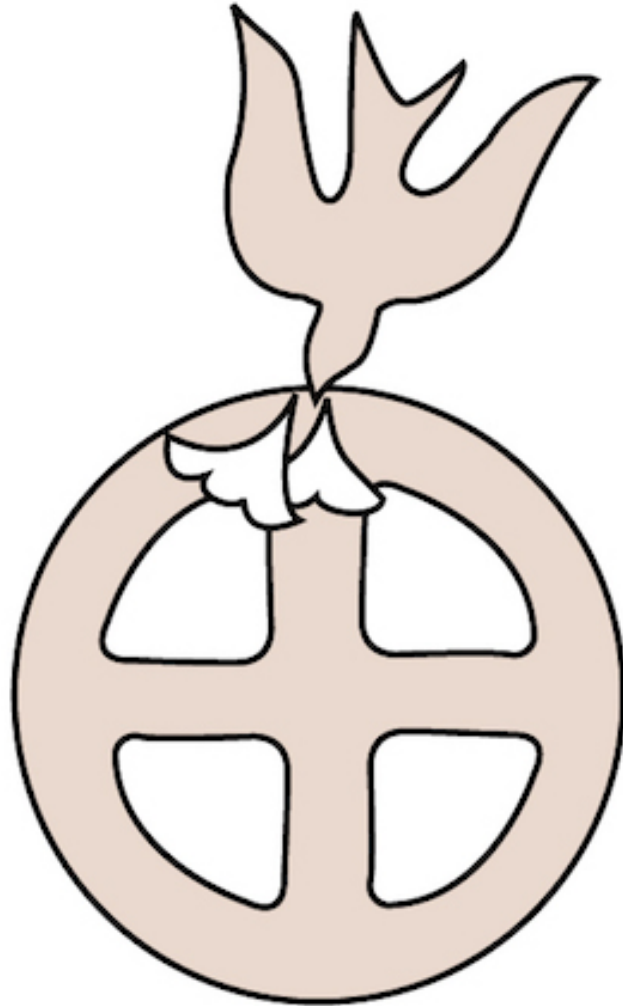


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



SEPTEMBER 4, 2022
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 13th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 18

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

In thee, Lord, have I put my trust

Johann C. Bach

We invite you to please silence your cell phones and to enter worship in stillness, silence, and reverence during the Prelude, which begins our service.

Processional Hymn 10

New every morning is the love

KEDRON



1 New ev - ery morn - ing is the love
2 New mer - cies, each re - turn - ing day,
*3 If on our dai - ly course our mind
*4 Old friends, old scenes, will love - lier be,
*5 The tri - vial round, the com - mon task,
6 On - ly, O Lord, in thy dear love,



1 our wak - ening and up - ris - ing prove;
2 a - round us ho - ver while we pray;
3 be set to hal - low all we find,
4 as more of heaven in each we see;
5 will fur - nish all we ought to ask:
6 fit us for per - fect rest a - bove;



1 through sleep and dark - ness safe - ly brought,
2 new per - ils past, new sins for - given,
3 new trea - sures still, of count - less price,
4 some soft - ening gleam of love and prayer
5 room to den - y our - selves; a road
6 and help us, this and ev - ery day,



1 re - stored to life and power and thought.
2 new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.
3 God will pro - vide for sac - ri - fice.
4 shall dawn on ev - ery cross and care.
5 to bring us dai - ly near - er God.
6 to live more near - ly as we pray.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

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.

3

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord_ God, heav-en - ly King, al -
 might-y God and Fath-er, we wor-ship you, we_ give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
 Son_ of the Fa - ther, Lord God,_ Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fath - er re -
 ceive_ our prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High Je - sus
 Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit in the glo - ry of
 God the Fath - er. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

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

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 (spoken in unison at 8AM)



© 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 upon 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

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

Thanks be to God.



1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de - signs of
 2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - teries known or
 3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de - spised for
 4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - ily with a



farth - est space; let sun and moon and stars and light and
 yet un - told; let wa - ter's fra - gile blend with air, en -
 creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a dove, make
 bil - lion names; let ev - ery life be touched by grace un -



what lies hid - den praise your might.
 a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
 known on earth your heal - ing love.
 til we praise you face to face.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

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

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

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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 Anthem

Come with a Thankful Heart

Jayne Southwick Cool

Come with a thankful heart, all people, ev'ry nation,
Acknowledge God as Lord, the Maker of us all,
and let glad shouts ring out from ev'ry generation.
Serve God as chosen ones; obey the Shepherd's call.
Come with unbridled joy, with praise and adoration.
Unite in cheerful songs to bless God's holy name.
The Lord is true and good — a cause for celebration.
God's love and kindness will always be the same.
Rejoicing in the past, we look for future blessings;
in hope and confidence we rest within God's grace.
We trust God's promises, God's faithful works confessing,
until, in heav'n above, we see God face to face.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP 361

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 may be 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

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Thomas Pavlechko

Musical score for Sanctus in G major, 2/4 time. Lyrics: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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**

Lamb of God

Thomas Pavlechko

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin_ of the
world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin_ of the world, grant_ us your peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Solo

Ubi Caritas

arr. Charles Callahan

Communion Hymn 136 LEVAS

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Indian Folk Melody
arr. Norman Johnson

1. I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
 2. Though no one join me, _____ still I will fol - low, _____
 3. The world be - hind me, _____ the cross be - fore me, _____

1. _ I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
 2. _ Though no one join me, _____ still I will fol - low, _____
 3. _ The world be - hind me, _____ the cross be - fore me, _____

1. _ I have de - cid - ed _____ to fol - low Je - sus, _____
 2. _ Though no one join me, _____ still I will fol - low, _____
 3. _ The world be - hind me, _____ the cross be - fore me, _____

_ No turn - ing back, _____ no turn - ing back! _____
 (no turn - ing back.)

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 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

1 Praise the Lord through ev - ery na - tion; his ho - ly
 2 Je - sus, Lord, our Cap - tain glo - rious, o'er sin, and
 arm hath wrought sal - va - tion; ex - alt him on his
 death, and hell vic - to - rious, wis - dom and might to
 Fa - ther's throne. Praise your King, ye Chris - tian le -
 thee be - long: we con - fess, pro - claim, a - dore
 gions, who now pre - pares in heaven - ly re -
 thee; we bow the knee, we fall be - fore
 gions un - fail - ing man - sions for his own: with
 thee; thy love hence - forth shall be our song. The
 voice and min - strel - sy ex - tol his ma - jes -
 cross mean - while we bear, the crown ere - long to
 ty: Al - le - lu - ia! His praise shall sound all
 wear: Al - le - lu - ia! Thy reign ex - tend world
 na - ture round, and hymns on ev - ery tongue a - bound.
 with - out end; let praise from all to thee a - scend.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

In Thee alone, O Christ, my Lord

Johann Pachelbel



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Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Olivia Carlisle, Jan VanKeuren, Brenda Browning, Barbara Dean, Mack Thurmond, Amy Watkins, Megan Cox, Dan Williams, Kelly Fields, Lane Dennard, Dan Nolen, Jr., Ann Worley, Jamaica Miller, Carol Whitson, Tom Sturgis, Diane Miller, John Granrose, Heather Kleiner, Martha Beach, Tammy Bowman, Rose Ann Pace, Cameron Steele, Nathan Parrish, Ed Spivey, Hannah Bennett, Anna Thornton, Sheryl King, Tom Hiers, Jane Bowen, Pat Irby, Pat Titus, Stephanie Gamble, Stephen Morris, Shelby Welch, Roger Swagler, Cindy Beagle, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Annie, Missy, Scott, Sandy, Christina K., Will, Melissa, Karyna, Ben, Byron, Andi, Jennie, Benedict, Robby, Cecil, Brooke, Jim, Jason, Lynn, Pete, Sophia, Samantha, Jennifer, and Buddy.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Cecilia Reynolds, Elizabeth Dubberly, Ann Darby, Gaby Compton, Charles Campbell, Shelby Ferguson, and Britt Freeman; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Tim & Deirdre Murray.

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

MERIDIAN WOMEN'S CHORUS | BEGINS SEPT. 8

Come sing with us! Stacie Court and Amanda Sacchitello invite all women of the Athens area to join the Meridian Women's Chorus. No audition is required, and rehearsals are on Thursdays from 12:30-1:45PM at Holy Cross Lutheran Church starting Thursday, September 8th. Our next concert is Saturday, December 3rd. To register, contact Director Stacie Court at stacie.court@gmail.com or 706-424-9516. www.meridianwomenschorus.org

RESPIROPERA | SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

Respiropera is excited to announce its next production, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, presented in "old time radio style" on Saturday, Sept. 10 @ 7PM at Quinn Hall (the theater at Memorial Park) 293 Gran Ellen Drive. Purchase tickets at respiropera.com! *The Old Maid and the Thief* was originally composed as a radio opera in one act by the Italian-American composer Gian Carlo Menotti.

NEXT WEEK

LECTIONARY CLASS | SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

After a long hiatus, Les House will be restarting the **live** Lectionary class on Sunday, September 11th. The class will meet in the Library at 9:15AM on Sundays. We will be studying the assigned readings for each Sunday. Please contact Les House at 478-733-2939 or lwhouse9@gmail.com if you have any questions. Ken Taylor will continue the Zoom classes on Thursday at least through the end of September.

SACRED GROUND | BEGINS SEPT. 15

Sacred Ground is a sensitive, prayerful program of learning and group conversations created by The Episcopal Church to promote transformative dialogue circles on race and racism. 24 parishioners from St. Gregory the Great have completed the Sacred Ground Program via Zoom in 2021, as have many faith centered groups throughout the Episcopal Church.

We are planning to begin our first **in-person** Sacred Ground Circle at St. Gregory's weekly on Thursday evenings 6:30 - 8PM beginning September 15 and concluding with the last meeting on November 17. Online reading materials and films will be made available online for participants to prepare for each circle discussion.

Participation is welcome for all adults 18 and older in the St. Gregory's community who are prepared to commit themselves to one another for the 10-week duration of the program and the time required to prepare for and to attend the meetings. Friends and family members beyond St. Gregory's are also welcome as long as the commitment to the full program is honored, and *not* brought as drop-in guests.

If you would like to sign up for this Sacred Ground journey, please notify Kendall Kookogey at the church office by email office@stgregoryathens.org or phone 706-546-7553 by **September 9** so that you will have time to receive your materials and prepare for our first session. If you have questions please contact Ellen Richardson at ellenrichardson52@gmail.com or at 912-660-0151 or Ron Balthazar at ron.balthazor@gmail.com or at 706-338-0625.

If you would like to read more about the program, follow this link: <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>. We hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity at this important time of seeking understanding and healing in our fragile communities and our wider world.

MOVIE NIGHT | FRIDAY, SEPT. 16

This month, on Sept. 16, we will be watching *Mrs. Doubtfire* (1993), starring Robin Williams. "*After a bitter divorce, an actor disguises himself as a female housekeeper to spend time with his children held in custody by his former wife.*" Join us in the parish hall and enjoy some popcorn and soft drinks - or bring a blanket and a picnic dinner! The movie begins promptly at 7pm.

COMING UP ...

50 YEARS OF MUSIC & WORSHIP | SUN. SEPT 25

(and still celebrating)

In honor of our 50th anniversary, please join us in worship for the world premiere of St. Gregory's first commissioned choral work, "Living Christ, Our Rock and Foundation". Written by renowned composer Lloyd Larson, this piece will be featured on Sunday, September 25th at the 10:00am service (only service that day). This work will feature the St. Gregory's choir with brass + percussion along with composer Mr. Larson in residence with us that morning! ***In light of this, we would like to have a nice reception after the service, but we need your help! Anyone who is willing and able, please bring a finger food to share that morning. Coffee/water & cake will be provided.***

FAMILY PROMISE | OCTOBER 16-22

St. Gregory's next Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) week is October 16-22 (we help 3 weeks a year). We belong to this organization of churches in Athens which provides temporarily homeless families who are working their way back to stability with a place to stay for up to several months, giving them and their children much needed assistance. The breadwinners in the family get rides to work if needed. Those who don't have a job have the support to find one. Meals are provided. Family Promise also works to prevent homelessness by helping families who might need a rent payment or a utility payment to be able to continue living in their home. They have helped some families find and purchase a used vehicle. We have this chance to put our faith into action, to walk by faith into a role we maybe haven't experienced yet, but which God is calling us to, like Mother Nikki has so often preached. To feed the hungry and house the homeless, to give hope to those who need it. Contact Annette Bates, bateskannette@gmail.com or 706-255-5839, to learn more. Thank you for being willing to put your feet into action!

NOTES

3 GREGORIANS ARE EXHIBITING AT BOTANICAL GARDENS!

Vicky Tavernier and Jenifer Borg have an exhibit of collages made from found objects and poems called "Words About Birds and Insights About Insects. The exhibit will be on display in the Gardenside Room of the Visitor Center from 9/4 through 11/20. The opening reception will be on Sunday, 9/18, from 2:00-4:00 PM. Berkeley Boone's exhibit "Nature Photos Just Because", features plants and animals that are often overlooked along with captions about their natural history. The exhibition will be on display in the Great Room of the Visitor Center from 10/16 through 11/20. The opening reception will be on Sunday, 10/16 from 2:00-4:00 PM.

GEORGIA FREEDOM LETTERS

Georgia Freedom Letters was formed in the summer of 2020 by a group of organizers, educators, and people who care about building connections across the walls of Georgia's criminal legal system through letter writing. Due to an overwhelming amount of interest in recent months from those currently experiencing incarceration, GFL is eagerly asking us to get out our pens and paper and participate in their recently launched pen pal project. Especially now, people experiencing incarceration need our support. Since COVID, many of the programs and visitations at our prisons have been significantly reduced if not cancelled--letter writing is one way we can help provide human connection and companionship especially until these programs can be re-instantiated.

Streamlined instructions:

Please read and purpose to follow the GFL guidelines, before signing up. www.georgiafreedomletters.wordpress.com/guidelines-logistics/. This link should get you to the form to fill out for being a penpal: www.georgiafreedomletters.wordpress.com/joinus/

Here's the address you can use for your mailing address, instead of giving your home address:

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
2089 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Please email the Rev. Nicole Lambelet, at nlambelet@epiphany.org to let her know that you are using their church address, and to give her your real address so that their church can send you any mail you receive from your pen pal.

ACOLYTES WANTED

We are in need of a few more acolytes to give a bit of relief to those in our current rotation. Never served before? That's fine - we will teach you! Acolyting is a great, low commitment, way to get involved in the life of the parish! Reach out to Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837, if you would like to volunteer.

BLINDSPOT GROUP CHAT

If you're in your 20s or 30s and would like to stay up to date on events for your age group please reach out to Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837, to join our group chat.

COFFEE HOUR

Due to a lack of volunteers, there may or may not be coffee hour on any given Sunday. If you are able to host or bring a baked item for a future coffee hour, contact Melissa or Catrina to sign up. A sign up sheet will also be posted at the event. Melissa Hamlin- melmariehamlin@gmail.com - 8AM service Catrina King - Catrina.anirtac@gmail.com - 10:30AM service

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Anna Hiers
Readers: Carolyn Abney (8AM)
Wade McGlamery (10:30AM)
EMs: June Ball & Karen Hankins
Crucifers: Gavin Avinger

Torches: Grayson Krause & Roger Schwenke
Flowers: Rhonda Packer
Altar Guild: Barbara Dean, David Lowe, Carol Schwenke
Counters: Mark Reinberger & Jane Hudson
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

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
wwmclamery@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

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Danielle Lyle, Megan Reuter, Allie Weaver

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: Anna Hiers *aldhiers@gmail.com*

