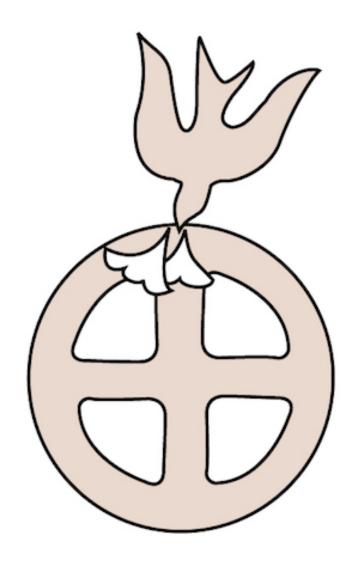
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 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 15th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 20

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

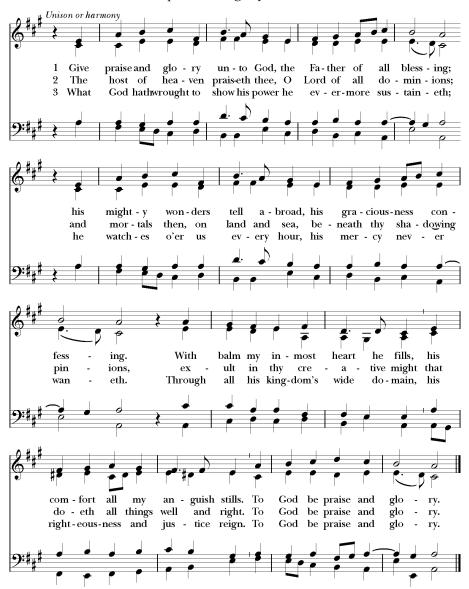
Prelude

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 375

Give praise and glory unto God

DE LEBENSBROT, HERR JESU CHRIST



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.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 79:1-9



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy

- 1 O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance; they have profaned your holy / temple; * they have made Jerusalem a heap of / rubble.
- 2 They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the / air, * and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the / field.
- 3 They have shed their blood like water on every side of Je-/rusalem, * and there was no one to / bury them.
- 4 We have become a reproach to our / neighbors, *

an object of scorn and derision to those a-/round us.

5 How long will you be angry, O / Lord? *

will your fury blaze like fire for / ever?

6 Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not / known you * and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your / Name.

7 For they have devoured / Jacob *

and made his dwelling a / ruin.

8 Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to / meet us; *

for we have been brought very / low.

9 Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your / Name; *

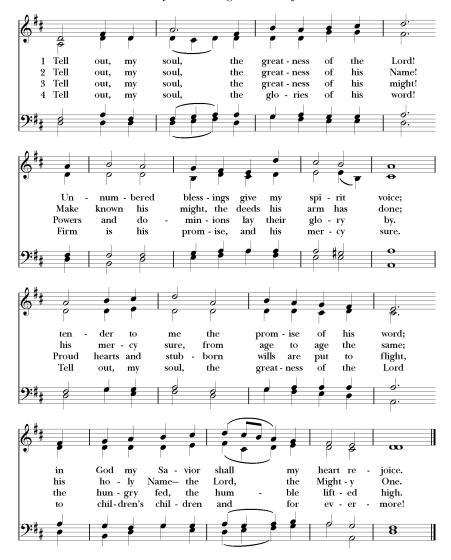
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's / sake.

THE SECOND READING 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all -- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Luke 16:1-13

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

Guide My Feet, Lord

John Carter

Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I don't want to run this race in vain. Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I don't want to run this race in vain. Stand by me, Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

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.

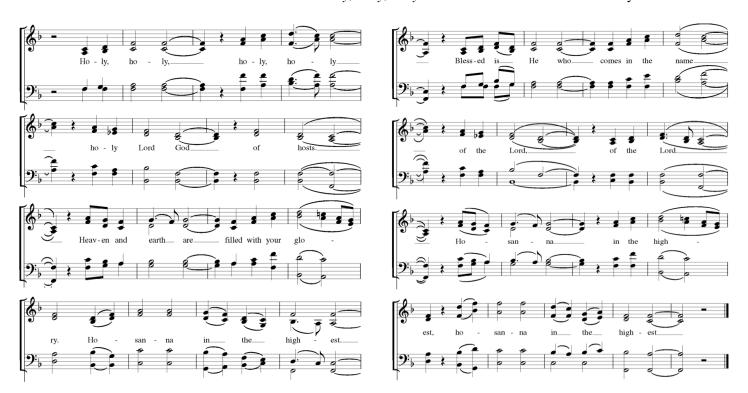
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface may be said)

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 255 LEVAS

Holy, Holy, Holy

Grayson Warren Brown



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

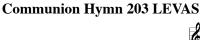
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

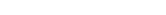


THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion Solo

Abigail A. Head, soprano







American Melody

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

Recessional Hymn 390

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN



THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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The altar flowers are dedicated to the honor and glory of God, and in memory of Stephen Corn.

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Ben Barkdoll, Olivia Carlisle, Jan VanKeuren, Brenda Browning, Barbara Dean, Angie Defalco, 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, Stephanie Gamble, Stephen Morris, Shelby Welch, Roger Swagler, Cindy Beagle, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Diane Holcomb, 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: David Lockman, Laura Ferguson, Grayson Krause, Anna Hiers, Jane Sheridan, Chrissy Moffett, RuthElizabeth Conine-Nakano, Louise McCormack, Alex Patterson, Joel Hunt, and Nessa Avinger.

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.

Seeking Nominations to the Vestry

The Nominating Committee is developing a list of potential nominees to the Vestry for the term 2023-2026. We want your recommendations. With those nominations and with recommendations from the current Vestry, the Nominating Committee will assemble a slate of three eligible candidates to replace the three outgoing Vestry members. The slate of three nominees will be will presented to the congregation before the end of the year, and the congregation will vote on the slate at our Annual Meeting in January, 2023. As specified in our ByLaws, the slate of three candidates will be elected collectively, not as individuals, so the election isn't competitive.

Not only can you nominate parishioners—with their permission—to be considered for the Vestry, you can self-nominate. That is, you can offer you own name in nomination to the Vestry.

Eligible candidates for membership on the Vestry, as stipulated in our parish ByLaws, must

- be confirmed communicants in good standing in the parish,
- be at least 18 years old,
- regularly attend church services,
- and have made and fulfilled a financial commitment (a pledge) to the church in the past year.

To submit your name or that of others in the parish for possible membership on the Vestry, simply send it to a member of the Nominating Committee: Amelia Ross (awelch1987@gmail.com); Anthony Garner (agg9396@gmail.com), Eddie Bennett (ilason@charter.net), Jane Hudson, (janeghudson@gmail.com); LeeAnne Krause (leeanne.krause@verizon.net) or Nikki Mathis (rector@stgregoryathens.org).

Please send us your nominations for membership on the Vestry by Monday, September 19.

NEXT WEEK

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!

COMING UP...

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

GREGORIANS' ART EXHIBITS

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. June Ball has her paintings up at Aurum Studios on Clayton Street from now through Oct. 31!

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 reinstantiated.

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.

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.

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Gail Eilers

Readers: Michael Castengera (8AM)

Barbara Kuhn (10:30AM)

EMs: David Stooksbury & June Ball

Crucifer: Anna Thornton

Torches: Beth Thornton & Ethan Vogt

Flowers: Janet Patterson

Altar Guild: Jenifer Marquardt & Nancy Watson

Counters: Marilyn Walsh & 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

 $christinad on dero@gmail.com \mid 404-918-7248$

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@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: Gail Eilers eilersgail@gmail.com