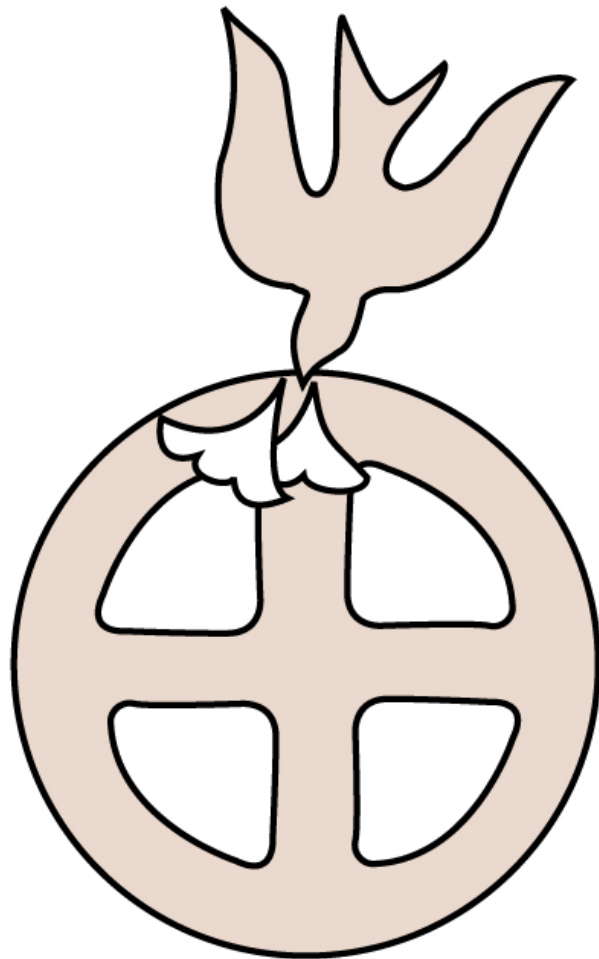


# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



NOVEMBER 19, 2023  
LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE

10:30AM

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION \*

What happens when you are spiritually prepared and desire to receive communion, but can't? Such a case is referenced by a paragraph in the 1979 Prayer Book:

*If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.*

A nation-wide shut down due to a pandemic fits, I'm sure we'll agree, with the words "by any other impediment" listed in the first Prayer Book. Our Lord will not cut us off from his grace. If we truly desire him, he will come to us, even if we cannot receive the Sacraments he has instituted so that we may receive his grace. This is not a new idea. St Thomas Aquinas, writing nearly 800 years ago, said:

*before receiving a sacrament, the reality of the sacrament can be had through the very desire of receiving the sacrament. Accordingly, before actual reception of this sacrament, a man can obtain salvation through the desire of receiving it, just as he can before Baptism through the desire of Baptism, as stated above (Summa, III.73.iii)*

Desiring to receive the spiritual grace of the Most Holy Eucharist (and being prevented from receiving it sacramentally) is known as Spiritual Communion. It is so very important to note that this gift is given to us when we cannot, for very good reason, be present at mass.

When you are watching a live-stream or recording of our liturgies, any of the following prayers may be said at the moment of communion when you would normally leave your pew and make your journey to the altar:

**In Union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of Your Church where Your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from You. Let me live and die in Your love. Amen.**

OR

**Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot physically consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire, and be renewed for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (from *Enriching Our Worship 2*)**

OR

**"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already in my heart  
and unite myself to you completely.  
Please do not let me ever be separated from you." (by St. Alphonsus Liguori)**

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

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST  
The 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 28

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

arr. Charles Callahan

Processional Hymn 397

*Now thank we all our God*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voice,  
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;  
With ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,  
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way  
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ever more.

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.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

2. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you,  
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,

on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### THE FIRST READING

Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.*

***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 123**

- 1 To you I lift up my / eyes, \*  
to you enthroned in the / heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their / masters, \*  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her / mistress,
- 3 So our eyes look to the Lord our / God, \*  
until he show us his / mercy.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have / mercy, \*  
for we have had more than enough of con-/tempt,
- 5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent / rich, \*  
and of the derision of the / proud.



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

**THE SECOND READING**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

**Sequence Hymn 649**

*O Jesus, joy of loving hearts*

DICKINSON COLLEGE

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
 2 We taste in you our liv - ing bread, and long to  
 3 For you our rest - less spi - rits yearn wher - e'er our  
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our

life and our true light, we seek the peace your love im -  
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your pres - ence we dis -  
 mo - ments calm and bright; oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts, and stand re - joic - ing in your sight.  
 head, our thirst - ing souls to quench and fill.  
 cern, blest, when our faith can hold you fast.  
 way, shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

## THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

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

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

*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

*At the River*

adapted by Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river, Where bright angel's feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever Flowing by the throne of God.  
Yes we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints by the river That flows by the throne of God.  
Soon we'll reach the shining river, Soon our pilgrimage will cease,  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver With the melody of peace.  
Yes we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints by the river That flows by the throne of God,  
that flows by the throne of God.

### Presentation Hymn 380 v. 3

*Doxology*

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. 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 S-161

*Lamb of God*

David Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

**Communion Voluntary**

*Pastel on We Gather Together*

arr. Charles Callahan



Communion Hymn 335

I am the bread of life

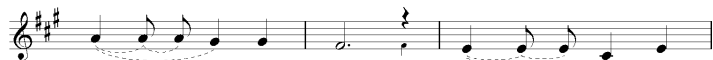
I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE



1 I am the bread of life; they who  
 2 (The) Bread that I will give is my  
 3 (Un-) less you eat of the  
 4 I am the re - sur - rec - tion,  
 5 (Yes,) Lord, we be - lieve that



1 come to me shall not hun - ger; they who be -  
 2 Flesh for the life of the world, and they who  
 3 Flesh of the Son of Man and  
 4 I am the life. They who be -  
 5 you are the Christ, the



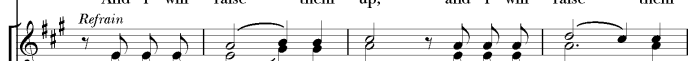
1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
 2 eat of this bread, they shall live for  
 3 drink of his Blood, you shall not have life with  
 4 lieve in me, e - ven if they  
 5 Son of God who has



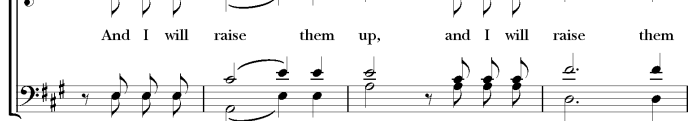
1 me un - less the Fa - ther draw them.  
 2 ev - er. they shall live for ev - er.  
 3 in you. you shall not have life in you.  
 4 die, they shall live for ev - er.  
 5 come in - to the world.



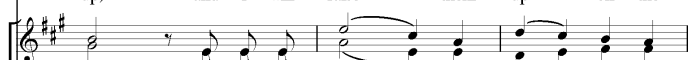
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them



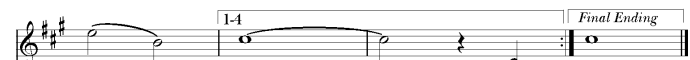
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them



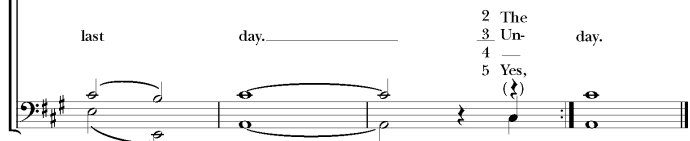
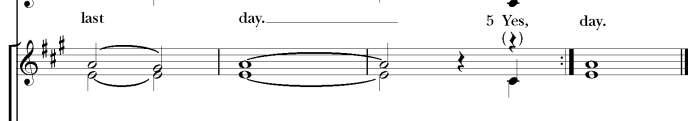
up, and I will raise them up on the



up, and I will raise them up on the



last day. 5 Yes, day.



last day. 2 The  
 3 Un- day.  
 4  
 5 Yes,  
 (1)

The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

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

## Closing Hymn 290

*Come, ye thankful people, come*

ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR

1 Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest - home:  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest - home;

all is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin;  
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown:  
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin;

*Descant*

4 there, for ev - er pur - i - fied, in thy pres - ence

1 God, our Ma - ker, doth pro - vide for our wants to  
2 first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn  
3 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the  
4 there, for ev - er pur - i - fied, in thy pres - ence

to a - bide; come, with all thine an - gels,  
be sup - plied; come to God's own tem - ple,  
shall ap - pear; grant, O har - vest Lord, that  
tares to cast, but the fruit - ful ears to  
to a - bide; come, with all thine an - gels,

come, raise the glo - rious har - vest - home.  
come, raise the song of har - vest - home.  
we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
come, raise the glo - rious har - vest - home.

## THE DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Improvisation on For the Beauty of the Earth*

arr. Various Composers



## About Today's Music...

*This Sunday we sing Hymn #397 - a great hymn of gratitude. We have come to think of this as the hymn par excellence of any joyous occasion. But the hymn has a profound meaning beyond celebrating good fortune. The author, Martin Rinckart (1586-1649), was the pastor of a church in a small town in Saxony during the devastation of the Thirty Years' War. He had been trained in poetry and music as a youth and sang in the famed choir of Saint Thomas Church, Leipzig. The death and destruction he faced on a daily basis, even the death of his own wife, did not deaden his awareness of God's blessing. Taking inspiration from the words of Ecclesiasticus, he fashioned this prayer of praise as a table grace to be sung before meals in his own home.*

*On this Sunday before thanksgiving we "now thank all our God with heart, and hands and voices".*

## Prayers of the People

**In our Parish** we pray for Eddie Bennett, Jim Klippel, Jackie Dorsey, Denise Glynn, Cecil Hudson, Peter Rice, Jean Estes, Elmer Clark, Nancy Carter, Randy Harrelson, Teri Bouknecht, Kara Russe, 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, Angie Defalco, Ken Packer, Michael, Rachel, Christy, Rosina, Eliot, Patricia, Ben, Scott, and Lynn.

**In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthday this week:** Kathy Hale, Katherine Avinger, Anne Irwin, Hank Hodges, and Joseph Sheridan; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Eddie & Viviane Van Giesen, and Paul & Beth Davis.

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*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.*

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### TODAY

#### **NURSERY CLOSURE**

The nursery will be closed due to limited staff.

### NEXT WEEK

#### **NURSERY CLOSURE | SUNDAY, NOV. 26**

The nursery will be closed due to limited staff next Sunday, November 26.

#### **BAND OF BELIEVERS | BEGINS SUNDAY, NOV. 26**

Band of Believers! Mark your calendars. We start practicing for the Christmas pageant on Sunday, Nov. 26 from 9:45-10:30AM in the Children's Chapel. We accept all folks who have ever played an instrument. All means all! If you want to play with the Band of Believers let me know at [vtavernier@aol.com](mailto:vtavernier@aol.com). We're excited to start up again! Let the baby be born! *Vicky and Mark Tavernier*

#### **APPLETON EPISCOPAL MINISTRIES | SUNDAY, NOV. 26 OFFERING**

Serving the middle Georgia convocation of the Diocese of Atlanta, Appleton Episcopal Ministries works to share God's love by promoting the health, safety, education, and well-being of children, especially children in need. Their many ministries include free lunches for children under 18, free tutoring programs, a diaper ministry, a youth choir, a community garden, and many more vital and enriching activities. Appleton Ministries is not directly funded by the diocese. Instead, the diocese has requested that loose-plate offerings given on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend (November 26th this year) be donated to Appleton Ministries to fund their life-changing work with children of impoverished communities. If you give online and are not accustomed to making an offering at Sunday Eucharists, please consider bringing money or a check on November 26th so that our parish can contribute generously to Appleton's mission of love.

### COMING UP ...

#### **MULTI-GENERATIONAL OPPORTUNITY | SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DEC. 2-3**

Guest instructor Matt Rodgers will be hosting a workshop that anyone aged 11-100 should join us for. Together we will explore building sacred space as we construct our very own pocket altars. "Pocket altars are an old tradition that goes back hundreds of years- maybe thousands. Together we'll explore what it means to be a builder of sacred space and what it means to carry with you wherever you go. What's in your pocket?" This event will be hosted from 6:30-8:30PM on December 1 and will continue from 2-4PM on December 2.

#### **ADULT FORMATION ADVENT PROGRAM | DEC. 3, 10, 17**

On December 3, 10, and 17, from 2-5PM, the Adult Spiritual Formation committee will be hosting a Bibliodrama class, much like the one that we hosted during VBS 2022. Matt Rodgers will be returning to lead us as we use collaborative storytelling techniques and improvisation to explore Advent relevant themes found in Psalm for the Wild-Built by Becky Chambers. Though reading the book is not required, it is strongly encouraged for any who plan on participating. We will provide more details in the coming weeks for this program.

## **BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES | SUNDAY, DEC. 3**

**Conversations on Grieving:** While many Gregorians experience the holidays with joy, others find the holidays a time of challenge, struggle, and sadness. Come join us as we learn more about the grieving process and ways to respond to it in ourselves and others, with Mother Nikki, Gina Defalco, and Rhonda Packer facilitating. This session will also be interpreted for the deaf.

## **MERIDIAN WOMEN'S CHORUS CONCERT | SAT., DEC. 2**

Meridian Women's Chorus presents their annual Tapestry Holiday Concert Saturday, December 2 at 3:00 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on West Lake Drive. This free concert includes performances by Meridian as well as three other local ensembles. A reception and Holiday Market follow the concert. For more information contact Director Stacie Court at [stacie.court@gmail.com](mailto:stacie.court@gmail.com).

## **2023 HOLIDAY BENEVOLENCE MARKET | SUNDAY, DEC. 3**

**When:** Sunday, December 3, 2023, 12 noon -3PM

**Where:** Covenant Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1065 Gaines School Road, Athens, GA 30605

### **What is the Holiday Benevolence Market?**

This is the 29th year of this symbolic gift-giving opportunity and First Presbyterian Church and Covenant Presbyterian Church are partnering to host the market on the East Side of Athens. Our hope is to flood the Market with families from all the Athens congregations to join us in supporting our local non-profits! There will be more than 30 local Athens non-profit organizations sharing about their service to our community...to give them a chance to share about how they serve our neighbors most in need, to connect with new possible volunteers and to collect donations for their work.

## **YOUTH EYC EVENT | SUNDAY, DEC. 17**

On December 17 at 7PM, our youth program will be hosting a "DnD Night!" If you already enjoy playing DnD, or if you have never played before, you should feel free to join us! Contact Wade (770-624-4837) if you plan on attending.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES | DECEMBER - JANUARY**

Confirmation classes will begin Sunday, December 3, immediately following the 10:30AM service, in the Parish Hall. If you're interested in being confirmed, reaffirmed, received, an adult wishing to be baptized, or you'd just like to learn more about the Episcopal Church, please come! We'll meet on the following dates, leading up to confirmation during the Bishop's visit in February: Dec. 3, 10, 17 and Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28.

## **ONGOING**

### **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 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**

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your generosity in serving food and hosting this week at Family Promise! You have put your hands and hearts to work as Jesus asked. As of the end of September 2023, the program helped 95 families avoid eviction, 17 families have been given move-in assistance, 8 families have been served in the shelter, and 72 families have been given needed supplies. We work with other churches in the Athens area to make this happen and we are a part of that! Thanks be to God!

### **CALL FOR ART FOR CARD MINISTRY 2024**

The Card Ministry needs new art for 2024 cards. The ministry sends cards for children and youth up to 18 years old, seniors 70 and over, get well and encouragement, and bereavement. If you have questions or would like to submit a work of art for a card please contact Jenifer Borg at [jeniferaborg@gmail.com](mailto:jeniferaborg@gmail.com). Please send pictures in jpeg format. A wide range of art is welcome. Images should not be specific to gender or race. *Thank you, Card Ministry*

## **COUNTER NEEDED**

Counters work together in pairs to tally a week's worth of contributions to St. Gregory the Great. When the tally is completed, either counter takes the contributions to deposit at Truist Bank on Gaines School Road. Counting takes about 30 minutes, the visit to the bank takes about 10 minutes, and counters work just once a month. Counting pairs determine a mutually convenient time during their counting week to meet in the copy room in the Parish Hall to tally checks and cash donated during the week. Lifetime commitment to counting isn't required or expected. Counting is an easy task and an opportunity to serve at St. Gregory the Great.

Currently, counters include Lois Alworth (wilo59@charter.net), Stacie Court (stacie.court@gmail.com), Gail Eilers (eilersgail@gmail.com), Angela Greene (angelagreene23@gmail.com), Katie Hein (khein@uga.edu), Jane Hudson (janeghudson@gmail.com), Alice Mohor (alicemohor@windstream.com), Katie Reinberger (kreinbe@gmail.com), and Maggie Reinberger (mmreinberger@gmail.com), any of whom are happy to answer your questions about counting. Contact Jane Hudson at janeghudson@gmail.com to volunteer to count.

## **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS**

Community Christmas of Oglethorpe County is gearing up for their annual toy and clothing drive! But in addition to and prior to that, they are in need of funds in November to help qualifying families pay their bills in December so hopefully they have a bit left over for Christmas! Thanks to neighbors like you, in 2022 they provided Christmas gifts and assistance plus emergency funds throughout the year totaling \$93,552 to 412 children from 175 Oglethorpe County families. The amount of aid needed was up 16% from 2021, and the number served increased by 94 children. Financial donations can be made online at their website, [www.CommunityChristmasOglethorpe.org](http://www.CommunityChristmasOglethorpe.org), dropped off at The Commercial Bank in Crawford, or mailed to 143 Bowen Farm Road, Crawford, GA 30630. There are many more details on the webpage.

## **THE LITTLE RED WAGON**

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs dried goods like pasta/rice, mac-and-cheese, snacks (sweet & salty), and saltines! Please help us fill the Little Red Wagon!

## Those Who Serve

Vestry: LeeAnne Krause  
Reader: Carolyn Abney (8AM);  
June Ball (10:30AM)  
EMs: Jane Hudson & June Ball  
Crucifers: Charlotte Lamm  
Torches: Aiden & Warren Lamm

Flowers: Kris Braman  
Altar Guild: Jenifer Marquardt, Jennifer Caplinger,  
Mary Ann Caplinger  
Ushers: Anthony & Deb Garner  
Counters: Lois Alworth & 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  
*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  
*wmcglamery@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

**Anthony Barkdoll** Livestream Coordinator  
*anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com*

**Terri Tillman** WebMaster/Social Media  
*tillman@gmail.com*

**Danielle Vogt** Coffee Host  
*danielle1784@gmail.com*

**Peachy Green Clean Co-op** Sexton

**Nursery Attendants:** Missy Hamlin, Jude Red Bear, Willem Swindler

**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:** LeeAnne Krause [leeanne.krause@verizon.net](mailto:leeanne.krause@verizon.net)

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