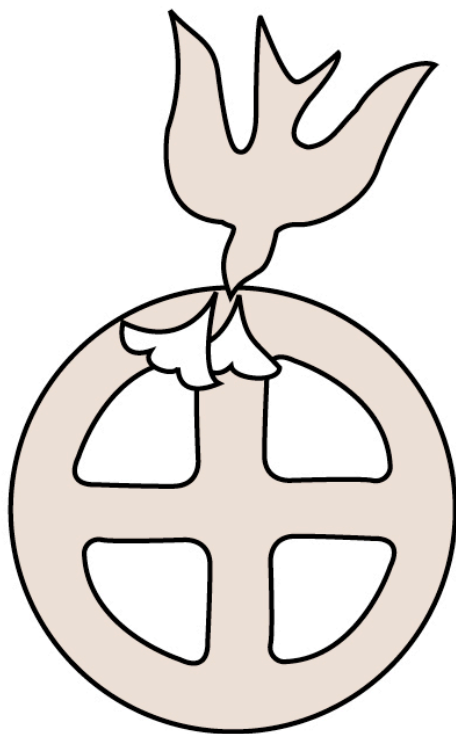


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 26, 2021

IOAM

**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](http://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](http://www.stgregoryathens.org) and click "Join Our Mailing List".**

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

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### THE WORD OF GOD

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We invite you to please silence your cell phones and to enter worship in stillness, silence, and reverence as we begin our service.*

#### Harp Prelude

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Sylvia Woods

Maggie Reinberger & Christina Dondero, *harp*

#### Processional Hymn 105

*God rest you merry, gentlemen*

GOD REST YOU MERRY

#### 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

#### Song of Praise 100

*Joy to the World!*  
*(vs. 1 & 2)*

ANTIOCH

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 147:13-21** (*spoken*)

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \* praise your God, O Zion;  
14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \* he has blessed your children within you.  
15 He has established peace on your borders; \* he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
16 He sends out his command to the earth, \* and his word runs very swiftly.  
17 He gives snow like wool; \* he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \* who can stand against his cold?  
19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \* he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
20 He declares his word to Jacob, \* his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
21 He has not done so to any other nation; \* to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*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 82**

*Of the Father's love begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through

Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*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, standing)*

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, 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 Solo

*The First Noel*

arr. Philip Keveren

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-130

*Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Franz Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. 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. 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 S-164

*Jesus, Lamb of God*

Franz Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your 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 Solo**  
**Communion Hymn 324**

*Once in Royal David's City*  
*Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

arr. Charles Callahan  
PICARDY

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 107

*Good Christian friends, rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

## THE DISMISSAL

*Deacon:* Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

*Special thank you to Joanna Elder for her music today!*



## Prayers of the People

**In our Parish** we pray for Diane Barret, Brenda Browning, Carol Whitson, Tom Sturgis, Diane Miller, John Granrose, 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 thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week:** Kevan Lamm, Connor Green, Susanne Burton, Talitha Stone, Michele Lease, Barbara Johnson, and Elijah Gabriel; **for those celebrating anniversaries:** George & Kris Braman, Paige Lowe & Anna Streeter, Cecil & Sandy Hudson, and Kelly Black & Lisa Hunt.

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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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## **THIS WEEK**

### **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR VACATION | DEC. 27-29**

Kendall will be out of the office from Monday, Dec. 27 - Wednesday, Dec. 29.

### **RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL | MONDAY, DEC. 27**

The Rite of Christian Burial for George Watson will take place in our sanctuary on Monday, Dec. 27 at 11AM with a catered reception to follow.

### **RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL | TUESDAY, DEC 28**

The Rite of Christian Burial for The Rev. Dr. Judy Gay will take place in our sanctuary on Tuesday, Dec. 28 at 12PM.

## COMING UP

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING | SUNDAY, JAN. 23**

Join us for a celebration of the mission and ministries of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, elections of new vestry members, on Sunday, January 23. The meeting will also include reports from the vestry and a presentation of the 2022 budget. Nursery and childcare will be provided for the duration of the meeting.

## NOTES

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The 2022 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 next to it and leave in Kendall's office. Suggested donation is \$35/dedication.

## **THE FLOWERS ON THE CHRISTMAS ALTAR ARE GIVEN**

### **In Memory of**

Dwayne & Thelma Coker, by Jeff & Shelby Welch  
Bill & Evelyn Welch, by Jeff & Shelby Welch  
John Rives, by Diane Barret  
Mary Ellen Cherry, by Jenifer Marquardt  
Paul Edmonston, by his wife, Elizabeth  
Iris and Jack Moorhead, by Sheila Kelley  
Jackie and Roy Kelley, by Sheila Kelley  
Violeta Moore, by Sheila Kelley  
Lucille West, by Jenifer Marquardt  
Jack Beach, by Martha Beach  
Conoly Hester  
George Watson

### **In Thanksgiving for**

Nathanial, Jenny, Charlie, and Hayden Welch, by Jeff & Shelby Welch  
Toni and Wes Chapman, by Jeff & Shelby Welch  
Amelia, Caley, Jeffery, & Kitty Ross, by Jeff & Shelby Welch  
Our children and grandchildren, by John & Linda Barrett  
My St. Gregory's Family, by Martha Beach  
Robert Wright, by the Napoli Family

### **In Honor of**

Evelyn Wright, by the Napoli family

## Those Who Serve

Reader: Barbara Kuhn  
Vestry: Anna Hiers  
Flowers: Flower Guild  
Altar Guild: Carol Schwenke & David Lowe

## Clergy and Staff

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

**Anthony Barkdoll** Livestream Coordinator

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

**Pete Nicholls** Today's livestream volunteer

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

**Terri Tillman** Website Master  
*tillman@gmail.com*

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

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

**Catherine Drewry** Director of Children's Ministries  
*cbdrewry@gmail.com* | 706-201-7241

**Wade McGlamery** Youth Minister  
*wmcglamery@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:** Anna Hiers [\*aldhiers@gmail.com\*](mailto:aldhiers@gmail.com)





