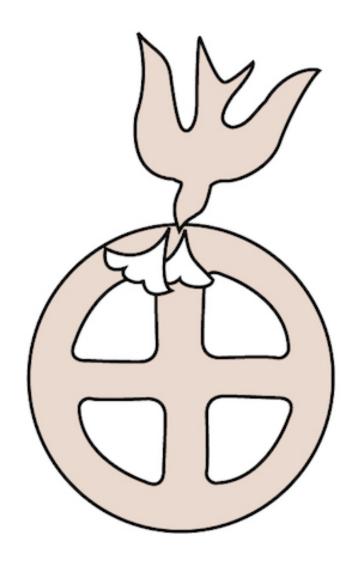
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



JANUARY 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 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Opening Hymn 440

Blessed Jesus, at thy word

LIEBSTER JESU



OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Gloria S-280 Glory to God Robert Powell



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy

1 Lord, you have searched me out and / known me; *

you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from a-/far.

2 You trace my journeys and my / resting-places *

and are acquainted with all my / ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my / lips, *

but you, O Lord, know it alto-/gether.

4 You press upon me behind and be-/fore *

and lay your hand u-/pon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful / for me; *

it is so high that I cannot at-/tain to it.

12 For you yourself created my inmost / parts; *

you knit me together in my mother's / womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously / made; *

your works are wonderful, and I know it / well.

14 My body was not hidden from / you, *

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the / earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your / book; *

they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of / them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O / God! *

how great is the sum of / them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the / sand: *

to count them all, my life span would need to be like / yours.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL John 1:43-51

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

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON: David Stooksbury

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.

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

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

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

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

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

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

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

That our works may find favor in your sight.

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

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

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

We give special thanks for ...

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

God of Mercy, God of Grace

Jerry F. Davidson

God of mercy, God of grace, show the brightness of Thy face; Shine upon us, Savior, shine, fill Thy Church with light divine, And Thy saving health extend, unto earth's remotest end. Let thy people praise Thee, Lord, be by all that live adored; Let the nations shout and sing Glory to their Savior King; Let all be below, above, one in joy, and light, and love.

Presentation Hymn 380 v. 3

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

OLD 100TH

Richard Proulx

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

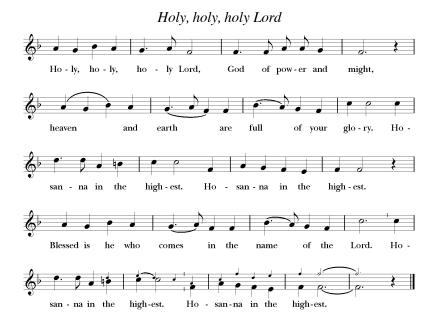
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



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**.

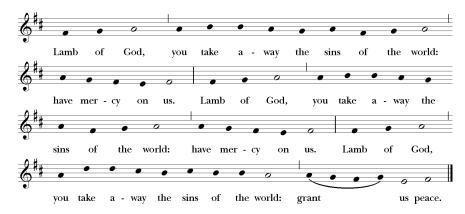
THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP 364

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.

* Fraction Anthem S-161

Lamb of God

David Hurd

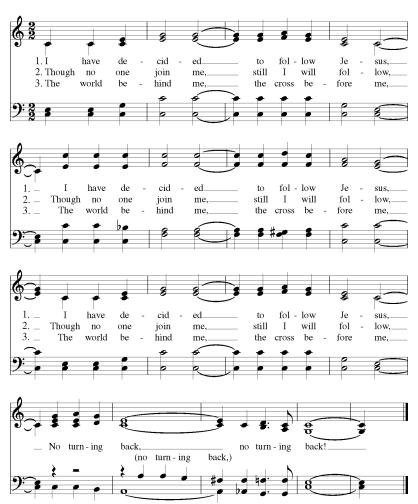


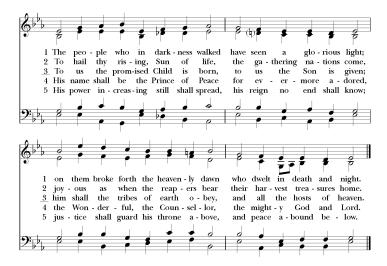
THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn 136 LEVAS

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Indian Folk Melody





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

PADERBORN

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 535

Ye servants of God



THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.



About today's music...

Today's Sequence Hymn (#707), a paraphrase of Psalm 139, comes from the tradition of Christian Reformed Churches in North America and is matched here with an early 19th century American folk hymn melody. The text "Lord, Thou hast search me" has been taken from the Psalter Hymnal (Pittsburgh, 1927) which is a hymnal of the United Presbyterian Church. The author of the text is unknown but his hymn was first paired with the tune 'Tender Thought' in the hymnal for Colleges and Schools (New Haven, CT, 1956).

The tune was apparently first printed in the four-shape shape-note Kentucky Harmony book in 1816. This version was reproduced many times, sometimes without the counterpart, in a number of shape-note books. In the "Southern and Western Pocket Harmonist" book of 1846 it is called 'The Lord's Supper (or Tender Thought)'. The tune first entered the Episcopal hymnal in Hymns III of 1979.

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: Flo Hix, Paul Welch, Carl Jones, Belita Gordon, and Danny Salter.

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.

Don't forget to turn in your vote on which physical improvements to our church are most important to you!

The ballot box and blank voting forms are in the narthex.

TODAY

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.

THIS WEEK/NEXT SUNDAY

MEMORIAL SERICE for SUSANNE BURTON | SAT., JAN 20

A Memorial Service for Susanne Burton will be held in St. Gregory's Memorial Garden on Saturday, January 20 @ 2PM, followed by a reception in Parish Hall.

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. We will have lunch. Nursery and childcare will be provided for the duration of the meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING LUNCH

Parish Life and Vestry will be providing the main dish for the Annual Meeting but ask those who are coming to please bring a side or dessert.

COMING UP ...

FAMILY PROMISE | JAN. 22, 23, 25

Family Promise is going to change this year. Instead of families being together in a shelter, each family will be in separate Family Promise housing, preparing them for transition to their own homes. Our volunteer opportunities will change as well, including providing supper only two nights per week, driving the van on Monday mornings for parents to do job interviews, etc., helping staff the Day Center on Saturday afternoons for families to do laundry, and putting together an activity for their children for Saturday afternoon. So there will be training on these dates, all occurring at the Day Center inside First Baptist Church: Monday January 22 9-10AM; Tuesday, January 23 12-1PM; and Thursday, January 25 6-7PM. You can just show up at one of these sessions. Thank you for your continued support for these families transitioning from homelessness!

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 look in your email inbox (and junk/promotion folders!) for your end-of-2023 Contribution Statements! When you click on the link you receive, it will automatically download (will probably not open automatically). You will find it in your downloads folder. If you do not have an email address in Realm, your statement was USPS-mailed last week.

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: John Barrett Readers: Carolyn Abney (8AM) Wade McGlamery (10:30AM) EMs: Jane Hudson & Ron Balthazor Crucifers: Maggie Reinberger

Torches:

Flowers: Mary Ann Cox

Altar Guild: Carol Flenniken, Lin Kromhout,

Nancy Watson

Ushers: Lois Alworth & Gail Eilers

Counters: Maggie Reinberger & Stacie Court

Livestream: Pete Nicholls

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

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

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

Terri Tillman WebMaster *ttillman@gmail.com*

Danielle Vogt Coffee Host danielle 1784@gmail.com

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Willem Swindler

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

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: John Barrett jbearit2000@hotmail.com

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