!

- Mar. 1 • SHINE meeting at 3 pm
- Mar. 1 • Deacons meeting at 6 pm
- Mar. 2 • WNF continues through the month at 6 pm
- Mar. 3 • Ladies Bible Study continues through the month at 6 pm
- Mar. 6 • Men's Devotional at 8:15 am
- Mar. 6 • Fellowship meal following morning worship
- Mar. 15 • Session meeting at 6 pm

Note: Join us for the Fifth Sunday Meal. Next one, May 29th.

Grace at Home
March 2022

A monthly newsletter
from Grace Church of
the Islands PCA



GRACE CHURCH

of the Islands PCA

6901 CONCORD RD • SAVANNAH, GA 31410

O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

*O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.*

*What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor,
Vouchsafe to me thy grace.*

One of the most intriguing aspects of our ancient hymns is their journey through history- how they are born of one author's inspiration, become discovered by and inspire another and often another author, sometimes laying hidden then reappearing over hundreds of years. Their words encourage, convict, comfort and admonish as they travel, often through times of darkness and difficulty. Each author is nourished in their spirit and inspired to add their thoughts, translate the verses, or set them to music.

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" has made such a journey. There is no clear record of its author, but most often it is attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153). Although Bernard was one of the most influential Christians from the dark years of the Middle Ages, settling disputes between kings and influencing the selection of popes, he remained a devout monk, single-minded in his devotion to Christ. Today, Bernard is remembered for his hymns of praise. "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" comes from a poem originally having seven sections, each focusing on a wounded part of the crucified Savior's body- his feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, and head.

Five hundred years later, Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) a well-known Lutheran theologian and hymnwriter used the final stanza about Christ's head for his German translation. Gerhardt lived during the 30 Year's War, another very dark time in history.

*What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest Friend,
For this thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me thine for ever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee.*

Another two hundred years passed before Presbyterian minister James Waddell Alexander (1804-1859) translated it into English. At this time (1830) it was first published.

The music of the beautiful hymn was written by Hans Hassler, a German organist. It was harmonized by J.S. Bach in 1729. This tune appears in many of Bach's compositions.

"O Sacred Head" compels us to gaze at the cross until the depth of God's love overwhelms us. Our hymn, though it has changed over the centuries, still speaks the same truth. It pictures God's love, not as an abstract theological statement, but as a profoundly personal and awesome vision of the suffering Christ who died for every believer, from the opening pages of history until the end.

By Gina Harrell



Baptism of Wade Antoon

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for one another, the ministry of Grace Church of the Islands, and for the universal Church. Below are a few prayer requests to focus our attention on this month:

Thanksgiving:

- Thankful to the Lord for watching over His sheep and for being the good Shepherd.

Health:

- Mac Baldwin - Pray for Mac as doctors seek to treat his medical issues. Also pray for Catherine who needs surgery on her ankle.
- Tom Moore - Pray for Tom as he is experiencing blood pressure issues.
- Dot Owens - Pray for Dot who injured her knee last week.
- Barbara Gustin - Pray for Barbara as she recovers from surgery.

Misc.:

- Visitors--Pray the Lord would continue to bring visitors to our worship services and give visitors a desire to join our church family.
- Miguel and Hannah D'Azevedo Pray for Miguel as he prepares for his ordination exams.

SENIOR PASTOR

J.C. Cunningham

MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Tom Taylor

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gina Harrell

RULING ELDERS

Tom Taylor - Clerk
Mark Board
Dave Roulo
Jose Veciana
Louis Watson - Sabbatical

DEACONS

David Lamson - Chair
Joel Barry - Secretary
Ron Nichols
Allan Chagan - Emeritus
Richard Towns - Emeritus

MARCH

Anniversaries & Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

11 Ron and Donna Nichols

BIRTHDAYS

02 Nathan Bristol
04 Julie Veciana
05 Howard Pigott
06 Amanda Board
10 Cole Bristol
11 Patty Demere
12 Jean Wiggins
15 Gavin Garcia
16 Darrel Lee
19 Kay McCleskey
20 Megan Leithart
21 Sib McLellan
23 Miriam Purtell
30 Louis Watson

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

GCI's surplus (\$13,000) from 2021 will be given to Miguel D'Azevedo (Japan) and Ricky Gosyne (Trinidad).

STEWARDSHIP

YTD Tithes and Offerings needed for budget:

\$54,900

YTD Actual Tithes and Offerings received:

\$56,629

Average attendance for February:

AM Service: 88

PM Service: 42