
Pentecost 2007

The Messenger

of St James' Church, Texarkana, Texas

A Sermon

Preached by Fr Douglas Anderson on April 22, 2007

St George is the Patron saint of England. And as spiritual descendants of the Church of England, it seems appropriate that we give him at least a nod on this Sunday closest to his Feast Day, April 23rd.

We all know, I think, the story of St George saving a princess by slaying the dragon. And of course, it is just a pious story, invented during the time of the crusades, a time when such legends of chivalrous daring-do were quite popular. But apart from the dragon tale, what do we know about George?

Well, according to the most reliable – albeit sketchy – sources, our St George was born into a Christian family about the year 265 in present-day Turkey. At the age of 17, he enlisted as a cavalry soldier in the army of the Roman emperor Diocletian. The next we hear of George is in 304, by which time he had risen to senior rank, and was stationed in Lydda, a town half-way between modern-day Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. It was in the early 300s that Diocletian began a savage persecution of Christians, and when George refused to renounce his Christian faith, he was tortured and eventually beheaded in April 304. We know that as early as 322, George's martyrdom was being written up, that he was canonized – made a saint – in 494, and before long, churches all over the holy land and Europe were being dedicated to his name. This is the outline of the story.

How St George got to be associated with England and all things English is equally sketchy. After all, he was a Turkish national, spent half his life in Palestine, and never set foot in England. Most likely George came to be associated with England during the Crusades. The English found this soldier-saint

particularly popular, and emblazoned a red martyr's cross of St George on their white tunics. In 1348, King Edward III made St George Patron of his new Order of the Garter, the premiere English order of chivalry even to this day. By 1415, the Archbishop of Canterbury had raised St George's Day, April 23rd to a feast of the highest rank, on par with Christmas Day!

In Shakespeare's Henry V, Henry cries out to his soldiers,

*I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:
Follow your spirit; and, upon this charge
Cry God for Harry, England and St George!*

No fewer than six Kings have been named George. The red cross of St George forms the centerpiece of the Union Jack and even appears on the flag of the Episcopal Church.

So much for the past, what of the significance of St George for us today? Here, in Texarkana, and not in the green and pleasant land of England.

To answer that question, let me tell you one more bit of information about St George. He is not *only* an English saint. In fact, George is patron of more countries than any other saint in the calendar, in Europe and beyond. Apart from being England's saint St George is the heavenly patron of Greece, Germany, Portugal, Lithuania, Palestine, Georgia, Catalonia, Aragon, Ethiopia, Malta, the cities of Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and Barcelona. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, George is known as "The Great Martyr." He is the patron saint of soldiers, cavalry, horses, equestrians and saddlers; farmers,

field workers, butchers; sufferers from leprosy, plague, skin rashes – and Boy Scouts.

St George is a universal saint – a catholic saint.

In this morning's Gospel we have the third appearance of the risen Lord to a group of his disciples, this time on the Sea of Tiberias, the Roman name for Lake Galilee. The disciples are on a rather unsuccessful fishing expedition, when Jesus comes to them across the water and tells them to shoot the net out to starboard, and they haul in a great quantity of fish.

There is a curious detail in the story. The Gospel-writer has seen fit to include the fact that there were 153 fish. Now when the Bible uses numbers, they are most often used symbolically. Our reading from Revelation this morning contains many symbolic numbers: four living creatures, seven horns, seven eyes, seven spirits, twenty-four elders – and if you took part in the Revelation course earlier this year, you have an idea of what the mystic meaning of those numbers really is.

One hundred and fifty-three fish. The fathers of the Church – those bishops of the first six Christian centuries – see this mystic number as a sign of the universality or catholicity of the Church. It was believed, one patristic writer explains, that there were 153 different species of aquatic life in the Lake Galilee. Another commentator points out that the numerology of the Greek phrase "Children of God" adds up to 153. It's all rather enigmatic. But what is clear is that Jesus told the apostles that they would be "fishers of men" and that, directed by her Lord, the net of the Church gathers together the totality or universality of mankind. The Church is holy and apostolic, but she is also catholic.

The fact that we share St George with people of so many other nationalities, cultures and traditions reminds us of the catholicity of the Church: all baptized people are members of the Church, whether they may be wayfaring here on earth, but not only them! The Church is also those who walk

triumphant in the heavenly courts, or wait expectant in that garden around heaven which we call Paradise. This is what we mean when we profess our belief in the Communion of Saints: the church is not split by death. It is as if all Christians are members of a very large family whose members live in different countries, but remain joined one to another, and with the head of the family, Jesus.

The fact that we share St George with people of so many other nationalities, cultures and traditions reminds us of the catholicity of the Church: all people hear the same Gospel – the Gospel is not conditioned by time or place or circumstance; it is true in every age, every place, every circumstance, because the Gospel proceeds from the very mouth of God who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The Gospel that is preached here in this parish church is exactly the same as the Gospel that Paul of Tarsus preached in first century Palestine, or which Augustine preached in fifth century North Africa, or which Francis preached in thirteenth century Italy, or which John and Charles Wesley preached in eighteenth century England or for which Christians in the Darfur region of Sudan are dying even as we sit here.

Finally, the fact that we share St George with people of so many other nationalities, cultures and traditions reminds us of the catholicity of the Church: all people are invited in. Our God is hospitable, and all varieties are caught up in the net of his Church: all nations, races, sexes, ages, social and economic classes, from the greatest criminal – like the thief on the cross – to the greatest of saints, like George whom we remember today.

As we gather for this Eucharist, this common meal around the Lord's Table, St George reminds us that our faith in Jesus Christ risen from the dead is universal faith, a catholic faith for all people, in all ages, and in all places. Our prayer this morning is that we may one day come to share with St George and all the holy Martyrs in that banquet of feast and song that we call heaven. Amen. □

Top 10 Reasons Why Children are Welcome In Our Church*

10. Repeated exposure to the sights, sounds and symbols of Eucharist help form all Christians.
9. Children actually LIKE sitting in those unusually empty front row seats so they can see and hear what is going on.
8. It would be expensive to repaint all those signs to read "The Episcopal Church Only Welcomes Adults."
7. Practice Makes Perfect - Teaching young children to enjoy and participate in the service helps them become active and receptive worshipping adults.
6. There are no pop quizzes at the communion rail! We all experience the Eucharist as a mystery...you don't have to be able to explain it in order to benefit from it.
5. Children have their own unique relationships with God. Being in church helps them learn how to pray, sing, worship and otherwise strengthen that relationship.
4. If children aren't in church, who are the candy-unwrapping, restless, coughing, whispering adults going to blame for the noise?
3. Sunday services make great family-togetherness time. Use the quiet space for extra hand-holding or snuggling time that may get lost during a busy week.
2. Children teach us what absolute joy looks like - and what better place to experience that than in church?
1. **The Circle of God's family is incomplete without them!**

*Tracey Herzer, NAECD President

Another year of a successful St. James' Sunday School program is nearing an end. Rotations and J2A have offered a good learning time for our youth.

Seven young people participated in their First Communion at the Easter Vigil: Celeste Anderson, Bailey and Blaine Cline, Meredith Maynard, Eleanor and Frances Schroeder, and Laurel Wakefield.

May 6 is the last Sunday of Rotations, J2A, and the Children's Liturgy of the Word.

May 13 is Mother's Day and Youth Sunday.

On Youth Sunday ...

- Our youth will assist in the 10:00 Mass.
- We will recognize our graduating seniors, high school and college.
- We will recognize our students who have achieved excellent attendance for this block.
- We recognize all of the volunteers who helped with Rotations, J2A, and Children's Liturgy.
- Following the service, the Women of the Church will host a reception in the Great Hall honoring our youth, graduates, and volunteers.
- Please be there to help make this a special day for everyone.

July 23 - 27, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. More information to come

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have made this year so successful. Without their dedication to our children, the program would not have happened. Please tell them thank you when you see them. Our prayer is that all of our programs will continue to grow for the sake of our children and the future of St. James'.

St. James' is so proud of our youth who have completed their high school or college studies as of this spring. CONGRATULATIONS TO:

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

John David Borgeson
Allison Burke
Jessica Cowdery
John Crowder
Easton Dillehay
William Jean

Matthew Knight
Nicholas Liu
Susie Powell
Judd Wommack
Lydia Wommack

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Stephanie Fullerton
Travis Power
Margaret Wommack

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Heifer Project "Fill the Ark", \$404.90 this year.

I can remember looking forward to summer vacation with so much joy and anticipation. The only problem was I had to get through the last few days of school. It was either sitting in school taking finals or before that, sitting in school thinking how much fun I could be having outside. It seems that for anything good, we have to get through a period of trials and stress. This year is no different! We have concerts, programs, recitals, big games and much more packed in to a few short weeks!

The students from EYC and I went to lunch after the 10 AM service on April 15th to build fellowship and had a great time. We will be going again on May 20th after the 10 AM service. This time we will go to Grandy's Restaurant. Remember to bring lunch money! I think we will make this a monthly activity, so get your requests in for restaurants.

Even though our EYC Program is winding down, the pilgrimage trip is gearing up! We are so close, yet there is so much to be done! We have scheduled a "Parents' Night Out" for May 18th to help us raise

funds for our trip to Washington, D.C. and we will have other fun events coming as well.

We have the annual paintball trip to Shreveport scheduled for June 2nd so if you are a youth and want to attend, make sure you let me know by May 14th at the LATEST!!!! Adults are also welcome! Come join the fun. A sign up sheet will be outside my office door. Please call me, Jennifer Gould, with questions. I will have forms out to everyone who signs up after May 14th. □

FISH FRY

*Sponsored by the Hospitality Team
Soft drinks & BEvERages provided.*

Saturday, May 19th 6pm

St James' Rec Center

@ St James' Day School, 5501 North State Line.

We need a count of who is coming. Please send an email to sandrak@stjamestxk.org to indicate your interest.

From the Organist & Choirmaster

Fredrick Krieger

It would definitely be indicated at this time to offer a huge thanksgiving for, and to, all the musicians in this parish who have been so faithful in offering their time and talents to our Liturgies. Liturgy without the support of reverent, uplifting, and appropriate music would be dull, indeed!

The Parish Choir, in particular, needs to be singled out for heroic service during Lent, Holy Week and Easter! Learning, rehearsing, and offering what amounted to entire sets of different music for each service was a major task, and they accomplished it in fine form. Singers and bell ringers alike are to be congratulated.

The Boy Choir continues to make great progress, and had a large weekend on April 21 and 22. Not only

did they learn and sing an entire wedding service for the Collins wedding on Saturday evening, but they returned on Sunday to sing the Mass, with entirely different music. They are looking forward to welcoming new Choristers, and to their June 4-7 Choir Camp & Concert. They will sing Services on Sundays May 20 and June 3.

And lastly, but not least, we need to thank the small-but-mighty Saint James Day School Chapel Singers for their work. Faithfully rehearsing each Wednesday afternoon following a full day in classes, they have made some new and interesting musical offerings at Thursday Chapel. We hope to welcome many new singers in the Fall season. □

Birthdays

May

21 Lauren Hehmeyer
 22 Andy Robbins
 Peyton DeLoach
 26 Donna McGee
 Paul Patterson
 Lee Perry
 Mandolynn Perry
 27 Marian Hill
 28 Jean Howard
 29 Steve Douglas
 James Thomas
 Bethany Dowd
 30 Jackie James
 31 Joy Knight

June

1 Trey Schroeder
 2 Marge Allen
 Ann Coleman
 Debbie Knaupe
 5 John Carson
 6 John David Borgeson
 7 Wade Fowler
 8 James Elliott
 Sandra Powell
 9 Barbara Cannedy
 10 Pat Poulos
 Joy Ward
 15 Alan Trimble
 Ann Drummond
 Abigail Hill
 16 Candy Smith
 17 Mike Mitchell
 18 Don Mitchell
 Benjamin Davis
 Michael Strayhorn
 Steven Firmin
 20 Nick Pappas
 Wynne Tidwell
 21 Reid Bruner
 22 Becky Stewart
 Roxanne Schoen
 Gusten Brosin
 23 George Poulos
 Ducky Knight
 Tammy Cowdery

26 Leighsa Bean
 28 John Easley
 Sann Terry
 Wendy Dowd
 29 Fred Whitson
 30 John Rogers
 Raeann Mitchell

July

2 Marie Freeman
 Jeremy Cowdery
 4 Susan Landreaux
 Julie Tidwell
 Lisa McDermott
 5 Leslie Russo
 7 Lindy Lawrence
 Douglas Anderson+
 8 Dean Hardy
 Dave Williamson
 Randy Williamson
 9 Jackson Gray
 10 Charles Firmin, Jr.
 Jackie Gildon
 11 Jocelyn Fullerton
 Donald Cannon
 12 Murray James
 Taylor Ardwin
 13 Marti Newell
 Carey Stanley
 14 Jeff Young
 Nicholas Liu
 16 Russ McDermott
 18 John Crowder
 19 Michelle Harutunian
 20 Joe Kososki
 21 Virginia Caller
 Carrie Gray
 23 Bob Brown
 Sandra Kennedy
 24 Ruby Firmin
 25 Davis Miller
 27 Melissa McCoy
 28 Anne Fuzey
 Kelly Hale
 Logan Anderson
 29 Charles Terry
 30 Robert Davis
 31 Madison Maynard

Anniversaries

May

21 Howard & Barbara Davis
 Steve & Anne Douglas
 Kip & Robin Townsend
 23 Mike & Diana Lowe
 25 Alan & Tanda Jolley
 25 Ed & Roxanne Schoen
 26 Richard & Lindy Lawrence
 27 Bill & Virginia Caller
 28 Ed & Leisa Burke
 29 Jay & Bettye Young

June

1 Ken & Carlene Liles
 2 Don & "Mike" Mitchell
 3 Billy & LouAnne Harrell
 Fred & Sandy Whitson
 4 John & Beth Carson
 Trey & Megan Schroeder
 9 Mike & Teresa Hubrel
 18 Michael & Carrie Gray
 20 Henry & Pat Horn
 Al & Susan Williams
 22 Bo & Nancy Malone
 23 Don & Gail Crisp
 24 Doug+ & Traci Anderson
 Tom & Marcia Collins
 David & Jackie James

July

3 Barry & Audrey Russell
 Thom & Gina Wakefield
 9 Jack & Lauren Hehmeyer
 18 Doug & Ann Drummond
 21 Jim & Lisa Hendrickson
 22 Donald & Diane Cannon
 25 Brian & Michelle Purtle

What is the Anglican Communion?

The **Anglican Communion** is a the third largest grouping of Christians in the world, after the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Churches.

There is no single "Anglican Church" since each national or regional church has autonomy; as the name suggests, rather, the Anglican *Communion* is an association of these churches in full with each other and particularly with Archbishop of Canterbury in the Church of England, which may be regarded as the "mother church" of the worldwide communion.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, religious head of the Church of England, has no formal authority outside that country; but is recognised as a symbolic head for the worldwide communion. Among the other primates, he is *primus inter pares*, or *first among equals*.



The Anglican Communion uses the Compass Rose as its symbol, signifying its worldwide reach and decentralized nature. It is surmounted, like ecclesiastical coats of arms, by a bishop's mitre; in the center is a cross of St George recalling the communion's origins in the Church of England. The Greek motto *The truth will set you free* is a quotation from John 8:32.

COMING THIS SUMMER:

LITURGIES OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Diocese of Dallas is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, a fellowship of some 80- million Christians throughout the world. After the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Anglican Communion is the third-largest grouping of Christians worldwide.

To celebrate our membership in this Communion, St James' will use the Liturgies of selected provinces of the Anglican Communion at the 10am Mass.

A PRAYER FOR THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Father in heaven, you call us into communion with you and with one another: Bless and strengthen the ties that bind us in the Anglican Communion, that we may be one as you and your Son Jesus are one, through the same Jesus Christ, who with you is the author and unifier of all creation, and who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~Saint James' Boy Choir~

Announces

AUDITIONS & CHOIR CAMP

During the entire month of May, the Saint James' Boy Choir will be holding further AUDITIONS for qualified Boys with unchanged voices, age 8 (having completed Second Grade) and above. ENTRANCE to the Choir is by way of a simple Voice-Test and Interview. ALL BOYS accepted will not only enter the Choir in September for its Fall term, but will also be included in the CHOIR CAMP & CONCERT, June 4 through 7, 2007. This multi-faceted CAMP will include lots of Great Music, Sports Activities, Arts & Crafts, as well as Food & Fellowship, and will conclude with a Public Concert. Camp will be held on the beautiful campus of Saint James' Day School, on North State Line.

For FURTHER INFORMATION, and to SCHEDULE YOUR AUDITION, please call:

**W. Fredrick Krieger
Organist & Choirmaster
903.794.9224**

	May 27 Day of Pentecost	June 3 Trinity Sunday	June 10 Corpus Christi	June 17 Pentecost III	June 24 St John Baptist	July 1 Pentecost V	July 8 Pentecost VI
C.B. 7:45am	J.D. Philips Kaye Baxter	Tom Collins Jenny Bartlett	Al Williams Patsy Cornelius	J.D. Philips Don McCoy	Kaye Baxter Tom Collins	Jenny Bartlett Al Williams	Patsy Cornelius J.D. Philips
Reader 7:45am	Pam McCoy	Audrey Russell	Sharon Siefert	Chris Terry	Lova Wile	Leighsa Bean	Lauren Helmeyer
Ushers 7:45am	Mike Lowe Jim Wilson Bill Caller	J. D. Phillips John Fondos John Rogers	Joe Kososki Charles Terry Bill Bean	Ken Liles Mike Lowe Jim Wilson	John Fondos John Rogers Glen Wile	Charles Terry J. D. Phillips Alan Jolley	Bill Caller Glen Wile Joe Kososki
C.B. 10:00am	Shari Keller Jim Burroughs	Wade Fowler Keith Maynard	Carter Adams Judie Firmin	Chuck Firmin N. Williamson	Judie Firmin Chuck Firmin	Wade Fowler N. Williamson	Keith Maynard Jim Burroughs
Acolytes 10:00am	M Hendrickson Hillary Fowler Caitlyn Burke	Zach Hubrel Lewis Patterson Kendall Miller	Carey Stanley Hadley Smith Jacob Hill	Savannah Smith Blake Purtle Sarah Storey	M Hendrickson Taylor Douglas Steven Firmin	Thomas Storey K. Townsend Clayton Shores	Hillary Fowler Wynne Tidwell Alysia Fomby
	J-M Hubrel Jessica Jones Mer. Maynard	M. Johnson Wade Johnson L. Wakefield	Jonathan Asher Abigail Hill Eleanor Schroeder	Caroline Purtle Frances Schroeder	Chas. Trammell Bailey Cline	M-S Shores Mer. Maynard	Hutch Tidwell Jeremy Fomby
Acolyte Mom	Kim Fowler	Lisa Patterson	Megan Schroeder	Lyn Storey	Ruby Firmin	Sharon Maynard	Julie Tidwell
Reader 10am	Diane Aiken	Jane Bruner	Jaydn Bonifas	Megan Schroeder	Jessica Cowdery	Katy Caver	John Stanley
Prayers of the People 10am			Marcie Bonifas	Trey Schroeder	Ann Coleman	Michelle Shores	Russ McDermott
Ushers 10am	Matt Gould Mike Jones Larry Oxford Billy Hackett	Jim Williams David Waddle James Thomas Tim Reed	Alan Trimble J. C. Markham Nick Williamson Dave Williamson	Brian Purtle Ches Walker Don Crisp Bo Malone	Steve Douglas Chuck Firmin Larry Oxford Jeff Tanner	Todd Shores David Waddle Matt Gould Tom Coleman	Kelly Tidwell Ches Walker Jim Williams J. C. Markham
Altar Guild	Team IV	Team I	Team II	Team III	Team IV	Team I	Team II
Household Week	Murray James	Susan Johnston & Family	Cassie Jean & Family	Alan & Tarda Jolley	Mike & Tracey Jones	Gus & Sandra Kennedy	Pat Keaton
Vestry Lock Up	Larry Oxford Pat Works	Lisa Hendrickson Todd Shores	Ann Coleman Glenn Crowder	Brian Purtle Mark Storey	Lisa Hendrickson Pat Works	Mark Storey Ann Coleman	Todd Shores Larry Oxford

Please, if you cannot serve as scheduled, switch with someone, and notify the Parish Office of the change!
Acolytes & Chalice Bearers, please ready 15 minutes before Mass. Please wear dark shoes (black or brown).

St James' Episcopal Church
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Visit of the Bishop

Trinity Sunday
Sunday, June 3rd, 2007

Sung Mass at 10am
Reception following.