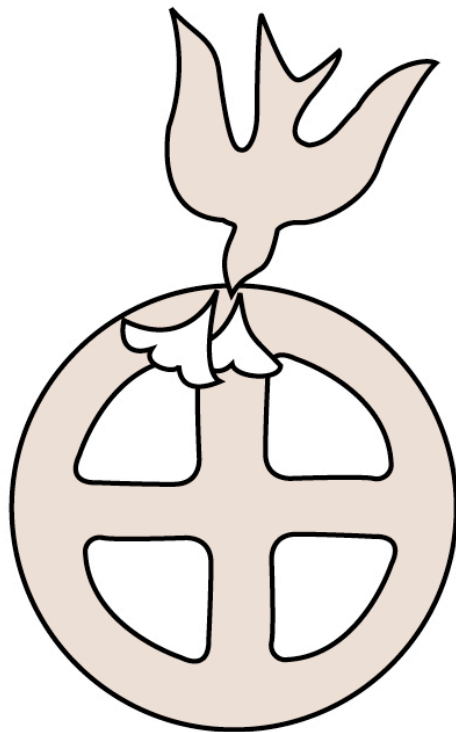


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 19, 2021
8AM W/O MUSIC | 10:30AM W/ MUSIC

**VISION STATEMENT FOR
ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*The vision of St. Gregory the Great is to be a program-sized, culturally integrated parish,
proclaiming and loving like Jesus with varied worship, music, and outdoor spaces.*

**DIOCESE OF ATLANTA STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
Adopted at Annual Council 2015**

*We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus as we:
Worship Joyfully; Serve Compassionately, and Grow Spiritually.*

Welcome visitors and newcomers! Please sign our guest book or fill out a pew card. If you would like to receive communications from St. Gregory's during the week, &/or our monthly newsletters, please visit our website at www.stgregoryathens.org and join our mailing list!

Large-Print Bulletins/Assistance. Please let an usher know if you would like a large-print bulletin or if you are unable to come to the altar for communion; the elements will be brought to you.

Contact us:

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm

Facebook : @stgregoryathens

stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553

3195 Barnett Shoals Road | Athens, GA 30605

To receive emails from us, visit www.stgregoryathens.org and click “Join Our Mailing List”.

Psalm 80:1-7



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- 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 Ma-/nasseh, *
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.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

Thanks be to God.

The people stand to sing and remain standing for the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my

womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

*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
(said by all, standing)

BCP 358

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
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

BCP 392

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, and Rob, Don, and Paul, our Bishops;
and for all bishops and other ministers, especially Nikki, our priest, and Christina, our deacon;
For all who serve God in his Church.

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

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

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

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.

Deacon: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and
unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and
serve you in newness of life, to the honory and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

The God Whom Earth and Sea and Sky

James J. Chepponis

The God whom earth and sea and sky adore and praise and magnify,
whose might they claim, whose love they tell, in Mary's body comes to dwell.

O Mother blest, the chosen shrine wherein the architect divine,
whose hand contains the earth and sky, has come in human flesh to lie!

Blest in the message Gabriel brought; blest by the work the Spirit wrought;
most blest, to bring to human birth the long desired of all the earth.

Oh Lord, the Virgin-born, to you eternal praise and laud are due,
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

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

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 (8AM)

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*** 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

Whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of faith, know that you are welcome to join with us at God's table to share in the holy communion. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than the bread, cross your arms over your chest when the priest comes to you in the communion circle.

Communion Hymn 269

Ye who claim the faith of Jesus DEN DES VATERS SINN GEBOREN

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 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Voluntary No. 8

Paul Page



Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Diane Barret, Carol Whitson, Tom Sturgis, Diane Miller, John Granrose, Don Mushholt, Ralph Beckworth, Tammy Bowman, John Gay, Cameron Steele, Nathan Parrish, Ed Spivey, Hannah Bennett, Anna Thornton, Sheryl King, Ellen Peck, Bill Alworth, Charles Thornton, James Morris, Tom Hiers, Jane Bowen, Marge Massey, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Stephen Morris, Tina Carlson, Shelby Welch, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Cindy Beagle, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Robby, Cecil, Brooke, Dianne, Peter, Jason, Lynn, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, Buddy, Nicholas, Mike, and Margaret.

In sympathy to Nancy Watson, on the death of her husband, George.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Karen Radde, Katie Bienvenue, Frankie Cook, Mason Somerville, Jonathan Frye, John Bray, Karen Shetterley, Janie Reynolds, Jo Benton, Anna Streeter, Judith DeJoy, and Brenda Browning; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Caley & Amelia Ross.

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

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT REHEARSAL | 12PM

Children will rehearse in the sanctuary for the Christmas Pageant immediately following the 10:30AM service!

FINAL DAY

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION ADVENT PROGRAM

This Advent season you are invited to join us in an Adult Spiritual Formation program of reflection on what the past two years have been like for us and our own Beloved Community at St. Gregory's. Life has changed for each and all of us, and we hope that by offering some time together with selected Psalms and poems, readings from the Book of Lamentations, and a selection of traditional Spirituals, we will be inspired to embark on some honest conversation about our sadness, our anger and our hope for what lies ahead. At both times there will be water and coffee available and feel free to bring along your dinner, breakfast or a snack as you need or desire. As per St. Gregory's current protocols, masks will be required by all participants.

NOTES

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

2022 contribution envelopes are available on the dresser in the Parish Hall entrance way. We have not ordered many because history has shown very few St. Gregorians use them. 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.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. GREGORY'S

Friday, December 24

5PM Children's Pageant & Holy Eucharist

9:30PM Music Prelude

10PM Festival Eucharist & Choir

Saturday, December 25

10AM Holy Eucharist & Carols

Sunday, December 26

10AM Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 2

8AM Holy Eucharist

10:30AM Holy Eucharist

Those Who Serve

8AM

Reader: Carolyn Abney

10:30AM

Vestry: John Bray

Reader: June Ball

Flowers: Flower Guild

Altar Guild: Marilyn Walsh &

Barbara Dean

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

Terri Tillman Web Master/Social Media

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Joseph Napoli Choir Director

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Catherine Drewry Director of Children's Ministries

cbdrewry@gmail.com | 706-201-7241

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister

wwmcglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

Jude Red-Bear Nursery Director

juderedbear@yahoo.com | 706-614-0008

Mark Hein Buildings/Grounds

markehein@gmail.com | 706-549-3239

Allena Armour Sexton

allenaarmour57@yahoo.com | 706-614-3704

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear

Vestry Members: Jane Hudson, Sr. *Warden*; Kelly Black, Jr. *Warden*; Julie Worley; LeeAnne Krause; John Bray; Anna Hiers; Blaine Everson; Eddie Bennett; Caley Ross; Chrissy Moffett, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: John Bray *johnpatrickbray@gmail.com*



