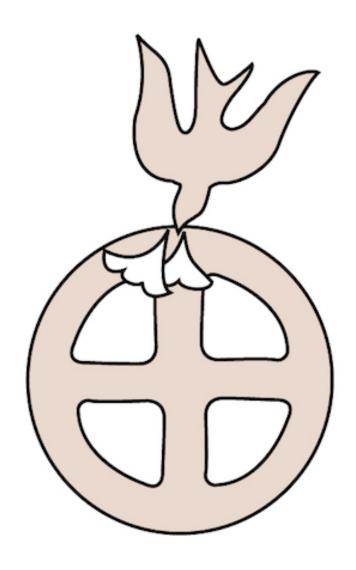
# St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



JANUARY 7, 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 & BAPTISM

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Jesus Christ

## THE WORD OF GOD

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Prelude** We Three Kings John A. Dempsey

**Opening Hymn 135** 

Songs of thankfulness and praise

SALZBURG



#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

BCP 299

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one Body and one Spirit;

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God and Father of all.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 29



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you / gods, \*

ascribe to the Lord glory and / strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his / Name; \*

worship the Lord in the beauty of / holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory / thunders; \*

the Lord is upon the mighty / waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful / voice; \*

the voice of the Lord is a voice of / splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar / trees; \*

the Lord breaks the cedars of / Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a / calf, \*

and Mount Hermon like a young wild / ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the / wilderness; \*

the Lord shakes the wilderness of / Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees / writhe \*

and strips the forests / bare.

9 And in the temple of the / Lord \*

all are crying, / "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the / flood; \*

the Lord sits enthroned as King for ever-/more.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his / people; \*

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of / peace.

#### THE SECOND READING

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Mark 1:4-11

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES	BCP 301
THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT	BCP 304
PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES	BCP 305
THE BAPTISM	BCP 307

WELCOMING THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



We rejoice with Carolyn Marie Ingle and welcome her into the Body of Christ.

## THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### **Offertory Anthem**

#### A Scottish Blessing

Be a light before to lead me; Be a guiding star above;
Jesu, may I always know thee, may I always know thy love.

There is no bird that soars the mountain, there is no deer upon the hill, there is no creature of the forest, but shall sing thy praises still.

Be a kindly shepherd for me, keep me safe thru' all my days;
Jesu, may I always know thee, may I always sing thy praise.

There is no life that swims the ocean; there is no creature of the sea; there is no fish within the river, but proclaims its praise for thee.

As the day falls into evening, as the night is lit with stars, at the ending of life's journey may thy heav'nly peace be ours.

Let ev'ry creature in God's kingdom, let ev'ry life upon the shore sing praise to God, the world's creator, sing praises now and evermore.

Jhonnisvan da Cruz Campos, violin

David Blackwell

*The Lord be with you.* 

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

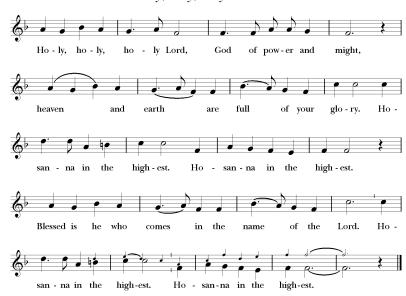
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## \* Sanctus S-125



Richard Proulx



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People: We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen**.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

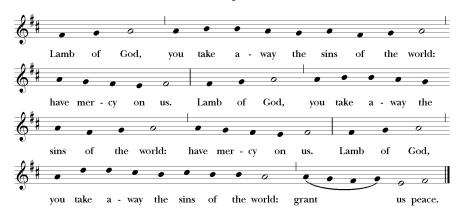
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

\* Fraction Anthem S-161

Lamb of God

David Hurd

**BCP 364** 



#### THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

**Communion Solo** 

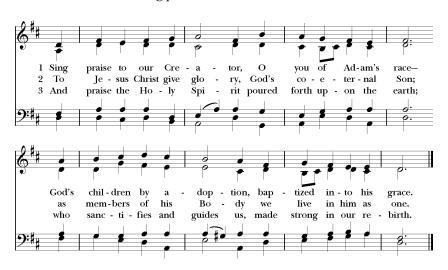
The Water is Wide

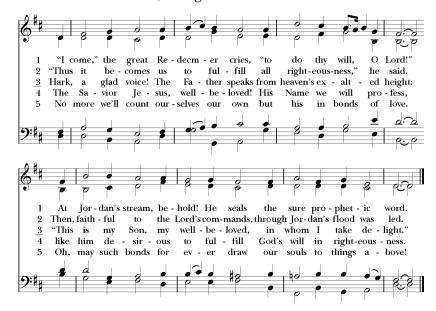
James Michael Stevens

**Communion Hymn 295** 

Sing praise to our Creator

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN





#### 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 616**

#### Hail to the Lord's Anointed

#### ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN





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** 

Î

Special thanks to Jhonnisvan da Cruz Campos for his music this morning!

The altar flowers are dedicated by Julie Dingus to the honor and glory of God and in memory of her mother, Sybil Lott, on the occasion of her birthday.

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The lectern flowers are dedicated by Anthony & Deborah Garner to the honor and glory of God and in thanksgiving for their 35th wedding anniversary.

About today's music...

On this first Sunday after the Epiphany we sing the hymn "Songs of thankfulness and praise" (#135) by Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885) that looks to reflect on this new season. Beginning with this Sunday's baptism of Christ through his transfiguration, Wordsworth's text is a broad summation of Epiphany. He wished also to anticipate, as he put it, "that future great and glorious Epiphany, at which Christ will be manifested to all, when He will appear to judge the world."

Wordsworth, nephew of the poet William Wordsworth, became Bishop of Lincoln after serving as headmaster at harrow and canon at Westminster Abbey. He was a published author in a variety of subjects, and he was considered to be most noted Greek scholar of his day. Eight of his texts appear in our present 1982 hymnal and this text first appeared in the 1892 hymnal.

The melody "Salzburg" was composed by Jacob Hintze (1622-1702), a court musician to the Elector of Brandenburg at Berlin. It was subsequently harmonized by J.S. Bach (1685-1750), and it is in this form that we sing it still today.

# Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Billy Hale, Kyra Madden, Eddie Bennett, Jim Klippel, Jackie Dorsey, Denise Glynn, Mike Fowler, 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, Donna, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Danielle Vogt, Catherine Holton, Parker Evans, Melinda Jones, Anthony Barkdoll, Thomas Peck, Kevin Greene, and Martha Beach; for those celebrating anniversaries: Anthony & Deborah Garner.

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**

#### **EPIPHANY LESSONS & CAROLS | 4PM**

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.

#### THIS WEEK/NEXT SUNDAY

#### COMMUNITY YOGA | BEGINS MONDAY, JAN. 8

Community Yoga will start back on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 at 5:30pm. ALL are welcome! Donations are accepted, a portion of which will go to Saint Gregory for use of the space. We do have a small supply of props but please bring a yoga mat. Contact Anna Hiers with questions. (706) 340-9799

#### 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

# LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING | SUNDAY, JAN 14

The Library Committee (reforming & kickstarting!) will meet in the library after the 10:30AM service on January 14. Please join us if you're interested in serving on this committee!

# 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.

# **COMING UP...**

# 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 followed by a reception in Parish Hall. 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.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: Buildings Committee | SUN., JAN 28

There will be an organizational meeting of the Buildings Committee following the 10:30 service on January 28. If you are interested in helping to maintain and improve our buildings this year, or if you have concerns you would like to see addressed, please join us. The meeting will be held in the Christian Education Building.

#### **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**

## **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!

#### Those Who Serve

Vestry: Lane Norton

Readers: George Krause (8AM) Roger Schwenke (10:30AM)

EMs: Roger Schwenke & Lin Kromhout

Crucifers: Grayson Krause

Torches:

Flowers: Lane Norton

Altar Guild: David Lowe, Barbara Dean

Ushers: Anthony & Deb Garner

Counters: Jane Hudson & Michael Castengera

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

*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: Lane Norton nortonlane@bellsouth.net

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