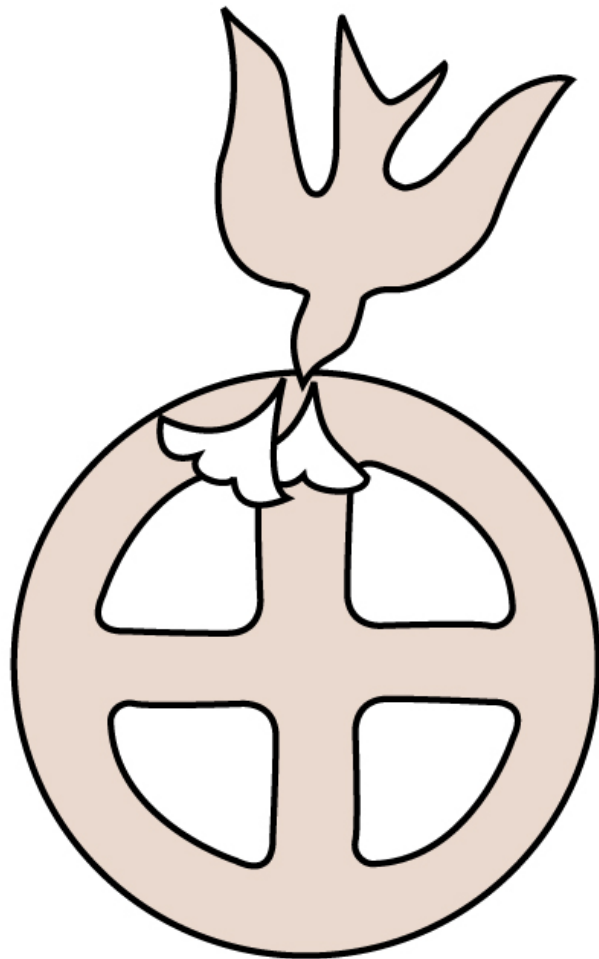


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 3, 2023  
LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

10:30AM

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION \*

What happens when you are spiritually prepared and desire to receive communion, but can't? Such a case is referenced by a paragraph in the 1979 Prayer Book:

*If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.*

A nation-wide shut down due to a pandemic fits, I'm sure we'll agree, with the words "by any other impediment" listed in the first Prayer Book. Our Lord will not cut us off from his grace. If we truly desire him, he will come to us, even if we cannot receive the Sacraments he has instituted so that we may receive his grace. This is not a new idea. St Thomas Aquinas, writing nearly 800 years ago, said:

*before receiving a sacrament, the reality of the sacrament can be had through the very desire of receiving the sacrament. Accordingly, before actual reception of this sacrament, a man can obtain salvation through the desire of receiving it, just as he can before Baptism through the desire of Baptism, as stated above (Summa, III.73.iii)*

Desiring to receive the spiritual grace of the Most Holy Eucharist (and being prevented from receiving it sacramentally) is known as Spiritual Communion. It is so very important to note that this gift is given to us when we cannot, for very good reason, be present at mass.

When you are watching a live-stream or recording of our liturgies, any of the following prayers may be said at the moment of communion when you would normally leave your pew and make your journey to the altar:

**In Union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from You. Let me live and die in Your love. Amen.**

OR

**Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (from *Enriching Our Worship 2*)**

OR

**"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already in my heart  
and unite myself to you completely.  
Please do not let me ever be separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)**

*\*Except where otherwise indicated, the whole of this article (with only very little amendment) is taken from the website of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where it was posted on April 5, 2020. No author was specified.*

# THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The First Sunday of Advent

## THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

*Sarabande for Two Violins*

J. S. Bach

Processional Hymn 59

*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding*

MERTON

*Descant*

2 Wak-ened by the sol-emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol-emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo-ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

1 "Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;  
4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

Celebrant: *Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

***Thanks be to God.***

## Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a / flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the / cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and / Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to / help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of / hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be / saved.
- 4 O Lord God of / hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your / people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of / tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to / drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our / neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to / scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of / hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be / saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your / right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for your-/self.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from / you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your / Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of / hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be / saved.

© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sequence Hymn 51

*We the Lord's people*

DECATUR PLACE

1 We the Lord's peo - ple, heart and voice u - nit - ing, praise him who  
 2 This is the Lord's house, home of all his peo - ple, school for the  
 3 This is the Lord's day, day of God's own mak - ing, day of cre-  
 4 In the Lord's ser - vice bread and wine are of - fered, that Christ may  
 called us out of sin and dark - ness in - to his own light,  
 faith - ful, ref - uge for the sin - ner, rest for the pil - grim,  
 a - tion, day of re - sur - rec - tion, day of the Spi - rit,  
 take them, bless them, break, and give them to all his peo - ple,  
 that he might a - noint us a roy - al priest - hood.  
 ha - ven for the wea - ry; all find a wel - come.  
 sign of hea - ven's ban - quet, day for re - joic - ing.  
 his own life im - par - ting, food ev - er - last - ing.

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

Celebrant: *The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Mark.*

People: **Glorify to you, O Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

*(said by all)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge

the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and People:* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form I

BCP 383

*The congregational response to "let us pray to the Lord" is "Lord, have mercy."*

Final petition: *In the communion of Mary, Gregory, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. To thee, O Lord our God.*

*Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

#### THE PEACE

*Celebrant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

#### A VISIT WITH ST. NICHOLAS

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### Offertory Anthem

*Therefore Watch that Ye Be Ready*

Andreas Hammerschmidt

Therefore watch, that ye be ready;  
for ye do not know the day or moment wherein the Son of Man cometh.  
Oh, joy to know that Thou, my Friend,  
Art Lord, Beginning without end.  
The First and Last, Eternal!  
Therefore watch, that ye be ready;  
for ye do not know the day or moment wherein the Son of Man cometh.  
And Thou at length O glorious grace!  
Wilt take me to that holy place,  
The home of joys supernal.  
Ye do not know the day or moment wherein the Son of Man cometh;  
therefore watch, that ye be ready, Amen.  
Come and meet me, Quickly greet me! Wait no longer.  
Lord, I look for Thy returning.

*Molly Schneider, Violin I | Johannisvan Da Cruz Campos, Violin II*

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*Here a Proper Preface is said*)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

\* **Sanctus S-127**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Calvin Hampton

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People: We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

\*Fraction Anthem S-163

Lamb of God

Robert Powell

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
 take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn 13 LEVAS

My Lord, what a morning

Negro Spiritual

*Harmony*  
 My Lord, what a morn - ing, My Lord, what a morn - ing, O  
 my Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to fall.  
*Unison*  
 1. You'll hear the trum - pet sound,  
 2. You'll hear the sin - ner mourn, To wake the  
 3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout,  
 na - tions un - der - ground, Look - ing to my God's right  
 hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.  
*Fine*  
*D.C.*



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship 2

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Closing Hymn 454

*Jesus came, adored by angels*

LOWRY

*Unison or harmony*

1 Je - sus came, a - dored by an - gels, came with peace from  
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy, when our hearts are  
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, bring - ing news of  
 4 Je - sus comes on clouds tri - um - phant, when the heavens shall

realms on high; Je - sus came for our re - demp - tion,  
 bowed with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
 sins for - given; Je - sus comes in sounds of glad - ness,  
 pass a - way; Je - sus comes a - gain in glo - ry;

low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia,  
 to our ear - nest heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia,  
 lead - ing souls re - deemed to heaven; Al - le - lu - ia,  
 let us then our hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
 al - le - lu - ia! comes to save us from de - spair.  
 al - le - lu - ia! now the gate of death is riven.  
 al - le - lu - ia! till the dawn of end - less day.

## THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: *Let us go forth in the name of Christ.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Church Sonata in F Major*

W. A. Mozart



*Special thanks to Molly Schneider and Johannivan Da Cruz Campos  
for their music this morning!*

---

*About today's music...*

*During the mid-19th century in England, a movement developed among the clergy and laity of the Church of England that called for a renewal in the life of the church. New standards of personal piety and an emphasis on corporate worship were stressed. As part of the reform - the Oxford Movement, as it was called - brought into regular use translations long neglected of medieval hymns.*

*One such translation was for hymn #59, "Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding." A 5th century text, the hymn is based on Romans 13:12 ("Let us cast off the works of darkness") and Luke 21:25 ("And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth, distress of nations"). Through sheer speculation it has been attributed to St. Ambrose, but the actual author is unknown.*

*Edward Caswell (1814-1878) made the translation which is considered one of his finest. The original opening phrase proclaimed, "Hark, an awful voice is sounding," but 'awful' having lost for most people its original meaning of 'inspiring awe' was quickly changed to 'thrilling'!*

*The tune "Merton," by William Henry Monk (1823-189), has been associated with his text almost from its origin. They first appeared together in the 1861 publication of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. Monk was musical editor of this landmark English hymnal.*

---

## Prayers of the People

**In our Parish** we pray for Sandra Hudson, Kyra Madden, Eddie Bennett, Jim Klippel, Jackie Dorsey, Denise Glynn, Cecil Hudson, Jean Estes, Elmer Clark, Nancy Carter, Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Ellen Kappel, David Kirshenblatt, Cayden Mitchell, Bill Alworth, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Don Downie, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Scott, and Lynn.

**In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week:** Sienna Rollie, Dan Bray, Audry Davis, Madeline Wheeler, Patrice Camoston, Jenifer Borg, LeeAnne Krause, Caroline Ferguson, Pete Nicholls, and Les House; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** John & Jean Russe.

---

*The people listed here are prayed for by name at each Sunday service. To request prayer for yourself or someone else, please call the office (706-546-7553). If at the beginning of the next month the person needs to remain on the list, please call and give the office an update.*

---

## TODAY

### **BAND OF BELIEVERS**

Band of Believers! We practice for the Christmas pageant this morning from 9:45-10:30AM in the Children's Chapel. We accept all folks who have ever played an instrument. All means all! If you want to play with the Band of Believers let me know at [vtavernier@aol.com](mailto:vtavernier@aol.com) . *Vicky and Mark Tavernier*

### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES | DECEMBER - JANUARY**

Confirmation classes will begin Sunday, December 3, immediately following the 10:30AM service, in the Parish Hall. If you're interested in being confirmed, reaffirmed, received, an adult wishing to be baptized, or you'd just like to learn more about the Episcopal Church, please come! We'll meet on the following dates, leading up to confirmation during the Bishop's visit in February: Dec. 3, 10, 17 and Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28.

### **BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES | 1-3PM**

**Conversations on Grieving:** While many Gregorians experience the holidays with joy, others find the holidays a time of challenge, struggle, and sadness. Come join us as we learn more about the grieving process and ways to respond to it in ourselves and others, with Mother Nikki, Gina Defalco, and Rhonda Packer facilitating. This session will also be interpreted for the deaf.

### **ADULT FORMATION ADVENT PROGRAM | DEC. 3, 10, 17**

On December 3, 10, and 17, from 2-5PM, the Adult Spiritual Formation committee will be hosting a Bibliodrama class, much like the one that we hosted during VBS 2022. Matt Rodgers will be returning to lead us as we use collaborative storytelling techniques and improvisation to explore Advent relevant themes found in *Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers. Though reading the book is not required, it is strongly encouraged for any who plan on participating. We will provide more details in the coming weeks for this program.

### **2023 HOLIDAY BENEVOLENCE MARKET | 12 - 3PM**

An alternative holiday giving experience

Sunday, December 3 • Noon - 3PM

Covenant Presbyterian Church • 1065 Gaines School Road

We are partnering with many other Athens congregations to welcome 30+ local non-profit organizations to share their stories at this year's Holiday Benevolence Market. This is the perfect opportunity to teach our children and grandchildren about simple acts of generosity and what a huge impact they can make!

If you can't make it to the in-person event you can also purchase the symbolic gifts and donate to our local nonprofits through this link: <https://forms.gle/8KspnHXs71PeDuns9>

## THIS WEEK

### **NO HEALING SERVICE / CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY | WEDS., DEC. 6**

There will not be a Healing Service this Weds., Dec. 6, but all are invited to the Celebration of a New Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector, The Rev. Katie Bradshaw, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church at 5PM on Wednesday, Dec. 6, the Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, presiding. A reception will follow in the Common Room.

## COMING UP ...

### **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS**

Calling the elves! Community Christmas of Oglethorpe County, Inc., is collecting toys and other fun items for children from birth through age 18. **Donations of new, unwrapped items may be left in the entrance to Parish Hall through Dec. 11.** Parents and guardians from families who qualify for assistance will be invited to choose for their children from the gifts on Dec. 14th. They are also receiving assistance with household bills, thanks to the generosity of our donors. In addition to this, we are also collecting used clothing, toys, books, household items, and other things in good condition - families will be able to choose any of these things that they can use. Financial donations are always welcomed. Find more details on our website, [www.CommunityChristmasOglethorpe.org](http://www.CommunityChristmasOglethorpe.org). Thank you to all of you who support this effort! Sincerely, Catherine Drewry, Co-Director 706-201-7241

### **YOUTH EYC EVENT | SUNDAY, DEC. 17**

On December 17 at 7PM, our youth program will be hosting a "DnD Night!" If you already enjoy playing DnD, or if you have never played before, you should feel free to join us! Contact Wade (770-624-4837) if you plan on attending.

## **ATHENS MASTER CHORALE CONCERT | SUNDAY, DEC. 17**

The Athens Master Chorale cordially invites you to experience a beautiful compilation of great music from prestigious composers. Come and hear in The Classic Center Atrium on Sunday, December 17 at 4PM. We passionately devote our energy to prepare and present these magnificent gems of classical music.

## **BLUE CHRISTMAS | WEDS., DEC. 20**

**To Those for Whom Christmas Hurts:** You are not alone. You are invited to our Blue Christmas Healing Eucharist. St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church invites you to a special holiday service of worship designed for those for whom the holidays might be difficult. This Eucharist will include laying on of hands and anointing for those who wish to receive this particular sacrament. And wherever you are in your faith journey, all are welcome to receive communion. If you have undergone a painful loss, transition, life change, or if life has simply been hard for a while, the church cares about you and invites you to a special time for healing and peace, on Wednesday, December 20 at 6PM.

## **ONGOING**

### **HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS**

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM (except Dec. 6) in the sanctuary for eucharist and prayers for healing.

### **BLINDSPOT GROUP | THURSDAYS**

Our 20s and 30s group meets on the last Thursday of each month at 6:30PM for dinner and a small group study (usually off-site of the church). We also meet at least once a month for game nights, dinner and drinks, movie nights, and more. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837 for more information.

## **NOTES**

### **POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

If you wish to give a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, the deadline for ordering will be **Wednesday, Dec. 20**. The suggested donation this year is **\$15** per dedication. Please place your completed form (*see red forms in the narthex*) and your check in the offering plate on Sundays, Kendall's office door, or mail it to the parish office. You may also contact the office by phone, 706-546-7553 or email, [office@stgregoryathens.org](mailto:office@stgregoryathens.org).



### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The 2024 flower dedication sign-up sheet is up in the Christian Education building. If you wish to dedicate flowers this year, please sign your name next to the date, and fill out one of the yellow-orange sheets hanging below it and leave in Kendall's office. Suggested donation is \$50/dedication.

### **CALL FOR ART FOR CARD MINISTRY 2024**

The Card Ministry needs new art for 2024 cards. The ministry sends cards for children and youth up to 18 years old, seniors 70 and over, get well and encouragement, and bereavement. If you have questions or would like to submit a work of art for a card please contact Jenifer Borg at [jeniferaborg@gmail.com](mailto:jeniferaborg@gmail.com). Please send pictures in jpeg format. A wide range of art is welcome. Images should not be specific to gender or race. *Thank you, Card Ministry*

### **THE LITTLE RED WAGON**

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs dried goods like pasta/rice, mac-and-cheese, snacks (sweet & salty), and saltines! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

## Those Who Serve

Vestry: Mark Richardson (8AM);  
Lane Norton (10:30AM)  
Reader: Roger Schwenke (8AM);  
Anna Thornton (10:30AM)  
EMs: Roger Schwenke & Karen Hankins  
Crucifers: Charlotte Lamm

Torches: Aiden Lamm & Warren Lamm  
Flowers: Flower Guild  
Altar Guild: Berni McCranie, David Lowe  
Ushers: Bruce Zavitz & Gail Eilers  
Counters: Mark Reinberger & Jane Hudson  
Livestream: Anthony Barkdoll

## Clergy and Staff

**The Rev. Nikki Mathis** Rector  
*rector@stgregoryathens.org* | 706-546-7553 x2

**The Rev. Christina Dondero** Deacon  
*christinadondero@gmail.com* | 404-918-7248

**Kendall M. Kookogey** Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper  
*office@stgregoryathens.org* | 706-546-7553 x1

**Jonathan Klein** Music Director/Organist  
*jonathanfk@gmail.com* | 706-296-8102

**Joseph Napoli** Choir Director  
*awn1984@att.net* | 706-546-6638

**Wade McGlamery** Youth Minister  
*wmcglamery@gmail.com* | 770-624-4837

**Jude Red-Bear** Nursery Director  
*juderedbear@icloud.com* | 706-614-0008

**Mark Hein** Buildings/Grounds  
*markehein@gmail.com* | 706-549-3239

**Anthony Barkdoll** Livestream Coordinator  
*anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com*

**Terri Tillman** WebMaster/Social Media  
*tillman@gmail.com*

**Danielle Vogt** Coffee Host  
*danielle1784@gmail.com*

**Peachy Green Clean Co-op** Sexton

**Nursery Attendants:** Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Willem Swindler

**Vestry Members:** Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause, *Sr. Warden*; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson, *Jr. Warden*; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

**Vestry Person of the Day/Week:** Mark Richardson *mrichsn@gmail.com*



