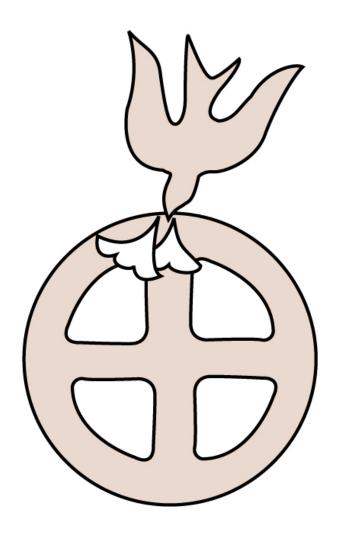
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church



OCTOBER 8, 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 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 19th Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 22

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the Sun with Longer Journey

arr. David Cherwien

Processional Hymn 422

Prelude

Not far beyond the sea

CORNWALL



OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 351

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

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of / God, * and the firmament shows his / handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to / another, *

and one night imparts knowledge to / another.

- 3 Although they have no words or / language, *
 - and their voices are not / heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all / lands, *

and their message to the ends of the / world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the / sun; *

it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its / course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it / again; * nothing is hidden from its burning / heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the / soul; *

the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the / innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the / heart; *

the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the / eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for / ever; *

the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous al-/ together.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine / gold, *

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the / comb.

11 By them also is your servant en-/lightened, *

and in keeping them there is great / reward.

12 Who can tell how often he / offends? *

cleanse me from my secret / faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over / me; * then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great of-/fense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your / sight, *

O Lord, my strength and my re-/deemer.



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy,

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Matthew 21:33-46

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

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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.

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**.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form IV

BCP 388

The congregational response to "Lord, in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

O Word of God

arr. Craig Courtney

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky;
We praise You for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.
O Word of God.

The church from You, our Savior, received the gift divine, and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine. It is the sacred vessel where gems of truth are stored; it is the heav'n-drawn picture of Christ, the living Word.

O Word of God.

The Scripture is a banner, before God's host unfurled; it is a shining beacon above the dark'ning world.

It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging tide, mid mists and rocks and quicksands, to you, O Christ, will guide.

O make Your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold, to bear before the nations Your true light as of old.

O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace, till, clouds and darkness ended, they see You face to face.

Amen.

Natalie Smith, flute

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.

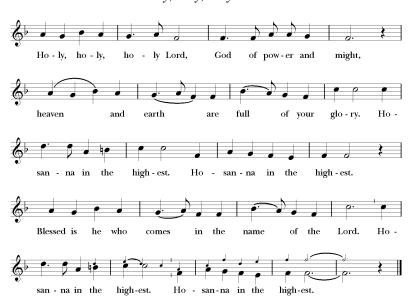
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Here a Proper Preface is said)

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-125

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Richard Proulx



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.

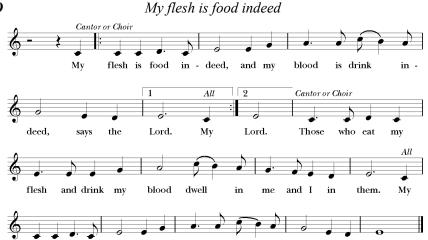
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your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

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 Elegiac Prelude Charles Callahan

blood is drink

in - deed, says the

Communion Hymn 114 LEVAS

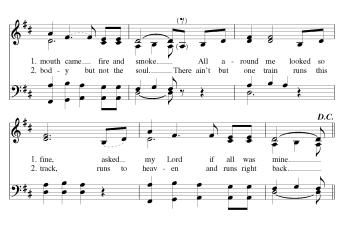
Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Negro Spiritual

Ray W. Urwin



flesh is food in - deed, and my



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.

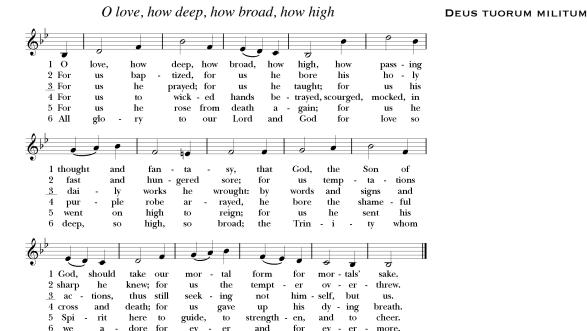
POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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

Closing Hymn 448



THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Flute Tune Thomas Arne



Special thanks to Natalie Smith for her music this morning!

The altar flowers are dedicated by Susanne Burton, to the honor and glory of God, and in loving memory of her son-in-law, Keith Bailey. About Today's Music...

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855) wrote the text of today's sequence hymn (#471) was another of those priests (in this case Irish) who have a very unhappy time with the hierarchy of the Anglican Church because he was influenced by the Wesleys. Kelly reacted to this tendency first by preaching in unconsecrated Dublin locations: one on Plunket Street, another the Bethesda Chapel (which for a time he was a trustee).

Kelly is believed to have written some 765 hymns, published over 51 years; one of the most well-known is "Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious". He based his text for this hymn on Galitions 6:14. The Melody, Breslau, first appeared around 1450; and this harmonization is attributed to a musician of considerable stature: Felix Mendelssohn!

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Carol Whitson, Peter Rice, Jean Estes, Maggie Darby Raymond, Elmer Clark, Nancy Carter, Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, Jamaica Miller, Ellen Kappel, Susan Dunn & family, David Kirshenblatt, Cayden Mitchell, Bill Alworth, Stephen Morris, Barbara Johnson, Sue Bush, Janice Rusk, Jennifer Polzin, Susan Williams, Pat MacKinnon, Shelby Welch, Don Downie, Olivia Carlisle, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Jonah, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Mobley, Scott, and Lynn.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week: Steve Bjork, Mack Thurmond, Judy Colgin, Lois Alworth, Bob Bretscher, Terra Hodges, Ethen Vogt, Peter Rice, and Eva Daniel; and for those celebrating anniversaries: Mia & Patrice Camoston, Sam & Suzy Preston, Joe Weinmeister & Michelle Vecchio-Weinmeister, and Les & Sandra House.

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.

TODAY

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING | 12PM

The Finance Committee will meet today in the office next to Kendall's right after the 10:30AM service. Anyone is welcome to join!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS | 4PM

The Blessing of the Animals will take place at 4PM this afternoon on the patio between Parish Hall and the Christian Ed building. Please have your furry, feathered, or scaley friends properly crated or leashed!

THIS WEEK

YOUTH TRIP TO SIX FLAGS | SATURDAY, OCT. 14

All youth are invited to attend our day at Six Flags on October 14th! Meet up at St Gregory's for departure will be at 10am. Pick up will be at 5:30pm at St Gregory's. **Please RSVP** to Wade (wwm.cglamery@gmail.com) no later than October 12th to attend. We will need adult chaperones and drivers so if you are current on your Safeguarding God's Children training and are interested in attending, please let Wade know!

NEXT WEEK

CHURCH PICNIC | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Who doesn't love a picnic - especially an ant-free picnic? Mark your calendars for October 15 and we'll picnic in the parish hall right after the 10:30 service. We'll welcome newcomers and not-so-newcomers (there was this pandemic thing...), we'll celebrate the school year being in full swing, we'll sing praise to autumnal weather, but mostly we'll eat, and talk, and greet, and meet, and do we really need an excuse for that? Bring a side dish or a dessert if you'd like, and the Parish Life Committee will provide the mains and drinks. See you there!

COMING UP...

INGATHERING SUNDAY | SUNDAY, OCT. 29

The Estimate-of-Giving and Ministry Interest Forms can be found in the narthex. Ingathering Sunday will be Sunday, October 29, although you may turn in your forms early in the offering plate or under Kendall's office door.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT & HALLOWEENIE ROAST | SUNDAY, OCT. 29

Watch next week's all parish news for details about this year's Halloween fellowship (5-7:30PM). Fun was had by all last year; plan to join us again and invite friends and neighbors.

ONGOING

CLOTHING DRIVE | OCT. 1 - NOV. 3

Every Fall, St. Gregory's sponsors a parish-wide clothes drive to support our neighbor, Barnett Shoals Elementary School. This year, we are seeking donations, in the following prioritized order, to replenish the school's clothes closet:

- boys' pants/sweatpants/shorts -all sizes, youth XS-XL
- girls' pants/shorts/leggings -all sizes, youth XS-XL
- boys' and girls' underwear -all sizes, XS- XL
- boys' and girls' shirts -all sizes, XS-XL (can include t-shirts in multi-packs, not necessarily gendered)

 Boys' and girls' pants may include new and gently-used, clean items.

Donations will be collected from **Sunday, October 1 through Friday, November 3,** in the boxes located in the lobby of the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Eilers, <u>eilersgail@gmail.com</u>, or Jane Sheridan, <u>jsheridan@friendlycity.net</u>. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE | WEDNESDAYS

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

BLINDSPOT GROUP | THURSDAYS

Our 20s and 30s group meets on the last Thursday of each month (Oct. 26 this month!) at 6:30PM for dinner and a small group study (usually off-site of the church). We also meet at least once a month for game nights, dinner and drinks, movie nights, and more. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Wade McGlamery, 770-624-4837 for more information.

NOTES

NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

The nursery is in need of two (2) more weekly staff members. We need two responsible teenagers or kind adults that would be interested in taking the Safeguarding God's Children certification program, doing the background check and are current with their CPR & First Aid. The hours are 9am - 12pm each Sunday. We could also have volunteers rotating if they take the training and pass the background check.

MOVIE NIGHT

Unfortunately, we will be discontinuing parish movie night for the time being. If anybody has interest in taking this on going forward, please reach out to Mother Nikki.

THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs paper bags, canned tuna, canned tomatoes, and cooked cereals (i.e. grits, oatmeal)! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

Those Who Serve

Vestry: Lane Norton

Reader: Michael Castengera (8AM); George Krause (10:30AM)

EMs: Karen Hankins & Anna Thornton

Crucifers: Grayson Krause Torches: Rainsly Vogt

Flowers: Lane Norton

Altar Guild: Barbara Dean & Jane Sheridan Ushers: Gail Eilers & Bruce Zavitz

Counters: Maggie Reinberger & Stacie Court

Livestream: Pete Nicholls

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Nikki Mathis Rector

rector@stgregoryathens.org | 706-546-7553 x2

The Rev. Doug Adkins Associate Rector & Director of Children's Ministries

jdouglasadkins@gmail.com | 706-474-4784

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

Wade McGlamery Youth Minister

wwmcglamery@gmail.com | 770-624-4837

Jude Red-Bear Nursery Director

 $juderedbear@icloud.com \mid 706\text{-}614\text{-}0008$

Mark Hein Buildings/Grounds

markehein@gmail.com | 706-549-3239

Anthony Barkdoll Livestream Coordinator

anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

Terri Tillman WebMaster/Social Media

ttillman@gmail.com

Danielle Vogt Coffee Host

danielle1784@gmail.com

Peachy Green Clean Co-op Sexton

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

Vestry Members: Kate Avinger, John Barrett; John Bray; Stacie Court; Gail Eilers; Anna Hiers; LeeAnne Krause, Sr. Warden; Lane Norton;

Maggie Reinberger; Mark Richardson, Jr. Warden; Shelby Welch; Anna Thornton, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Lane Norton nortonlane@bellsouth.net