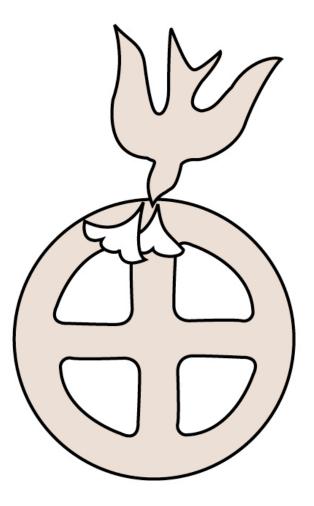
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



March 6, 2022 Live Streamed on <u>YouTube</u>

10:30AM

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST

The First Sunday in Lent

THE WORD OF GOD

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 First Sunday in Lent

THE WORD OF GOD

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Ornamentation on Forty Days and Forty Nights

Charles Callahan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

THE GREAT LITANY

Officiant	People	
	<i>°</i> • • • •	
Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,	Have mer- cy on us.	
Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,	Have mer- cy on us.	
Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,	Have mer- cy on us.	
Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,	Have mer- cy on us.	

II.

From all evil and mischief; from pride vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and

malice; and from all evil intent,



From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws, **Savior deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, flesh and the devil, **Savior deliver us.**

From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared, **Savior deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow, in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and at the day of judgment, **Savior deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience, by your baptism, fasting and temptation, **Savior deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the preaching of your reign, **Savior deliver us.**

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial, **Savior deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit, **Savior deliver us.**

People 0 Hear O Christ. us,

Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Enlighten your bishops, priests, and deacons with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived. Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

Hear us, O Christ.

IV.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Give your wisdom and strength to Joseph, the President of the United States, Brian the Governor of this state, and Kelly, the Mayor of this city, that in all things they may do your will, for your glory and the common good. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Give to the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet, those who serve in our state legislature, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law, that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people. Hear us, O Christ.

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Bless and keep all your people. **Hear us, O Christ.**

V.

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Keep in safety those who travel and all who are in peril. **Hear us, O Christ.**

III.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit, and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Guard and protect all children who are in danger. Hear us, O Christ.

Show your compassion to prisoners, hostages, and refugees, and all who are in trouble. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and turn their hearts. Hear us, O Christ.

Hear us as we remember those who have died, and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory. **Hear us, O Christ.**

VI.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

Kyrie S-96

Franz Schubert



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (spoken)

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, * abides under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 He shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, * my God in whom I put my trust." 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, * and the Most High your habitation, 10 There shall no evil happen to you, * neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, * to keep you in all your ways. 12 They shall bear you in their hands, * lest you dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; * you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet. 14 Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; * I will protect him, because he knows my Name. 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; * I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honor. 16 With long life will I satisfy him, * and show him my salvation.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 10:8b-13

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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



THE GOSPEL

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

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test." When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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)

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

Luke 4:1-13

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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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

THE PEACECelebrant:The peace of Christ be always with you.People:And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

More Love to Thee More love to Thee, O Christ, More love to Thee! Hear Thou the prayer I make On bended knee. This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee, More love to Thee, More love to Thee! Once earthly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest; Now Thee alone I seek, Give what is best. This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee, More love to Thee, More love to Thee! Then shall my latest breath Whisper Thy praise; This be the parting cry My heart shall raise. This still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ to Thee, More love to Thee, O Christ, to Thee! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

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

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

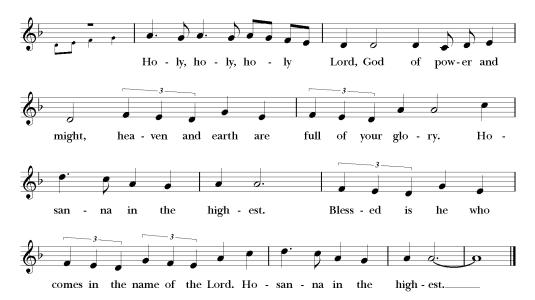
And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

BCP 369

BCP 360

Timothy Shaw

Holy, holy, holy Lord



Celebrant continues

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

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

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

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

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

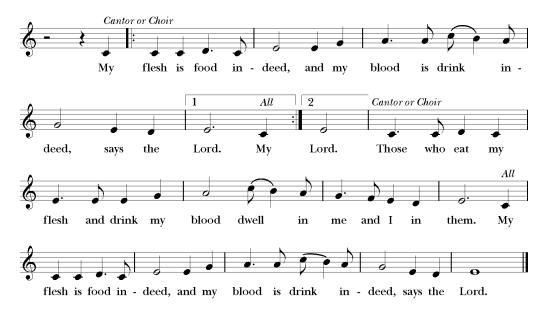
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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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.

My flesh is food indeed



THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Hymn 559

Lead us, heavenly Father

DULCE CARMEN



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn 150

Forty days and forty nights

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ours

by



1 - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, un - de - filed. for and yet 2 fast - ing with un ceas-ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain? 3 wil - der - ness, Vic - tor the grant faint nor fall! in we may not an - gels shine, 4 too, shall tered to thee. round us. such min - is as 5 that with thee Eas - ter - tide. we may ap - pear at thee - ter - nal

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon:Let us bless the Lord.People:Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fanfare & Chorale on the Agincourt Hymn

Charles Callahan

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Enriching Our Worship 2

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Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Jamaica Miller, Diane Barret, Brenda Browning, Becky Thomas, Carol Whitson, Tom Sturgis, Diane Miller, John Granrose, Martha Beach, Tammy Bowman, Rose Ann Pace, John Gay, Cameron Steele, Nathan Parrish, Ed Spivey, Hannah Bennett, Anna Thornton, Sheryl King, Ellen Peck, Bill Alworth, James Morris, Tom Hiers, Jane Bowen, Marge Massey, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Stephen Morris, Shelby Welch, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Cindy Beagle, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Melissa, Tatiana, Andi, Benedict, Patrick, Robby, Cecil, Brooke, Jim, Dianne, Peter, Jason, Lynn, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, Buddy, Nicholas, Mike, and Margaret.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: Mincy Moffett, Jack Armistead, Mark Reinberger, Marilyn Walsh, Sam Johnson, Janeanne Napoli, Sandy Gamble, Jennifer Johnson, and Bruce Zavitz.

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

SPRINGTIME PRAYER | WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Wednesdays March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6

The world is a bit weary, right now, isn't it? Lent is the perfect time for reflection and spiritual examination, but it's also almost springtime, a time for renewal and rebirth. This year's Lenten class on Wednesday evening will attempt to combine the best of both Lenten reflection and springtime renewal, and focus on the art and practice of prayer.

The Springtime Prayer Class will meet every Wednesday at 6PM during Lent (March 9 through April 6), to learn more about prayer: to taste-test a buffet of different prayer practices- to examine the intersection of prayer and sacred music; to explore sensory aids and try out different physical postures; to take time-honored practices such as Luther's Four Strand meditation and Stations of the Cross out for a test drive, and to discuss the purpose and techniques for all of the above.

Please join this class, moderated by LeeAnne Krause, on Wednesdays during Lent, starting March 9, in the Education Building. A light meal will be provided.

For more information, please contact Ellen Richardson (<u>ellenrichardson52@gmail.com</u>), LeeAnne Krause (<u>leeanne.krause@verizon.net</u>), or Ron Balthazor (<u>ron.balthazor@gmail.com</u>).

COMING UP ...

WELCOME TO SACRED GROUND | SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Now that it has become sound and safe to meet in person, all are welcome to attend a gathering for a follow-up conversation with those who have completed the Sacred Ground course, the book group for The Warmth of Other Suns, or both. Our call to address our histories, attitudes and learnings about racism as God's Beloved Community is becoming increasingly important as our legislative bodies seek to suppress conversation about race at every institutional level. The call to see and address racism in our own lives and community is real.

Our initial meeting will be at 12:30 to 2PM on Sunday March 27, 2022 in the Parish Hall, giving those who attend church at 10:30 a chance to pick up some lunch (or bring a sack lunch from home) and return. Having attended one of the above programs is NOT a prerequisite for coming to the meeting. There could be future Sacred Ground or book groups started depending on interest. The following links provide some background information and food for thought: <u>https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/</u> and <u>https://www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community/</u>

NOTES

FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild invites you to help us adorn the nave in celebration of the resurrection of Christ. We would welcome more hands for the Easter Workday Saturday, April 16 10:00-1:00. Whether you are adept at floral arranging or are willing to "tote and fetch", you will be welcomed with open arms!

NEW COVID PROTOCOLS

We are no longer utilizing contact tracing. However, if you test Covid positive within 3 days of attending a church event, please let the church office know so that a general email can be sent out. As of Feb. 27, we have dropped social distancing and masks, due to the 7-day average of COVID cases dropping below 15 per 100,000 in Clarke County. Of course, ever and always, those who wish to continue to social distance and/or wear a mask are welcomed to do so!

Those Who Serve

Readers: Lynn Hanna (8AM) Martha Beach (10:30AM) Cantor: Terri Tillman Vestry: Jane Hudson Flowers: Flower Guild Altar Guild: Anna Thornton Counters: Mark Reinberger & Jane Hudson 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

Terri Tillman WebMaster *ttillman@gmail.com*

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@yahoo.com | 706-614-0008

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

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

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