

**St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Douglas, GA**

The Rev. Fr. John E. Commings+ Rector

Scripture: John 1:43-51 and Various

***"God Is in Control"***

Think about this – we have a man who is detested and hated so much that the leaders of his country want him punished. Not just punished, but totally humiliated and destroyed! Rumor and innuendo run rampant – accusing him of all sorts of misdeeds, even accusing him of planning to overthrow the leadership of that country. The level of hatred is so intense that they want to destroy him and his followers. People are hanging on his every word looking for anything to use against him. For more than three years his opposition has been collecting, even creating things to use against him, and even using a close follower to turn on him.

If this sounds like someone we might know – you are right – however the man I am talking about is not from today. I caution you to not jump to conclusions like Nathaniel did in today's Holy Gospel – saying "*Nazareth, can anything good come from there?*" (John 1:46) This Man is Jesus of Nazareth – and unlike someone else you might have been thinking of – the big difference is that Jesus is divine, God Himself, and totally innocent.

A major problem with situations like this is that humanity tries to be judge and executioner. We always seem to forget that God is in control – and that HE is the only judge. We are not! We need to seek God's Wisdom and guidance in all such things – and let Him be God. And that is why I now ask you to open your ACNA 2019 Book of Common Prayer to page 91 – so that we may pray the Great Litany, kneeling if you are able, asking God to protect our nation, and the sanctity of life.