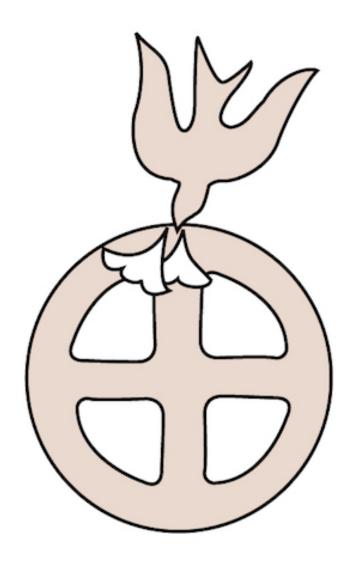
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



DECEMBER 31, 2023 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30АМ

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 by separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)

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

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Opening Hymn 93

Angels, from the realms of glory

REGENT SQUARE



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.

(vs. 1 & 4)



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.

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.

Sequence Hymn 82

Of the Father's love begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



This hymn may be performed in equal note values:

THE GOSPEL John 1:1-18

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

People: Glory 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)

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 III

BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, especially Michael, Rob, and Don, and all priests and deacons, especially Nikki, Christina, Carol, Ellen, Dutton, & Lin;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. ...

We give special thanks for ... The Celebrant adds a Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn 377

All people that on earth do dwell

OLD 100TH



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.

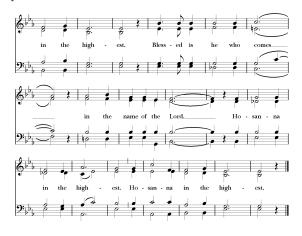
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

BCP 367





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

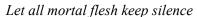
BCP 364

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.



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn 324



PICARDY



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.

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 115

What child is this

GREENSLEEVES



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!

Postlude

Prayers of the People

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

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Michelle Lease, Barbara Johnson, Elijah Gabriel, Scott Thornton, Mark Richardson, Bill Alworth, Melissa Hamlin, Ellen Richardson, and Emma Jones; for those celebrating anniversaries: Paige Lowe & Anna Streeter, Cecil & Sandy Hudson, and Kelly Black & Lisa Hunt.

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.

THIS WEEK

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED | JAN. 1-2

Parish offices will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, January 1 & 2.

THREADS OF PRAYER WILL NOT MEET

Threads of Prayer will not meet in January. We will reconvene on the first Tuesday in February (February 6).

NEXT WEEK

EPIPHANY LESSONS & CAROLS | SUNDAY, JAN. 7

Episcopal Church of the Advent in Madison invites you to participate in their annual Epiphany Lessons and Carols on Sunday, January 7th at 4PM. Music will be provided by the Athens Chamber Singers. All are invited to the festive reception in the Parish House following the service.

COMING UP...

EYC HIKING DAY | SAT., JAN. 13

On January 13th all youth members (6th-12th grades) are invited to go on a hike at Raven's Cliff Falls! Meet up at St. Gregory's will be at 10AM and pick up at the end of the day should be no later than 6PM. We will be having a picnic lunch on the trail so please contact Wade if you or your child have any dietary restrictions. We will need chaperones and drivers so please reach out to Wade if you are available. Email Wade, wwmcglamery@gmail.com, if you have any questions. If you or your child have not already joined the Youth Group Discord server, please let Wade know. Messages will be sent through there on the day of the event. Participants should consider: Bug spray * Dressing in layers * Closed toed, walking/hiking appropriate footwear * Water

BLINDSPOT GROUP | SUNDAY, JAN. 14

The Blindspot Group (20s and 30s group) has decided that meeting once a month is not enough! Starting Sunday, January 14, we will also meet at 6PM on the 2nd Sunday of each month for dinner and small group study. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837 for more information.

MEMORIAL SERICE for SUSANNE BURTON | SAT., JAN 20

A Memorial Service for Susanne Burton will be held in St. Gregory's sanctuary on Saturday, January 20 @ 2PM.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING | SUNDAY, JAN. 21

Join us for a celebration of the mission and ministries of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church and elections of new vestry members on Sunday, January 21 right after the 10:30AM service. The meeting will also include reports from the vestry and a presentation of the 2024 budget. Nursery and childcare will be provided for the duration of the meeting.

MEMORIAL SERVICE for SANDRA HOUSE | SAT., JAN 27

A Memorial Service for Sandra House will be held in St. Gregory's sanctuary on Saturday, January 27 @ 2PM. The family will receive friends Friday, January 26, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at Bernstein Funeral Home, 3195 Atlanta Highway, Athens, GA 30606.

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 | LAST THURSDAYS & 2ND SUNDAYS

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 will also begin meeting at 6PM on the 2nd Sunday of every month for dinner and small group study. 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

POINSETTIAS

If you dedicated a poinsettia and would like to take it home, please do so today! If you don't want yours, maybe give someone else permission to take it!

2023 GIVING STATEMENTS

Please keep an eye out in your email inbox (and junk/promotion folders!) in the next couple of weeks for your end-of-2023 Contribution Statements!

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

2024 contribution envelopes are available on the dresser in the Parish Hall entrance way. 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.

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!

In Memory of

Lief Carter, by Marilyn Vickers John Rives, by Diane Barret My Mother, Lucille West, by Jenifer Marquardt My sister, Carol Whitson, by Lois Alworth William & Evelyn Welch, by Shelby & Jeff Welch Dwayne & Thelma Coker, by Jeff & Shelby Welch Pauline Nicholls, by Pete Nicholls Sandra Everett, by the Lamm Family Rita Murphy, by the Lamm Family Mary Steinbauer, by Paula Sanford Denny Sanford, by Paula Sanford Terry Kelley, by Sheila Kelley Richard MacKinnon, by Sheila Kelley Jack & Iris Moorhead, by Sheila Kelley Roy & Jackie Kelley, by Sheila Kelley David McCranie, by Bernadine McCranie Victor & Bernadine Miller, by Bernadine McCranie Our son, Peter, by Tim & Christina Dondero Kathleen Davis, by Chrissy Moffett Ann & Jim Moffett, by Chrissy Moffett Elizabeth Hudock, by Chrissy Moffett Ann & Charles Davis, by Chrissy Moffett Dorothy Klippel, by Judith & David DeJoy Catherine DeJoy, by Judith & David DeJoy William Junming Yin, by Jonathan Klein Eric Agner, by Margaret Agner Wellesley Blackburn, by Diane Edison Mary Edison, by Diane Edison Domine Edison, by Diane Edison Susanne Burton, by Jon, Beth, Becca, and Parr Burton

In Thanksgiving for

My father, Wayne West, by Jenifer Marquardt
Nathaniel, Jenny, Charlie, & Hayden Welch, by Jeff & Shelby Welch
Toni & Wes Chapman, by Shelby & Jeff Welch
Amelia, Caley, Jeffery, and Kitty, by Shelby & Jeff Welch
The arrival of William Wesley Chapman, IV, by Jeff & Shelby Welch
My husband, Tim, our daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren, by Christina Dondero
William & Karen Klein, by Jonathan Klein

In honor of

Joe Napoli and his music ministry here at St. Gregory's, by Jonathan Klein

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Gail Eilers

Readers: Carolyn Abney (8AM) Joyce Morehouse (10:30AM)

EMs: Beth Thornton & David Stooksbury

Crucifers: Torches:

Flowers: Flower Guild

Altar Guild: Anna Thornton, Barbara Dean Ushers: Anna Hiers & Bruce Zavitz Counters: Gail Eilers & Alice Mohor

Livestream: Jeff Welch

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 www.cglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

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

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

Terri Tillman WebMaster *ttillman@gmail.com*

Danielle Vogt Coffee Host danielle 1784@gmail.com

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@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: Gail Eilers eilersgail@gmail.com