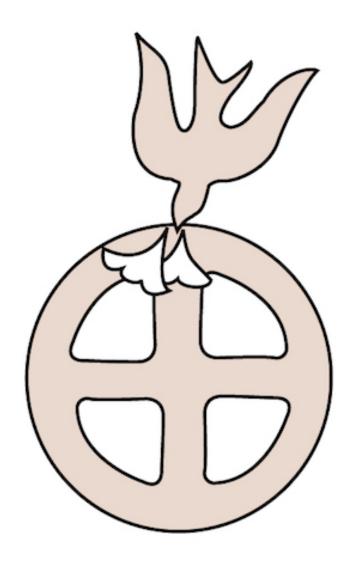
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



APRIL 14, 2024 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 Third Sunday of Easter

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choral Introit

Lead me, Lord

S. S. Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Processional Hymn 208

The strife is o'er

VICTORY



OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.





THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Acts 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 4



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my / cause; *

you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my / prayer.

2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my / glory; *

how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false / gods?"

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the / faithful; *

when I call upon the Lord, he will / hear me.

4 Tremble, then, and do not / sin; *

speak to your heart in silence upon your / bed.

5 Offer the appointed / sacrifices *

and put your trust in the / Lord.

6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better / times!" *

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O / Lord.

7 You have put gladness in my / heart, *

more than when grain and wine and oil / increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall a-/sleep; *

for only you, Lord, make me dwell in / safety.

THE SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is righteous, just as he is righteous.

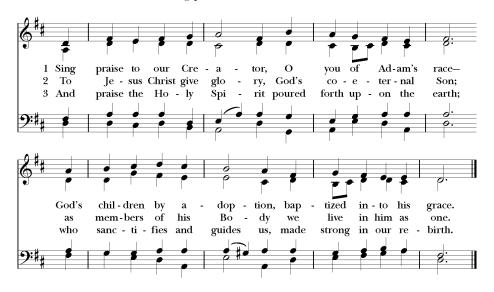
Hear what the Spirit is saving to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 295

Sing praise to our Creator

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN



THE GOSPEL Luke 24:36b-48

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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, Rob, Paul, and Don, our Bishops; (...) and for all bishops and other ministers, priests, deacons, and clergy associates, especially Lin, Dutton, Carol, Ellen, Christina, & Nikki;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for (...) Hear us. Lord:

For your mercy is great.

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

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.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem The Peace of God John Rutter

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Presentation Hymn 380 v. 3

Doxology

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

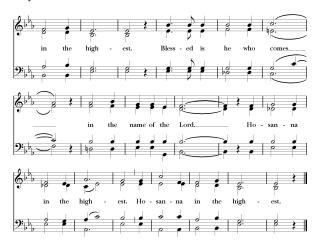
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:





And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN**.

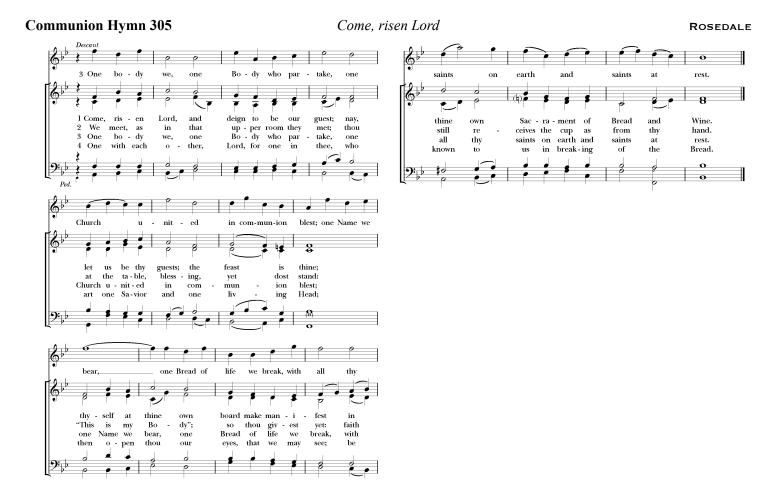
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE



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

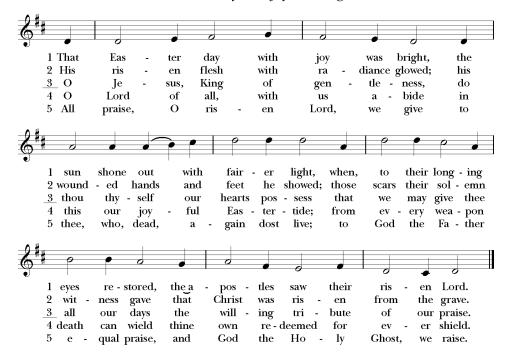
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, 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 193

That Easter day with joy was bright

PUER NOBIS



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!

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Rena Catlin, Anna Bowman, Cheryl Lowry, Jennifer Johnson, Sheldon Clements, Evan Powell, Janet Wright, Billy Hale, Kyra Madden, Eddie Bennett, Mary Burkett, Cecil Beagle, Diana Beagle, William Beagle, Jim Klippel, Jackie Dorsey, Denise Glynn, Mike Fowler, Cecil Hudson, Jean Estes, Elmer Clark, Shelby Welch, Nancy Carter, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Ellen Kappel, Cayden Mitchell, Bill Alworth, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Don Downie, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Donna, Kelly, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Joshua Heard, Eddie Van Giesen, Linda Barrett, Gavin Avinger, Paul Heald, Clare Severens, and Alex Buckley; 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

CONFIRMATION CLASSES | BEGIN TODAY

For all those interested in getting confirmed, received, reaffirmed, or if you just want to learn more about the Episcopal Church-confirmation class will be offered starting today following the 10:30am service then every Sunday leading up to Diocesan confirmation on June 2 in Atlanta. If you are interested in joining the class please reach out to Mother Nikki or Wade McGlamery and let us know.

BLUE JEAN SUNDAY | POSTPONED

THIS WEEK

THE PHILADELPHIA ELEVEN | WEDS., APRIL 17

Come see The Philadelphia Eleven, the historic story of civil disobedience in ordaining the first women priests in the Episcopal Church. Please call Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Administrator at 706-543-1294 to sign up for a ride. Registration for the screening and reception requires a separate step. Please visit https://form.jotform.com/240366379425159 to reserve your space at the screening. Transportation leaves parking lot of Emmanuel Episcopal Church at 2PM sharp and leaves venue at 8PM. See ya there!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING | FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Next Stewardship meeting will be April 19th @ 3:30 pm - meet in the Parish Hall. We welcome all who are interested in participating in our next Stewardship Campaign.

NEW FOLK SERVICE OFFERING | FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Beginning on Friday, April 19, St Gregory's will be offering a monthly Ceilidh service (pronounced kay-lee). Based on a Gaelic tradition of celebrating community and hospitality, a folk liturgy complete with live folk music and a meal will be offered in the Christian Education building at 6:30PM. Foot washing and hand anointing will also be available at these services for anyone who wants to take part. Any musicians that are interested in helping to provide the music for these services, as well as anyone with questions about the service, are encouraged to reach out to Wade McGlamery.

YOUNG DESIGNERS FASHION SHOW | SAT., APRIL 20

Call to fellow Gregorians! On Saturday, April 20 at 3PM, St. Gregory's will host the fashion show for the Young Designers Sewing Program. We did this last year and it was a huge success due to the generous help from our congregation. The Young Designers Sewing Program is a sewing program for girls from Gainesville ElementarySchool, Hillsman Middle School, and Cedar Shoals High School. The girls who participate in the program learn to sew, design patterns and fabrics in a variety of techniques, and much, much more. The program encourages leadership, life and work skills, and travel experiences. Maggie Reinberger and I (Jenifer Borg) are regular volunteers with this group. The girls have been working hard on their garments, and have included a number of surface design techniques such as Shibori, ice dyeing, kaleidoscope designs, and 3D printing.

The fashion show at St. Gregory will welcome the family members and friends of the girls as well as our congregation to see what the girls have made and where they are going next. Last year we had about 90 people for the show and I anticipate that we will have that many again this time. We will need volunteers to help with refreshments, setting up chairs, decorating, putting

away chairs, and greeting visitors. The event is free, donations are happily accepted. If you can't make this event, they have another fashion show on 4/28 at the Athens Country Club which is the major fundraiser of the season.

If you can help with any part of this worthy event, please contact me, Jenifer Borg, at jeniferaborg@aol.com, 706-614-4895. Everyone is welcome!

COMING UP ...

MERIDIAN WOMEN'S CHORUS CONCERT | SUN., APRIL 28

Animals Everywhere! Meridian Women's Chorus presents a family-friendly, animal themed concert here at St. Gregory the Great on Sunday, April 28 at 4PM. Meridian is teaming up with the Athens Area Humane Society to raise awareness of the organization's work and volunteer opportunities. The concert is free and will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Go to www.meridianwomenschorus.org for more information.

ONGOING

HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS

There will be no Healing Service this Weds., April 17 so that everyone can attend the Philadelphia Eleven that wish to go. Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM in the sanctuary for eucharist and prayers for healing.

NOTES

FREE BOOKS

The newly formed Library Committee has begun to sort through generations of books with the intention of making the offerings of the St. Gregory Library more accessible and useful to everyone. Those volumes that have seen better days and times will be placed for a week or so on the long white tables in the main area of the Education Building and made available for the taking with one rule—no bringing them back! Though you never know what might speak to you! Those books left there over a week or two will be donated to the public library. Hopefully by making some space the many hidden treasures that remain in St. Gregory's Library will be more easily seen, accessed and appreciated.

THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs pork & beans and plain white rice! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Amanda Aycock Readers: Lynn Hanna (8AM) Barbara Kuhn (10:30AM)

EMs: Roger Schwenke & Anna Thornton

Crucifers: Torches:

Flowers: Kris Braman Altar Guild: Anna Thornton & David Lowe

Ushers: Lois Alworth & Gail Eilers

Counters: Maggie Reinberger & Karen Radde

Livestream: Anthony Barkdoll

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

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister wwmcglamery@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, Stephanie Swindler, Berkeley Boone

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: Amanda Aycock asaycock@gmail.com

Hymn permission used by RiteStuff, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #732703-A