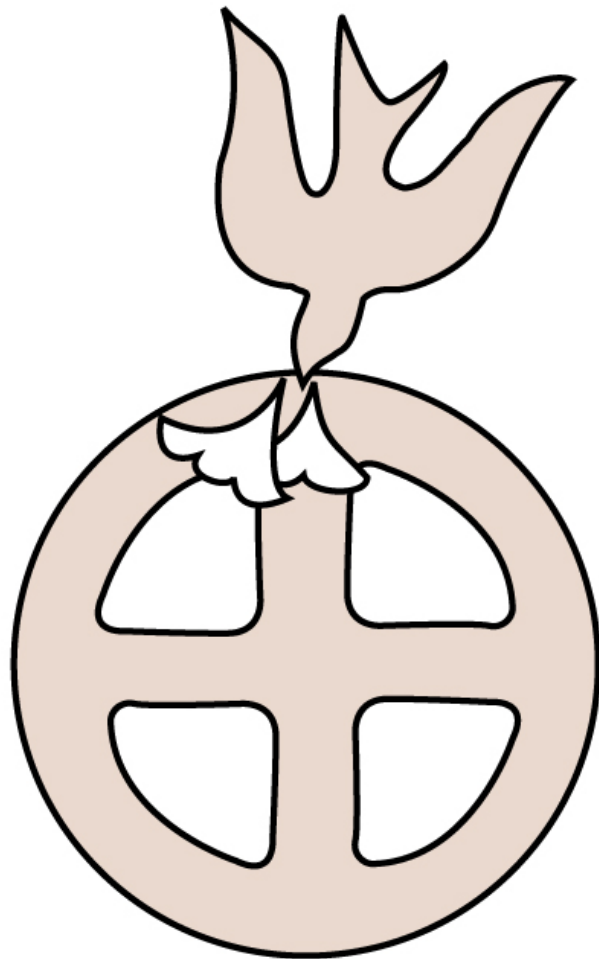


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 10, 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 Second Sunday of Advent

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Processional Hymn 444

Blessed be the God of Israel

THORNBURY



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2 He from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
3 On pri - son - ers of dark-ness the sun be - gins to rise,



he vis - its and re - deems us, he grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sa - vior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes his her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
He guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill his prom - ise and bring his peo - ple peace.____
the pro - phet of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of Day.____
O bless our God and Sa - vior, with songs that nev - er cease.____

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.

* Trisagion S-100

Holy God

David Hurd



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



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



Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy



up - on us. 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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O / Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of / Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your / people *
and blotted out all their / sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is / saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to / him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who / fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our / land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met to-/gether; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each / other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the / earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from / heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant pros-/perity, *
and our land will yield its / increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go be-/fore him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his / feet.



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THE SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

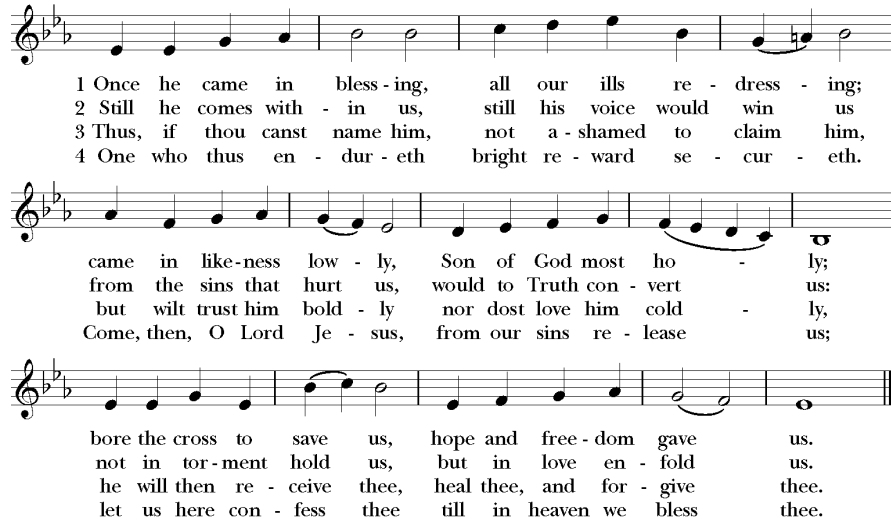
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 53

Once he came in blessing

GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
 2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
 4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.

came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
 from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us;
 but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
 not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
 he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
 let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.****Praise to you, O Christ.***

THE SERMON: The Rev. Dr. Micah T. J. Jackson

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.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

arr. Robert J. Powell

Comfort, comfort ye my people; speak ye peace: thus saith your God;
comfort those who sit in darkness, bowed beneath oppression's load;
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.
Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain;
let your heart be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that his word is never broken.

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-129

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Robert Powell

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-169**

My flesh is food indeed

Ray W. Urwin

The musical score is written in G-clef, 4/4 time, and consists of four staves. The lyrics are: "My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord." The score includes performance directions: "Cantor or Choir" above the first staff, "1 All" above the second staff, "2 Cantor or Choir" above the third staff, and "All" above the fourth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

WINCHESTER NEW

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Communion Hymn 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

ASCENSION

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God en - du - reth, the

call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they per - ish, like
 feed his flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our God may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way;
 lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

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 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Closing Hymn 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



About today's music...

Today's offertory anthem "Comfort, comfort ye my people" will conjure up a number of known arrangements for listeners (and for those familiar with it, Handel's Messiah will certainly be among them). This anthem is based on that text, translated from the original German by a remarkable woman, Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Born in London, Winkworth developed a keen interest in education, particularly the education of women. The list of her positions and associations while promoting higher education for women in England is impressive. At the same time, she had an abiding love of German sacred texts, and became the foremost translator of German hymns into English. Without her we would not have "Now thank we all our God," "Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates," or "Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness." She is, in fact, credited with introducing the German hymns into English hymnody.

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Kyra Madden, Eddie Bennett, Susanne Burton, 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: Adam Carabello, Lisa Hunt, Sam Preston, Cynthia Hoover, Stephanie O’Kane-Swindler, Henry Scott, and Betty Littleton; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Ken & Rhonda Packer.

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 . *Vicky and Mark Tavernier*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING | 12PM

The Outreach Committee will meet in the library right after the 10:30AM service today. Anyone is welcome to join!

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING | 12PM

The Finance Committee will meet today in the office next to Kendall's right after the 10:30AM service. Anyone is welcome to join!

ADULT FORMATION ADVENT PROGRAM | DEC. 3, 10, 17 @ 2-5PM

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.

THIS WEEK

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. Thank you to all of you who support this effort! Sincerely, Catherine Drewry, Co-Director 706-201-7241

NEXT WEEK

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.

COMING UP ...

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.

PAGEANT/BAND OF BELIEVERS PRACTICE | SATURDAY, DEC. 23

We will have one non-Sunday rehearsal in the Sanctuary to practice with The Band of Believers on Saturday December 23 from 2-3PM.

PAGEANT REHEARSAL | SUNDAY, DEC. 24

We will have rehearsal Sunday at 9:15AM. Then please meet in the Children's Chapel at 4PM to get into costume and go through a final rehearsal.

THE 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT | TIME CHANGE FOR MORNING SERVICE

The 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day this year, so we will combine our 2 morning services into 1 and meet at 10AM for Advent 4.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Join us at 10AM on Monday, December 25 for Holy Eucharist & Carols!

ONGOING

HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM 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.



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.

THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs snacks (sweet & salty), cold cereals, and dried pasta! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

CHRISTMAS AT ST. GREGORY'S

Sunday, December 24: 10AM (only) Advent 4 Holy Eucharist *
(no Sunday school; nursery opens at 9:30AM)
5PM Children's Pageant & Holy Eucharist *
9:30PM Music Prelude *
10PM Festival Eucharist & Choir *
Monday, December 25: 10AM Holy Eucharist & Carols *
Sunday, December 31: 8AM Holy Eucharist
10:30AM Holy Eucharist *
(no Sunday school; nursery opens at 10AM)

* indicates live streamed services

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
wwmclamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

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

Mark Hein Buildings/Grounds
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Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator
anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Terri Tillman WebMaster/Social Media
ttillman@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: John Barrett jbearit2000@hotmail.com

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Vestry: John Barrett
Reader: Karen Radde (8AM);
Lois Alworth (10:30AM)
EMs: June Ball & Beth Thornton
Crucifers: Gavin Avinger & Rainsly Vogt
Torches: Mariel & Julia Sanford
Flowers: Flower Guild
Altar Guild: Nancy Watson & Jenifer Marquardt
Ushers: Anthony & Deb Garner
Counters: Maggie Reinberger & Stacie Court
Livestream: Pete Nicholls

