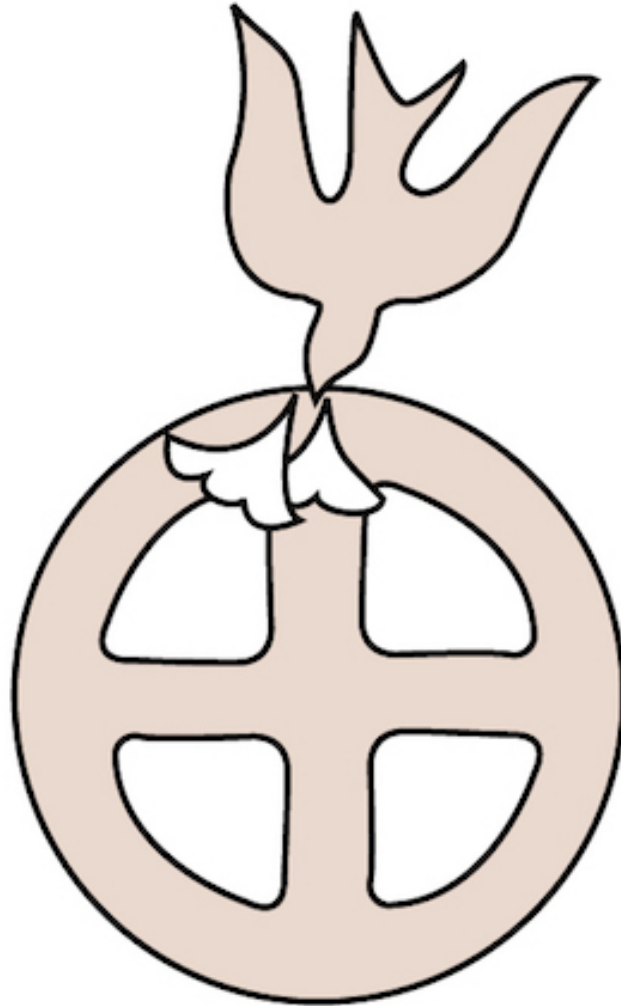


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 4, 2022  
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

*We invite you to please silence your cell phones and to enter worship in stillness, silence, and reverence during the Prelude, which begins our service.*

#### Processional Hymn 67

*Comfort, comfort ye my people*

PSALM 42

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er  
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,  
mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry  
ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;  
tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
let the val - leys rise to meet him  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken  
and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
and the hills bow down to greet him.  
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

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

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 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- 1 Give the King your justice, O / God, \*  
 and your righteousness to the King's / Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people / righteously \*  
 and the poor with / justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the / people, \*  
 and the little hills bring / righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the / people; \*  
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the op-/pressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon en-/dure, \*  
 from one generation to an-/other.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown / field, \*  
 like showers that water the / earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous / flourish; \*  
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no / more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of / Israel, \*  
 who alone does wondrous / deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for / ever! \*  
 and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. A-/men.

© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sequence 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 - - - -  
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.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God

is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form VI

BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world; We pray for our President, Joseph, our Governor, Brian, and our Mayor, Kelly.

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Rob, Paul, and Don, our Bishops; (...) and for all bishops and other ministers, priests, deacons, and clergy associates, especially Lin, Dutton, Carol, Ellen, Christina, & Nikki;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for (...)

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We give thanks for (...)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

*The Celebrant adds a Collect.*

*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.**

THE PEACE

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

*People:* **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

*Every Valley*

Joseph M. Martin

Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain be made low.  
 Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole.  
 Sound the trumpet, for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.  
 Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!  
 Emmanuel, Emmanuel, shall come to Thee O Israel.  
 Rejoice!  
 Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain be made low.  
 Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole.  
 Sound the trumpet, for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.  
 God's glory be revealed.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

*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

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-158

*O Lamb of God*

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of God, that  
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have  
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of  
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn 542

*Christ is the world's true Light*

ST. JOAN

1 Christ is the world's true Light, its Cap-tain of sal - va - tion,  
2 In Christ all rac - es meet, their an-cient feuds for - get - ting,  
3 One Lord, in one great Name u - nite us all who own thee;

the Day - star clear and bright of ev - ery race and na - tion;  
the whole round world com - plete, from sun-rise to its set - ting;  
cast out our pride and shame that hin-der to en - throne thee;

new life, new hope a - wakes, for all who own his sway;  
when Christ is throned as Lord all shall for - sake their fear,  
the world has wait - ed long, has tra - vailed long in pain;

free - dom her bond - age breaks, and night is turned to day.  
to plough-share beat the sword, to prun - ing - hook the spear.  
to heal its an - cient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

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



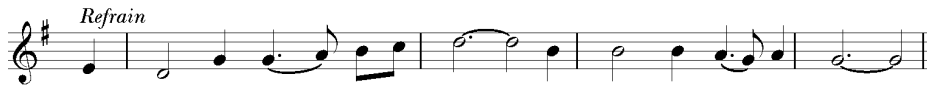
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



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 bless the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

#### Postlude



### Prayers of the People

**In our Parish** we pray for RuthElizabeth Conine-Nakano, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Randall Abney, Carolyn Abney, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Carol Whitson, Susan Williams, Dan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Dick MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Ali Elyaman, Ben Barkdoll, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Stephanie Gamble, Ken Packer, Ben, Mobley, Scott, Lynn, and Pete.

**In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week:** Madeline Wheeler, Patrice Camoston, Rob McNiff, Jenifer Borg, LeeAnne Krause, Caroline Ferguson, Pete Nicholls, Les House, Adam Carabello, and Janet Jarrett; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** John & Jean Russe.

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*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.*

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## **Deacon Christina's Outreach\*** **Let's Help Church of the Common Ground**

As the cold weather kicks in, our Episcopalian brothers, sisters, and those who identify as neither, who also suffer from homelessness, receive hot coffee at Church of the Common Ground, our church without walls at Piedmont Park in Atlanta. They are in need of these specific items, 5 lb bags of sugars (no bigger than 10 lbs), containers of powdered (only) creamer, and boxes of hot chocolate. This sugar, creamer, and hot chocolate drive will continue until Christmas Day, December 25, 2022. A box for collection of these items will be in the parish hall foyer beginning today.

Blessings,  
Rev. Christina Dondero

*\*for anybody wondering, our Outreach Committee supports local needs,  
and our clergy outreach supports diocesan and wider church needs.*

### **TODAY**

#### **ST. NICHOLAS**

This morning at the 10:30AM service, St. Nicholas will visit !

#### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING | 12PM**

The Outreach Committee will meet in the library today right after the 10:30AM service.

#### **ATHENS MASTER CHORALE | 4PM**

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 this afternoon at 4:00 pm. We passionately devote our energy to prepare and present magnificent gems of classical music.

### **NEXT WEEK**

#### **CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE VISIT | SUNDAY, DEC. 11**

The Cathedral Bookstore will be visiting St. Gregory's on Sunday, December 11. They will be set up in Parish Hall and bringing books, children's books, gifts, Episcopal -themed items, etc.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING | SUNDAY, DEC. 11**

The Finance Committee will meet right after the 10:30AM service on 12/11. All interested parishioners are welcome to attend. We meet the Sunday before the monthly Vestry meetings (which are the 2nd Tuesday of the month) in Parish Hall.

#### **DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION | SUNDAY, DEC. 11 @ 4PM**

Four of our St. Gregorians will be going to the Cathedral on Sunday, December 11 at 4PM to be confirmed. They are Joshua Heard, Ruth Vann, Rebecca Welch, and Porter Welch.

### **COMING UP ...**

#### **ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS | SUNDAY, DEC. 18 @ 10:30AM**

On Sunday, December 18 at the 10:30AM service, we will have an Advent Lessons and Carols w/ Holy Eucharist service. Join us for this beautiful service of readings interspersed with Advent hymns and music.

#### **BLUE CHRISTMAS | WEDS., DEC. 21**

**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 21, 2022, at 6PM.

## NOTES

### **POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

If you wish to give a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, the deadline for ordering will be **Sunday, Dec. 18**. The suggested donation this year is **\$15** per dedication. Please place your completed form (*see red forms in your bulletin or 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).



### **BAND OF BELIEVERS**

We'll have Band of Believers practice on Sunday, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 at 9:30AM in the Children's Chapel. Let us know if you want to be involved so we can get your music ready! There will be an extra rehearsal after church on 12/18 with the pageant folks. (We'll have sandwiches after church so we don't starve.)

### **CHILDREN'S PAGEANT**

Parents and Children: It is time to prepare for the Christmas Eve Children's Pageant. As is our tradition, all children are invited to participate in the 5PM Family Christmas Eve Service. Throughout Advent (beginning Sunday, November 27), we will use the weekly Children's Chapel time to practice readings and characters for the pageant. We will likely have a Sunday afternoon rehearsal the week before Christmas Eve; watch the church news for specific announcements regarding that. All children are encouraged to join us!

### **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS**

Community Christmas of Oglethorpe County, Inc. is a local non-profit that helps struggling families at Christmas, and also throughout the year with power bills, rent, etc. Gifts of new toys and other fun items for boys and girls ranging in age from infants to high schoolers can be dropped off **before December 14th** right here in our Parish Hall! If you would like to help with the toy collection and distribution, please contact Catherine Drewry with a text at 706-201-7241 or email [OglethorpeCommunityChristmas@gmail.com](mailto:OglethorpeCommunityChristmas@gmail.com). If you know local families with children who need assistance this year, please ask them to consult our webpage for application information.

### **CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

2023 contribution envelopes are available on the dresser in the Parish Hall entrance way. **We have ordered even fewer boxes this year because many did not pick theirs up last year.** You may notice your # from last year is no longer available this year. If you wish to use these next year, please write your name next to the # of box that you take. Please note people last year already have boxes spoken for. Leave those boxes for them. If you had a box of envelopes last year and do not want/need them this year, please cross off your name so we know that box is available.

### **BLINDSPOT GROUP CHAT**

If you're in your 20s or 30s and would like to stay up to date on events for your age group please reach out to Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837, to join our group chat.

## ADVENT SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

### Building Beloved Community

This Advent Season your Adult Spiritual Formation Group is offering a program over three **Thursday evenings** with guest speakers from our wider community to share their work in what we call building Beloved Community. Invoking the Advent themes of Revelation, Journey and Restoration, and inspired by our learning through Sacred Ground, we invite direction along paths our neighbors have taken in pursuit of racial justice.

#### **December 1: Revelation**

A selection from Athens Vignettes: A Dialogue with the African American Community by Dr. Roshaunda Breeden and directed by Dr. Freda Scott Giles will be presented by Dr. Giles to illustrate the local history of Linnentown, the Baldwin Hall remains, exploring the relationship between UGA and the Athens African American community, and the impact of urban renewal.

#### **December 8: Journey**

Jubilee Partners will come to share their experience of ministry caring for those on the journey of immigration who face challenges unimaginable to most of us.

#### **December 15: Restoration**

From the Friends of Brooklyn Cemetery, formed in 2006, we will learn about the work of family and community restoration to honor African American ancestors and the historic community which surrounded their final resting place first established in 1882.

Each evening will begin with a simple meal of soup and bread at 6pm in the Education Building. The presentations will begin at 6:30 following a short meditation and opening prayer, and then be followed by a time for reflection, questions and small group discussions, ending at 7:30. Please join us and invite your friends and family. Also, please notify the church office if you require the Nursery to support your attendance.

### Praying with Pictures: Contemplative Christian Practices with the Tarot

Have you considered entering this brand new church year (Advent is the beginning of it, yay!) with a brand new spiritual practice? If you are intrigued by the symbolism and puzzles in the parables of Jesus, love to worship through the symbols offered in our liturgy, and hear God speaking to you through the symbolism of dreams, the beauty of creation, music, visual arts and stories, then this Advent class may be for you!

Mother Nikki will offer a 3 part workshop series (these classes are interactive, not lectures) on **Sunday mornings** at 9:15am at Adult Formation (in the parish hall), designed to explore communing with God through the symbolic pictures offered in the tarot. Contrary to popular opinion, this 78 card deck of both archetypal and daily life images is neither so much in modern times, a tool for fortune telling or occult practice, so much as it is a means to pray without words ... akin to the contemplation or writing of the intricate and symbolic artwork of a religious icon. The tarot is now much more often used as a tool for Christian mysticism and the deep work of self-awareness and growth in spiritual formation, than for other pursuits.

Following the works of Brittany Muller (author of the book, The Contemplative Tarot: A Christian Guide to the Cards) and Lindsay Mack (founder of Soul Tarot, a spiritual formation process using "heart centered tarot learning for transformative growth)," we'll explore the following:

**December 4:** Where is God in the Tarot? Christianity's relationship and roots in relation to the Tarot

**December 11:** Where am I in the Tarot? Interpretation, meaning, and basics for prayer with the Tarot

**December 18:** How is God conversing with me and what do I hear through the Tarot? Finding your Personal Prayer Practices with the Tarot

## Those Who Serve

Vestry: Caley Ross  
Readers: Carolyn Abney (8AM)  
Janet Patterson (10:30AM)  
EMs: Barbara Kuhn & June Ball  
Crucifer:  
Torches:

Flowers: Flower Guild  
Altar Guild: Berni McCranie & David Lowe  
Ushers: Gail Eilers & Lois Alworth  
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  
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**Jonathan Klein** Music Director/Organist  
*jonathanfk@gmail.com* | 706-296-8102

**Joseph Napoli** Choir Director  
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**Doug Adkins** Director of Children's Ministries  
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**Wade McGlamery** Youth Minister  
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**Jude Red-Bear** Nursery Director  
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**Mark Hein** Buildings/Grounds  
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**Terri Tillman** WebMaster  
*ttillman@gmail.com*

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

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

**Peachy Green Clean Co-op** Sexton

**Nursery Attendants:** Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

**Vestry Members:** Eddie Bennett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Blaine Everson; Anna Hiers; Jane Hudson; LeeAnne Krause; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Caley Ross; Chrissy Moffett, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

**Vestry Person of the Day/Week:** Caley Ross [greenthumbsross@gmail.com](mailto:greenthumbsross@gmail.com)

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