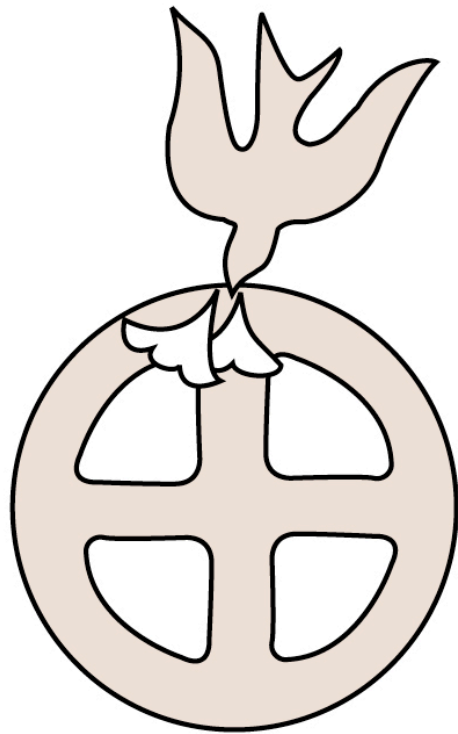


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CHRISTMAS DAY  
DECEMBER 25, 2021  
10 AM

**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 and join us for our coffee hour in the Education Building after each service. 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.

*BCP = Book of Common Prayer*

*Hymns may be found in The Hymnal 1982*

*Service music is at the front of The Hymnal 1982 and is indicated by an \*S before the number*

*LEVAS = Lift Every Voice and Sing Hymnal*

*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 Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day

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### THE WORD OF GOD

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please silence your cell phones as we prepare for worship.*

#### Prelude

#### Processional Hymn 87

*Hark! the herald angels sing*

MENDELSSOHN

#### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Unto us a child is born.

*People:* **O come let us adore him. Alleluia!**

#### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

#### GLORIA

BCP 356

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 213

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*The people are seated for the readings.*

#### THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 96** *Cantate Domino*  
(spoken)

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \* sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \* proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \* and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \* he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \* but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \* ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \* bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with his truth.

THE SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*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 99**

*Go tell it on the mountain*      GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,

who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

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

HOMILY: 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

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;

**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 and Don, 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.  
Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
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 honor 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 people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.*

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory Hymn 89**

*It came upon the midnight clear*

CAROL

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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

*Celebrant and People*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary 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.**

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.**

*Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;*

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome at God's table. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than the bread and wine, cross your arms over your chest when the priest comes to you in the communion circle.*

### **Communion Solo**

*What child is this*

arr. Philip Keveren

### 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

May Almighty God, who sent his son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn 100**

*Joy to the world!*

**ANTIOCH**

### THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant:* 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 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:** Judith DeJoy, Brenda Browning, 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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### **PARISH OFFICES CLOSED | DEC. 27-29**

Parish offices will be closed 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.

### **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

## CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 1

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 25</b>	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist & Carols
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 26</b>	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 27</b>	11:00 am	Rite of Christian Burial: George Watson
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 28</b>	12:00 pm	Rite of Christian Burial: The Rev. Judy Gay
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 29</b>	all day	Parish Offices Closed
		7:00 pm	AA
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 30</b>		
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 31</b>	6:00 pm	AI - Anon

## 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** Website Master  
*ttillman@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*



