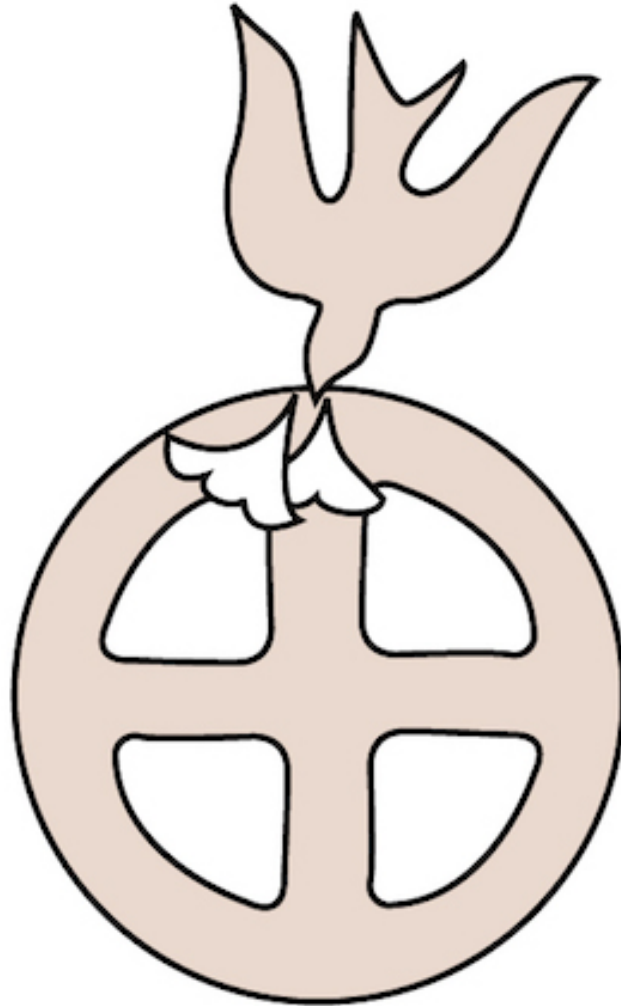


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



JANUARY 1, 2023
LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

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 be separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)**

**Except where otherwise indicated, the whole of this article (with only very little amendment) is taken from the website of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where it was posted on April 5, 2020. No author was specified.*

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST
The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

Prelude in C

J. S. Bach

Processional Hymn 644

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds

ST. PETER

1 How sweet the Name of Je - sus sounds in a be - liev - er's ear!
2 It makes the wound - ed spi - rit whole, and calms the trou - bled breast;
3 Dear Name, the rock on which I build, my shield and hid - ing - place,
4 O Je - sus! Shep - herd, Guard - ian, Friend, O Pro - phet, Priest, and King,
*5 Weak is the ef - fort of my heart, and cold my warm - est thought;

1 It soothes our sor - rows, heals our wounds, and drives a - way our fear.
2 'tis man - na to the hun - gry soul, and to the wea - ry, rest.
3 my nev - er - fail - ing trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace!
4 my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, ac - cept the praise I bring.
5 but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Alleluia. Unto us a child is born.

People: **O come let us adore him. 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.

1. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
2. I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter.

1. — Since I laid my bur - den down.
2. — Since I laid my bur - den down.

1. — Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
2. — I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter.

1. — Since I laid my bur - den down.
2. — Since I laid my bur - den down.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8 (spoken)

- 1 O Lord our Governor, * how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children * your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, * to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? * the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; * you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; * you put all things under his feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen, * even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, * and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our Governor, * how exalted is your Name in all the world!

THE SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 435

At the Name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
 3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 *5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 *6 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
 3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;
 5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
 6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord
 2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,
 5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 4 ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed, and a - dored.
 5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
 6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:15-21

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

People: **Glorify to you, O Christ.**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

(said by all)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form 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 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 Hymn 107 LEVAS

There's Something About That Name
(sung through twice)

William J. Gaither

Je-sus, Je-sus, Je - sus! There's just some- thing a - bout that
name! Mas-ter, Sav-ior, Je - sus! Like the fra-grance
af - ter the rain. Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! Let all
heav - en and earth pro - claim: Kings and king - doms will
all pass a - way, but there's some-thing a - bout that name!

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 B

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.

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-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Franz Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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-164**

Jesus, Lamb of God

Franz Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Solo

Rockingham

arr. Simon Clark

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
 2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished
 3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in coun - tless
 4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren
 well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -
 num - bers let them come and gath - er from their
 world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall

thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.
 va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.
 Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.
 all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

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

May Almighty God, who sent his son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

6 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' Name! Let an - gels pros - trate
 2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar
 3 Hail him, the Heir of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did
 * 4 Ye heirs of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the
 * 5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the

ball, to him a - scribe, and

1 fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and
 2 call: praise him whose way of pain ye trod, and
 3 call, the God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, and
 4 fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and
 5 gall, go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and

crown him Lord of all! to him a -

1 crown him Lord of all! bring forth the roy - al
 2 crown him Lord of all! praise him whose way of
 3 crown him Lord of all! the God in - car - nate,
 4 crown him Lord of all! hail him who saves you
 5 crown him Lord of all! go, spread your tro - phies

scribe, and crown him Lord of all!

1 di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 2 pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all!
 3 Man di - vine, and crown him Lord of all!
 4 by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 5 at his feet, and crown him Lord of all!

6 Let every kindred, every tribe,
 on this terrestrial ball,
 to him all majesty ascribe,
 and crown him Lord of all!

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

Special thanks to Joanna Elder for her music today!



Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Bill Alworth, Ray Hoover, RuthElizabeth Conine-Nakano, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Dan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Dick MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Ali Elyaman, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Ben, Mobley, Scott, Lynn, and Pete.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Barbara Johnson, Elijah Gabriel, Scott Thornton, Mark Richardson, Bill Alworth, Katie Tavernier, Melissa Hamlin, Christina Dondero, Sybil Lott, Ellen Richardson, Emma Jones, and Danielle Vogt; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Cecil & Sandy Hudson, Kelly Black & Lisa Hunt, and 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.

THIS WEEK

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED | JAN. 2-3

Parish offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2 & Tuesday, Jan. 3.

NEXT WEEK

MARTHA BEACH'S 90th BIRTHDAY | SUNDAY, JAN. 8

Please join us after the 10:30AM service next week, January 8, to celebrate Martha Beach's 90th birthday! There will be cake!

COMING UP

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING | SUNDAY, JAN. 15

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 15. The meeting will also include reports from the vestry and a presentation of the 2023 budget. Nursery and childcare will be provided for the duration of the meeting.

NOTES

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2023 flower dedication sign-up sheet is up in the Christian Education building. If you wish to dedicate flowers this year, please sign your name next to the date, and fill out one of the yellow-orange sheets hanging below it and leave in Kendall's office. Suggested donation is \$50/dedication.

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Jane Hudson
Readers: Jane Hudson (8AM); Roger Schwenke
(10:30AM)
EMs:
Crucifer:
Torches:

Flowers: Flower Guild
Altar Guild: David Lowe & Jenifer Marquardt
Ushers:
Counters: Mark Reinberger & Jane Hudson
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

Joseph Napoli Choir Director
awn1984@att.net | 706-546-6638

Doug Adkins Director of Children's Ministries
jdadkins@hotmail.com | 706-474-4784

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, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

Vestry Members: Eddie Bennett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Blaine Everson; Anna Hiers; Jane Hudson; LeeAnne Krause; Lane Norton; Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson; Caley Ross; Chrissy Moffett, *Clerk*; Les House, *Treasurer*

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Jane Hudson [*janeghudson@gmail.com*](mailto:janeghudson@gmail.com)

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