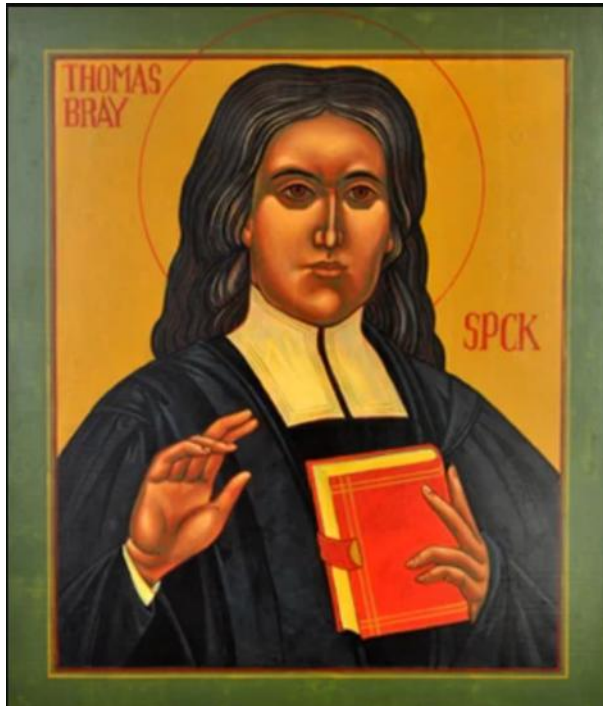




September 9, 2026 Newsletter
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



English clergyman and missionary Thomas Bray (1656-1730)

I took an interest in finding those individuals who are on the official list of feasts and fasts that have anything to do with our fair State. Thomas Bray is credited with giving Oglethorpe the idea to build a respite for sinners in America. Bray's feast date is in February. —OJB

Dr. Thomas Bray was a well-known, highly influential Anglican priest and humanitarian. He fought for prison reform and defended the rights of Native Americans and enslaved people. Bray and Oglethorpe teamed up because they shared the same passion for helping prisoners. Their connection shaped Georgia in three major ways:

1. He Shared the Idea First: Historical records and religious history show that Dr. Bray was actually one of the first people to suggest to Oglethorpe that they should build a humanitarian colony in America for honest debtors.
2. He Provided the Money: Dr. Bray started a charity group called the Associates of Dr. Bray. When Bray was dying in 1730, he left a legacy of £5,000 (a huge amount of money back then) for his charity to use for good works in the colonies. He gave Oglethorpe permission to use this money to get the colony started.
3. His Group Became the Georgia Trustees: Oglethorpe joined the Associates of Dr. Bray right before Bray died. Oglethorpe then expanded the group to include more of his prison-reform friends. It was this exact group of "Associates" who petitioned King George II for the land charter. Out of the 21 original Georgia Trustees who governed the new colony, most came directly from Dr. Bray's charity.

Though Dr. Bray died in February 1730—three years before the ship Anne officially landed in Savannah—his money, his ideas, and his inner circle of charities are what allowed Oglethorpe to turn Georgia into a reality.

Sermon reflection from Fr. Tryggvi

In his autobiography - Long walk to freedom - Nelson Mandela recounts his imprisonment on Robben Island and illustrates the possibility of transformation within even the harshest human beings. One day, when called

on to describe the mistreatment of prisoners to South Africa's Head of Prisons, General J.C. Steyn, and several judges, while Mandela answered truthfully, the brutal commanding officer, Colonel Badenhorst, angrily reminded him that they would both remain on the island after the general and the judges had left. Yet the following day Badenhorst came to Mandela's cell, not to threaten or demean him, but to say goodbye and wish him well. Mandela was astonished to glimpse a gentler, more humane side of a man he had known as cruel and barbaric. The experience reminded him that even seemingly disagreeable people may possess an underlying core of decency capable of being awakened and transformed.

Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel calls the community of the faithful toward truth, compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Rather than gossiping or complaining about those who wrong us, Jesus encourages us to speak directly and privately with them. "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone." 'Sin', here, is not merely a word for minor hurt feelings. Rather, it acknowledges the real imperfections and failures that inevitably exist within human relationships and communities, and how gossip causes toxic gashes in the fabric of human relationships.

Jesus's teaching in today's Gospel offers an alternative to the world's adversarial patterns of people denigrating each other. Christ calls imperfect but beloved people to acknowledge their faults, trust forgiveness, and risk reconciliation. When we gather as a community of the faithful, in prayer, humbly admitting our sins and shortcomings, and sharing in Christ's communion, Jesus promises to be present among us. Even if we perceive that presence only occasionally, Christ is always here, seeking to lead us toward greater truth, wholeness, grace, and peace.

Questions / Suggestions for Contemplation:

- *Is there someone in my life whom I have reduced to their worst behavior? What might change if I became willing to look for the "core of decency" or humanity that may still exist within them?*
- *Where am I tempted toward "fight or flight" rather than reconciliation? Is there a relationship in which Jesus may be inviting me to take the difficult risk of speaking truthfully, privately, and lovingly with another person for the sake of reconciliation?*

Peace, Tryggvi+

Opportunity Sunday - September 13

Opportunity Sunday - this Sunday - September 13th - following the 10:30 service! Please bring a plate of sandwiches or finger food to share. There is no access to the kitchen/refrigerator due to construction so please bring food items in coolers. Drinks will be provided. Our various ministries will be on display, and an opportunity for you to learn about them from ministry members. There will also be an opportunity for you to sign-up and lead new ministries.

120th Annual Council - Anchored for the Future:

We are currently seeking parishioners to represent the Church of the Advent as either delegates or alternates at the diocesan 120th Annual Meeting - Nov. 6-7, 2026 at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. If interested and /or need additional information, please reach out to Fr. Tryggvi or contact the church office.

**Rota and Readings
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Simpson—10:30 A.M. Roman
1st Reading: R Thompson

2nd Reading: G Thompson
Altar Guild: Abbott- Strickland-Yost
Flower Guild: Branch
Organ Tech: M Dartnell
Vestry of the Day: Sigman

[Link to readings](#)

First Reading: Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12
Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Parish Prayer List

Robert Boswell, Fr. Dann Brown, Susan Crosher, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Mary Ann Edelman, June Harrell, Anita Hunt, Kate Jackson, Beth Tamplin Jones, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Gloria Leo, Jack Leo, David Medlock, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Monaray Powers, Lynne Roach, Bobbie Rushing, Kathie Schmidt, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Wayne Tankersley, Betty Thomas, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Eric Wiemann, Jim, Caroline Hill, Linda Carswell, Beth, Steve Huggins, Betty Camnitz, Bob Kite, Reese Freyer IV

Birthdays in August: **1** Alexander Reid, **4** Penny Lyle, **14** Vic Jackson, **15** Maryann Dartnell, **17** Julie Jenkins, **20** Ray Bennett, **20** Alex Branch, **26** Devon Dartnell, Harrison Yost, **27** Amanda Vernon, **28** William Wood Burriss

Recurring weekly calendar

- Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM
- Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM
- Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM
- Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM
- Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon
- Madison AA group: Th, F, Su @ 7:00 PM

Volunteer for service: To learn about and volunteer to be a lay reader, organ tech, lay eucharistic minister, or to be a member of the flower and/or altar guild, [click this link!](#)

To add a name to the prayer lists, either restricted or public, email: prayer-list@adventmadisonga.com.

Prayer list requests go to Tim and Fr. Tryggvi only. You can always add names to the register at the back of the nave. For other pastoral care requests such as inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals, use of the Memorial Garden, requesting Eucharistic visits and short-term meals following surgery or during illness, email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com.

Morgan County Transit System provides transportation to local addresses to include grocery stores, workplaces, doctors' appointments and others. \$2.00 per person/ \$1.75 for seniors 60 and over. Advanced reservations are required. For detailed information see <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/158/Public-Transportation>

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

338 Academy Street • Madison, Georgia 30650 • 706-342-4787

www.adventmadisonga.com • adventmadison@bellsouth.net

Priest-In-Charge, The Reverend Tryggvi Árnason

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden, O. J. Booker - Junior Warden

Newsletter editors: Kim Jackson and O. J. Booker

News and Newsletters: <https://adventmadisonga.com/news/>

Contact: info@adventmadisonga.com

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