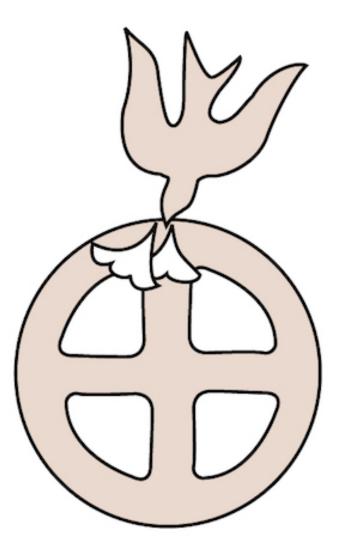
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



JANUARY 21, 2024 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30AM

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 after the Epiphany

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Opening Hymn 533

How wondrous and great thy works

LYONS



OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant:Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.People:And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

BCP 351



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

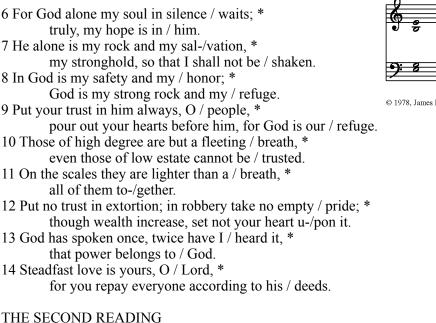
THE FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

Psalm 62:6-14



© 1978, James Frazier.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away..

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

Sequence Hymn 669

Commit thou all that grieves thee

HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN





THE GOSPEL

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

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

(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 III

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.

BCP 387

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

C. Hubert H. Parry

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways; Re-clothe us in our rightful mind; in purer lives, thy service find. In deeper rev'rence, praise. In simple trust like theirs, who heard, beside the Syrian sea, The gracious calling of the Lord, Let us, like them, without a word, Rise up and follow thee. Drop thy still dews of quietness, Till all our strivings cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess The beauty of thy peace. Breathe thro' the hearts of our desire thy coolness and thy balm; Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; Speak thro' the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

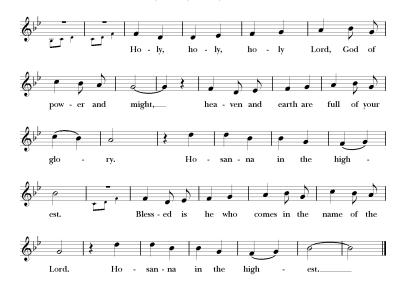
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Calvin Hampton



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

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-158

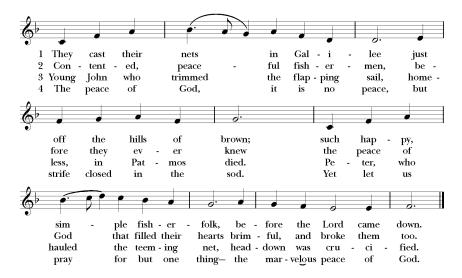


THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn 661

They cast their nets in Galilee

GEORGETOWN



Healey Willan

Communion Hymn 660

O Master let me walk with thee

MARYTON



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

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 550

Jesus calls us

RESTORATION



THE DISMISSAL

Deacon:Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.People:Thanks be to God.

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About today's music...

The poem we sing a s our communion hymn today, #661, was written by a true son of the South (and also the son of a US Senator): William Alexander Percy, born in Greenville, MI. The opening lines of this poem, entitled "His Peace", are omitted in the hymnal adaptation. They read "I love to think of them at dawn, Beneath the frail pink sky, Casting their nets in Galilee And fish-hawks circling by".

David McKinley Williams, who wrote the melody, was born in Wales; but he was brought to the USA at the age of five months and received much of his musical training in this country. He named this tune out of his friend- ship for F. Bland Tucker, who was at that time rector Of St. John's Church, Georgetown Parish, D.C. Interestingly enough, both author and composer saw heavy action in Europe during WWI--Williams with the Canadian Artillery and Percy with the 37th Division.

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Billy Hale, Kyra Madden, Eddie Bennett, Mary Burkett, 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: David Stooksbury, Claire Salter, Kitty Ross, Mayah Blackman, and Sheila Kelley; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Mark & Barbara Goodwin.

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; or mail them to the church office

TODAY

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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.

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE MEETING RESCHEDULED

Since Pastoral Care's regularly scheduled meeting conflicts with the annual meeting, we will reschedule to **Sunday, February 4** in the library following the 10:30 service.

THIS WEEK/NEXT SUNDAY

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!

YOUTH DnD NIGHT | FRIDAY, JAN. 26

On January 26th at 7pm we will be hosting a Youth DnD Night in the Youth room. Snacks will be provided and all are welcome, even if you have never played before - we'll teach you! For more information, reach out to Wade McGlamery or join the Youth Discord server.

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.

COMING UP ...

BISHOP'S VISIT | SUNDAY, FEB. 11

On Sunday, February 11, Bishop Rob Wright will be visiting St. Gregory's. On that Sunday we will have only one service w/ Confirmations/Receptions at 10AM, followed by a reception for the newly confirmed. The loose plate offering that day will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

ONGOING

HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS

Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6PM in the sanctuary for eucharist and prayers for healing.

NOTES

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

We are currently seeking volunteers to work at the Athens Area Emergency FoodBank, 640 Barber St. on 3rd Mondays from 9AM-1PM. 2-3 volunteers are needed each month. A signup sheet will be in the narthex.

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.

REMINDER: ACOLYTES SCHEDULING

We have been low on acolytes lately. Please be aware that we use Sign-Up Genius as a way to schedule acolytes. Please sign up when Ron Balthazor sends out reminders and the link! The link can also be found in every Friday newsletter.

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: Lynn Hanna (8AM) George Krause (10:30AM) EMs: Karen Hankins & Anna Thornton Crucifers: Gavin Avinger Torches: Mariel & Julia Sanford

Flowers: Kris Braman Altar Guild: Jane Sheridan, Jenifer Marquardt, Jennifer Caplinger, Mary Ann Caplinger Ushers: Bruce Zavitz & Anna Hiers Counters: Lois Alworth & Katie Hein Livestream: Ron Balthazor

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 *danielle1784@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: John Barrett jbearit2000@hotmail.com

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