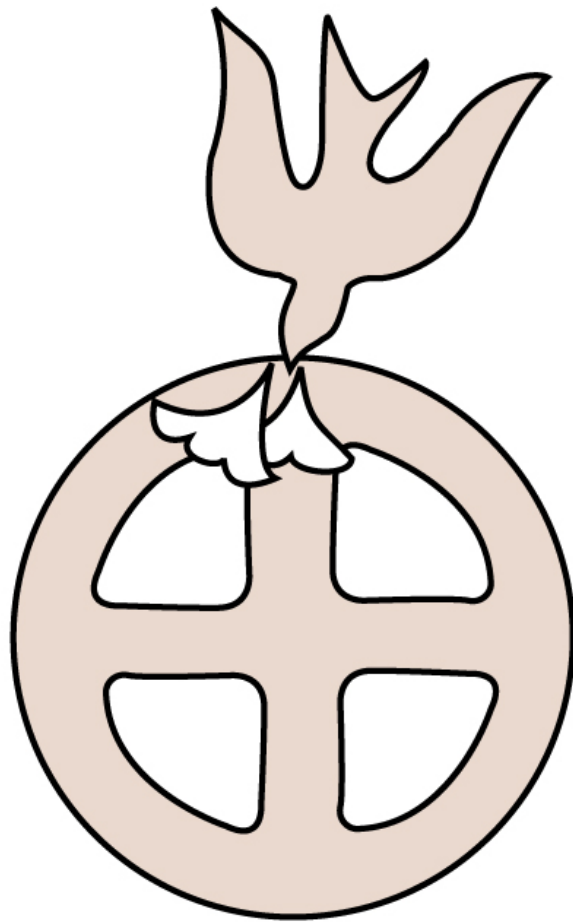


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



APRIL 16, 2023
LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

IOAM

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 Easter

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Ella's Song

Bernice Johnson Reagan

Processional Hymn 210

The day of resurrection!

ELLACOMBE

Descant

3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,
1 The day of re - sur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,
the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;
the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of re - sur - rec - tion light;
the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;
let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,
From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear so calm and plain
let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,
for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.
our Christ hath brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: *Alleluia! Christ is risen!*

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

BCP 351

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.

Gloria LEVAS 243

Glory to God

Carl Haywood

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16 *(spoken)*

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem*Precious Lord*Thomas Dorsey
arr. Arnold Devier

THE GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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 383

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, Doug, Dutton, and 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 Anthem

Everything That Hath Breath

Richard Smallwood

Presentation Hymn LEVAS 177

Standin' in the Need of Prayer

Negro Spiritual

It's me, it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer. Fine

1. Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord, ...
2. Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's me, O Lord, ...
3. Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's me, O Lord, ...
4. Not the stran - ger, not my neigh - bor, but it's me, O Lord, ...

1. Stand-in' in the need of prayer, Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's
2. Stand-in' in the need of prayer, Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's
3. Stand-in' in the need of prayer, Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's
4. Stand-in' in the need of prayer, Not the stran - ger, not my neigh - bor, but it's

D.C.
1. me, O Lord, Stand - in' in the need of prayer.
2. me, O Lord, Stand - in' in the need of prayer.
3. me, O Lord, Stand - in' in the need of prayer.
4. me, O Lord, Stand - in' in the need of prayer.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D

BCP 372

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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus LEVAS 255

Holy, holy, holy

Grayson Warren Brown

The musical score consists of two columns of music, each with four systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name

System 2: ho - ly Lord God of hosts. of the Lord, of the Lord.

System 3: Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - Ho - san - na in the high -

System 4: ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. est, ho - san - na in the high - est

Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People *We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Gregory and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

LEVAS 264

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

Unison



Our Fa - ther, which art in heav - en, hal - low - ed
be thy name, Thy king - dom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly
bread. And for - give us our debts as we for - give our



debt - ors. And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, But de - liv - er us from
e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the
glo - ry, for - ev - er. A - men.

Fraction Anthem LEVAS 271

Lamb of God

Eugene W. Hancock

Leader

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have

Response

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have

Leader

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:

Response

grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Anthem

He Has His Hands On You

Marvin Sapp

Communion Hymn 335

I am the bread of life
(vs. 1-4)

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

1 I am the bread of life; they who
 2 (The) Bread that I will give is my
 3 (Un-) less you eat of the
 4 I am the re-sur-rec-tion,
 5 (Yes.) Lord, we be-lieve that

1 come to me shall not hun-ger; they who be-
 2 Flesh for the life of the world, and they who
 3 I am the life. They who be-
 5 you are the Christ, the

1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 2 eat of this bread, they shall live for
 3 drink of his Blood, you shall not have life with-
 4 lieve in me, e-ven if they
 5 Son of God who has

1 me un-less the Fa-ther draw them.
 2 ev-er, they shall live for
 3 in you, you shall not have life with-in you.
 4 die, they shall live for ev-er.
 5 come in-to the world.

Descant

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

Refrain

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

up, and I will raise them up on the

up, and I will raise them up on the

1-4

Final Ending

last day. 5 Yes, day.
 last day. 2 The day.
 3 Un-
 4 Yes,
 5 Yes,

The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

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

Closing Hymn LEVAS 1

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
2. Sto - ny the road we trod, Bit - ter the chast - 'ning
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

1. ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
2. rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
3. tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

1. ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the list - 'ning
2. died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wear - y
3. way; Thou who hast by thy might, Led us in - to the

1. skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
2. feet Come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
3. light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

1. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
2. We have come o - ver a - way that with tears has been wa - tered;
3. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we met thee;

1. Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
2. We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
3. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

1. brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
2. slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
3. get thee, Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for -

1. day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
2. stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
3. ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Choral Postlude

Stand

Donnie McClurken

Recessional

Toccata on We Shall Overcome

Carl Haywood



Thank you to the Trey Clegg Singers for joining us this morning!

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Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Danielle Vogt, Susan Dunn & family, Donna Hall, Rosalyn Panton, Don Musholt, Beth Massey, Cayden Mitchell, Harry Stooksbury, Billy Hale, Bill Alworth, Ray Hoover, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Dan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Patricia, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Linda Barrett, Gavin Avinger, Paul Heald, Clare Severens, Del Hicks, Alex Buckley, Amelia Ross, and Ali Elyaman; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Ed & Susan Risler.

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

THE TREY CLEGG SINGERS

Please come join us after the service for coffee hour today to thank the Trey Clegg singers for their music!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class today, immediately following the 10AM service. Bring a lunch! We will meet in the Parish Hall.

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE MEETING | 12PM

The Pastoral Care Committee will meet in the library today, immediately following the 10:30AM service.

THIS WEEK

MOVIE NIGHT! | FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Come join us this month, on Friday, April 21, when we will watch *August: Osage County* (2013). "A look at the lives of the strong-willed women of the Weston family whose paths have diverged until a family crisis brings them back to the Oklahoma house they grew up in, and to the dysfunctional woman who raised them." Join us in Parish Hall and enjoy some popcorn and soft drinks - or bring a blanket and a picnic dinner! The movie begins promptly at 7pm.

COMING UP ...

MERIDIAN WOMEN'S CHORUS CONCERT | SUNDAY, APRIL 30

The women of Meridian Women's Chorus invites you to their spring concert, *Mother Earth and Her Gifts*, on Sunday, April 30 at 4PM at Friendship Presbyterian Church. This free concert includes three pieces by local composers; two will be world premieres. For more information contact Stacie Court at stacie.court@gmail.com.

FAMILY PROMISE

St. Gregory's next Family Promise week is coming up April 30-May 6. Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) is an organization of churches which helps with meals and host responsibilities for local, temporarily homeless families with children. The families stay at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church (MABC). Volunteers sign up to provide a meal or be a host for an evening, night or weekend shift at MABC. Sign up by clicking on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-2022#/> Scroll down until you find the week of April 30-May 6. For questions, email Annette at bateskannette@gmail.com or call 706-255-5839. This is a way for us to be Christ's feet on the earth here in Athens.

SACRED GROUND

Sacred Ground is a thoughtful, sensitive, and faith-based resource created and financed by The Episcopal Church to assist local congregations in creating safe space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. Inviting

participants to reflect on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story, the program is one path we can take in seeking to become God's Beloved Community.

St. Gregory's is offering the 10 session Sacred Ground program during this 2023 Sabbatical Summer as an opportunity to gather, pray and share a meal together, and to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest written materials, films and facilitated conversations. The meeting dates will be Wednesday evenings from 6-8:30pm from May 10-June 7 and June 28-July 26 with a two week break (June 14 and 21) to allow each participant to more intensively pursue a particular topic of their choice. We are seeking 8-10 people to participate with one another and 2 facilitators.

If you would like to sign up for this journey, please notify Kendall Kookogey at the St. Gregory's church office office@stgregoryathens.org or at 706-546-7553 by Friday, May 5, 2023. There is no cost to participate other than your time and commitment.

For questions, contact Ellen Richardson at ellenrichardson52@gmail.com or 912-660-0151 or Ron Balthazor at ron.balthazor@gmail.com or 706-338-0625.

If you would like to read more about the program, follow this link: <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground> I hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity at this important time of seeking understanding and healing in our fragile communities and our wider world.

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Shelby Welch
Reader: Roger Schwenke
EMs: David Stooksbury & Karen Hankins
Crucifers: Beth Thornton & Anna Thornton
Torches: Maggie Reinberger & Ethan Vogt
Flowers: Lane Norton & Rhonda Packer

Altar Guild: Nancy Watson, Jenifer Caplinger &
Mary Ann Caplinger
Ushers: Gail Eilers & Lois Alworth
Counters: Katie Hein & Lois Alworth
Livestream: Pete Nicholls

Clergy and Staff

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Danielle Vogt Coffee Host
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Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

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

Vestry Members: Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Blaine Everson; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Shelby Welch scwelch@windstream.net

