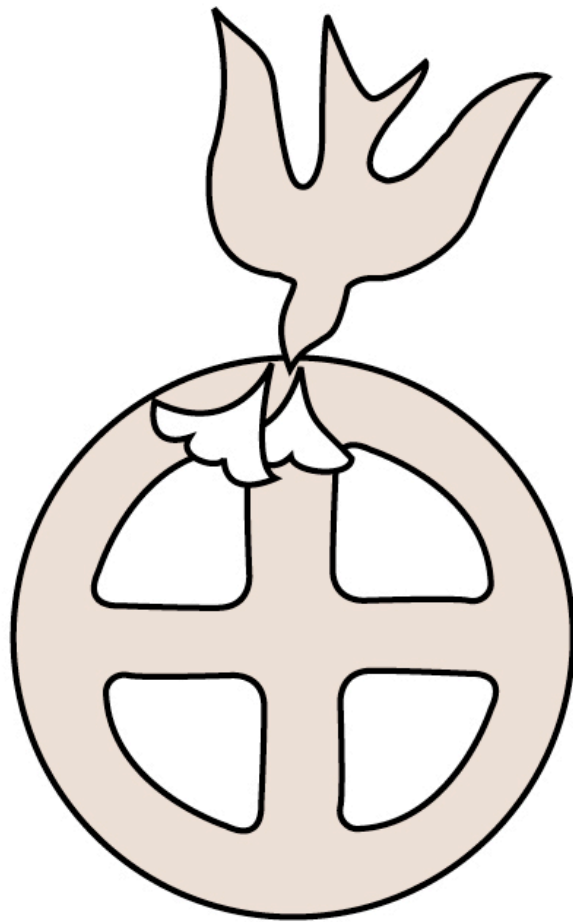


ST. GREGORY THE GREAT EPISCOPAL CHURCH



JULY 5, 2020

PREMIERED ON YOUTUBE

10:30AM

W/ ONLINE COFFEE HOUR BEGINNING AT 10:15AM

THE HOLY VIRTUAL EUCHARIST
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 9

THE WORD OF GOD

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OR

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

OR

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Hymn 404

We will extol you

OLD 124TH

1 We will ex - tol you, ev - er - bless - ed Lord; your ho - ly
 2 Age shall to age pass on the end - less song, tell - ing the
 3 You, Lord, are gra - cious, mer - ci - ful to all, close to your

Name for ev - er be a - dored; each day we live our
 won - ders which to you be - long, your might - y acts with
 chil - dren when on you they call; and slow to an - ger,

psalm to you we raise; you, God and King, are wor - thy of all
 joy and fear re - late; praise we your glo - ry while on you we
 mer - ci - ful and kind, in your com - pas - sion we your bless - ings

praise, great and un - search - a - ble in all your ways.
 wait, glad in the know - ledge of your love so great.
 find. We love you with our heart and strength and mind.

The first stanza may be repeated at the end.

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

GLORIA

BCP 356

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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

read by Kenneth Taylor

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 45:11-18

Spoken by all

- 11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; * forget your people and your father's house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; * he is your master; therefore do him honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; * the rich among the people seek your favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; * her gown is cloth-of-gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; * after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are brought, * and enter into the palace of the king.
- 17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; * you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

THE SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see

in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

Sequence Hymn 11

Awake, my soul

MORNING HYMN

1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
 2 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new; dis -
 3 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
 *4 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
 perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
 I de - sign, or do, or say; that all my powers, with
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice:
 thought and will, and with thy - self my spi - rit fill.
 all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

*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 III

BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, especially Michael, Rob, Paul, and Don, and all priests and deacons, especially Nikki & Christina (...)

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. ...

A PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(people may stand)*

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.

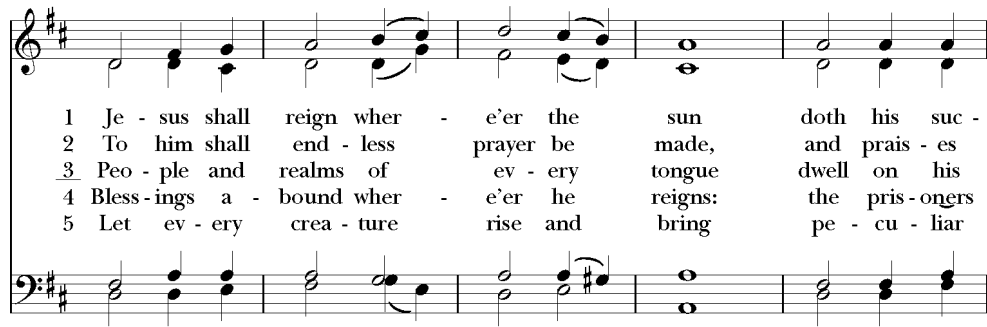
People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

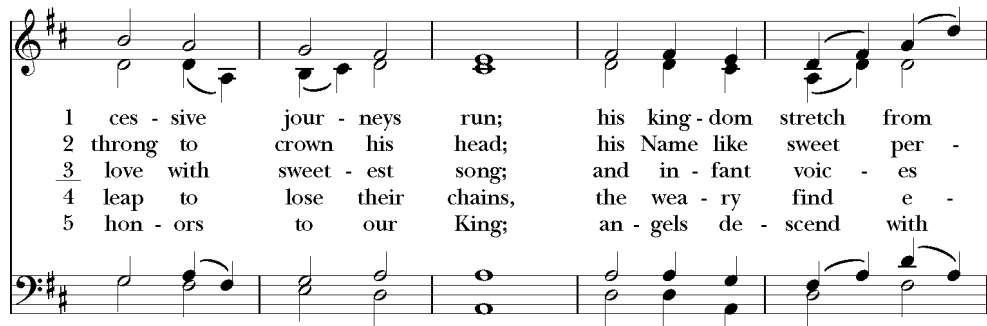
Offertory Hymn 544

Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun

DUKE STREET



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun doth his suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



1 ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
2 throno to crown his head; his Name like sweet per -
3 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
4 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
5 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with



1 shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
3 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name.
4 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
5 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

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 can 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:

Celebrant and People

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

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 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Fellowship Music

I've Got Peace Like a River

Traditional American

*The altar flowers are dedicated to the honor and glory of God,
 and in memory of the wedding anniversary of Paul & Elizabeth Edmonston (7/4/70)
 by their daughters.*

*Hymn permission used by RiteStuff, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.
Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #732703-A*

Prayers of the People

In our Parish we pray for Carol Schwenke, Ron Balthazor, Day Moo & Edwin Way, Doug Welch, Mason Somerville, Melinda Jones, Pat Irby, Stephanie Gamble, Carol Jones, Ray Gotko, Rose Ann Pace, Aaron Muckin, Glen Jedlicka, Stephen Morris, Alice Hunt, George Watson, Conoly Hester, Deborah Freeman, Catherine Hartley, Terri Dotson, Mary Parkman, Gayle Duncan, Jimmy Simons, Gene Watson, Bill Walker, Sandy Elhenicky, Susan Kuzia, Shelby Welch, Sarah Gordon, Roger Swagler, Stanley Armour, Martha Beach, Jack Beach, Tammy Bishop, Cecil Miller, Bill Beagle, Sally Stuckey, Kim Rider, Patrick Dean, Harold Tillman, Diane Holcomb, Stephen Corn, Ken Packer, Anna, Fritz, Fay, Doug, Neal, Ann, Paula, John, Gwen, Barbara, Dusty, Daniel, Michael, Michelle, Meredith, Heather, Matt, Pete, Sophia, Jill, Ruth, Samantha, Jennifer, Chip, and Buddy.

In thanksgiving for those celebrating their birthdays this week: June Cottrell, AJ Brutzman, Mike Peck, Joe Weinmeister, Melodi Bennett, and Ron Bates; **and for those celebrating anniversaries:** Tim & Christina Dondero, John & Danielle Bray, Joel & Alice Hunt, and Elmer Clark & Rebecca Baggett.

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.

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

Terry Tillman and Anthony Barkdoll Audiovisual Technicians
ttillman@gmail.com; anthonybarkdoll@gmail.com

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

Catherine Drewry Director of Children's Ministries
cbdrewry@gmail.com | 706-201-7241

Jude Red-Bear Nursery Director
juderedbear@yahoo.com | 706-614-0008

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

Allena Armour Sexton
allenaarmour57@yahoo.com | 706-614-3704

Nursery Attendants: Missy Hamlin, Megan Reuter, Allison Weaver

Vestry Members: Kathryn Musholt, Sr. Warden; Kelly Black, Jr. Warden, Jack Armistead; Eddie Bennett; Rhonda Hefner-Packer; Jane Hudson; Marge Massey; Caley Ross; Beth Thornton; Chrissy Moffett, Clerk; Les House, Treasurer

Vestry Person of the Day/Week: Rhonda Hefner-Packer packer.rhonda@gmail.com