

GREGORIAN CHANT

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church | Athens, GA

Dear Friends in Christ,

Come. Lord Jesus, Come!

This is the quintessential Advent prayer and plea, whether spoken in a fervent whisper or with a loud cry: Come! Lord Jesus, come! And the Advent admonition is to be awake and watch and listen. We do not know exactly how or when Jesus will come into our lives and into our history but scripture affirms that Jesus has come and will come again.

What we know is that we want to be ready.

Silence is a prayer of seeking and listening and frees us to hear and notice God's voice and presence. Silence makes us ready for a new meeting with God. Come! Lord Jesus, come! In silence, God's word can reach the hidden corners of our hearts.

During Advent, our Sunday worship will include a little extra room for silent mediation. Let this be a gift in the hustle and bustle of the pre-holiday season and help you more truly prepare for Christmas.

Lo, in the silent night
A child to God is born
And all is brought again
That ere was lost or lorn.

Could but thy soul, O (hu)man
Become a silent night!
God would be born in thee
And set all things aright.
(15th Century)

*Peace,
Laura*

Advent Devotion Booklets

The Advent Devotion booklets are complete and available for you to pick up in the narthex! Thank you to all who contributed! And thank you to Lisa Hunt and LeeAnn Pingel for all of their help and expertise in compiling and designing them!

Poinsettia Dedications

If you wish to give a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, the deadline for ordering will be Monday, Dec. 18. The suggested donation is \$10 per dedication. Please place your completed form and your check in the offering plate on Sundays, Kendall's office door, or mail it to the parish office. You may also contact the office by phone, 706-546-7553 or email, office@stgregoryathens.org. Forms can be found in the narthex and in your bulletin on Sundays.



ADVENT@STGREGORYS

DECEMBER 3: Advent Wreath Making



Make an Advent wreath after church on December 3! Lunch will be provided for everyone, and will consist of various sandwich makings, vegan soup, fruit, and Wassail. Wreath forms, candles, and greens are provided at a cost of \$20 per wreath. This is a fun event for all ages, and you'll take home a wreath to help you mark a holy Advent. As you light the four candles, remember the four thousand years God's people waited for the arrival of the Messiah. The circular wreath reminds us of

the circle of life. The evergreens help us remember God's undying love. The light grows from the candles as we approach the birth of Christ in the darkest time of the year. Holy time.

DECEMBER 10: Labyrinth

The Labyrinth Guild invites you to participate in the active waiting of the season; a walking meditation in preparation for the joyful welcoming of Christ into the world, with candlelight, meditative music, and poetry on the evening of December 10 at 5:30PM in St. Gregory's Parish Hall.

- Come with an intention.
- Come prepared to lay down all that keeps you from participating in the fullness of Christ in this moment.
- Come with the faith that you will experience the Holy.
- Come with a hope of carrying all that you meet here into the world. O Come Emmanuel!

The Labyrinth will remain available for walking at any hour the church is open from the evening of December 10 until the evening Wednesday, Dec.13.

DECEMBER 10: Advent Lessons & Carols

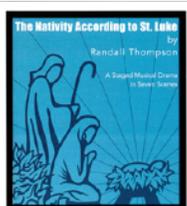
On Sunday, December 10 at the 10:30am service, we will have an Advent Lessons and Carols w/ Holy Eucharist service. Join us for this beautiful service of readings interspersed with Advent hymns and music.

DECEMBER 10: St. Nicholas Visit

St. Nicholas will visit St. Gregory's at the 10:30AM service on Sunday, December 10!

DECEMBER 15 & 16: Nativity According to St. Luke

The St. Gregory Choir, soloists, and orchestra will present Randall Thompson's *The Nativity According to Saint Luke*, a staged musical drama in seven scenes, Friday and Saturday evenings, December 15 and 16, at 7:30 pm. This will be a wonderful production with beautiful music, staging by Terry Powell of Athens Creative Theater, costumes, and lots of action. Please mark your calendars and invite others to attend with you to see and hear this beautiful music and the nativity story portrayed before you.



Meridian Women's Chorus

Join the Meridian Women's Chorus (some of whom are Gregorians), under the direction of Meg Granum, for their Christmas Tapestry Concert on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 4PM in St. G's sanctuary, followed by a bake sale in Parish Hall. This musical offering features collaboration with the Oconee High School A Cappella Choir and the Athens Recorder Ensemble. With Christmas favorites like "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" this concert is sure to get you in the spirit of the season!

Athens Master Chorale

The Athens Master Chorale, under the direction of Joseph Napoli, presents its Christmas Concert "Christmas Greetings" at 4PM Sunday, December 3 in the Classic Center Atrium. They will be performing the world premiere of Kim Andre Arnesen's *Ubi Caritas et Amor*.

Messiah Sing-Along

Bring your friends and come sing along with full orchestra! There is no rehearsal or pressure, only fun. An offering will be taken during the sing-along to benefit Presbyterian Disaster/Hurricane Relief. Monday, December 11 at 7PM @ Oconee Presbyterian, 2601 Hog Mountain Road, Watkinsville, GA 30677

Altar Guild Luncheon

The Altar Guild is having a luncheon Dec. 9, 12:00 noon, 574 Pulaski St. **Anyone** wanting to find out more about the Altar Guild is welcome to attend as well as current and former altar guild members. Please RSVP to: juliamarlowe46@gmail.com.

Kyle Mackey Ordination

All Saint Gregorians are invited to the Ordination of Kyle Mackey (our former Youth Coordinator) at the Cathedral of St. Philip on December 16 at 2PM!

The Right Reverend Robert Christopher Wright
By the grace of God
the Bishop of Atlanta
will ordain

Gregoria Cedano de Betances
Irma Nohemi Guerra
Kyle Christopher Mackey
Amy Dills-Moore
Melanie Gibson Rowell
Kenya Angela Thompson

To the Sacred Order of Deacons
In Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church
On the Sixteenth day of December,
two-thousand and seventeen,
at two o'clock in the afternoon

Cathedral of St. Philip
2744 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30305

Your prayers and presence are requested.
Clergy: Red stoles Reception follows in the Atrium

Movie Night - January

The parish movie series will resume in January 2018. I have endeavored to maintain the quality of the films and the spiritual lessons therein for this series. Consistent with this goal, I have designated *Bicycle Thieves* (1948), a masterpiece of Italian neorealism and one of the greatest movies of all time, as the film for January.

— Ken Taylor



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



Community Christmas

St. Gregory's has been a valued supporter of Community Christmas of Oglethorpe County, Inc. for over 20 years. Many wish lists for children still need to be filled. Our youth and young at heart will be shopping for Community Christmas from 1:30-3:30 on December 3 at Wal-Mart on the East Side, using funds donated by generous parishioners. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this endeavor in whatever way is best for them – donate money, gifts, adopt a child, or give your time. See www.CommunityChristmasOglethorpe for more details, or contact Catherine Drewry, volunteer director, at 706-201-7241 for more info.

Advent Outreach - Ingathering of Supplies for Babies & Homeless

In this season of Advent, as we prepare for the birth of Jesus, who had nowhere but a manger to lay his head, we are especially mindful of children living in poverty in our own community and those who are homeless or without adequate shelter. We are enjoined to provide for these children and people as well.

We will be gathering baby supplies for the ARK, which serves the working poor, and the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, and hygiene kits for the Homeless Day Shelter and Nurses Clinic, which serves homeless people.

Below are the lists of needed supplies which will be delivered after Christmas Eve. There will be baskets in the narthex for you to deposit the items you bring.

Baby items:

bibs
bottles
sippy cups
pacifiers
Desitin
wipes
socks
onesies
formula (soy)
diapers (newborn-2)
blankets

Hygiene items:

washcloths
soap
toothbrush
toothpaste
socks
deodorant
shampoo
razors
lotion

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will have a meeting on the 10th of December after the 10:30 service to disburse the remainder of our budget. Help is greatly appreciated.

Susanne, Outreach Committee Chairman

CHRISTMAS@STGREGORYS

Christmas Eve/Day

Services

Sunday, December 24:

10AM Advent 4 Holy Eucharist

5PM Children's Pageant &
Holy Eucharist

9:30PM Choral Prelude

10PM Festival Eucharist &
Choir

Monday, December 25:

10AM Holy Eucharist & Carols

Sunday, December 31:

8AM Holy Eucharist

10:30AM Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 7:

8AM Holy Eucharist & Feast
of the Epiphany

10:30AM Holy Eucharist &
Feast of the Epiphany

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Coffee Hour 10:30AM

Coffee Hour needs host volunteers. Arrive approximately 10:15 to set out cups, etc.

Supply baked goods, either homemade or store-bought. Make coffee, fill coffee carafes. Set out baked goods. Clean up coffee cups and run through dishwasher. Put cups away and clean up whatever is left at end of coffee hour. Clean up is usually complete by 1-1:30PM. There is always help available if needed. Also, asking someone to co-host with you is an option. Training provided for newcomers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 706-850-5557

*Thank you,
Barbara Crowley*

Children's Christmas Pageant

Calling all shepherds, angels, wise ones, Mary, Joseph, the star bearer, all the wonderful animals who gathered round to witness the birth of Christ, and the narrator story tellers who still pass on the Nativity's good news! Our Christmas Pageant will be presented by the children at 5PM on Christmas Eve. All children are invited to participate, and sign up on the sheet in the narthex this Sunday, or by emailing Catherine Bowen Drewry, director of Children's Ministries at cbdrewry@gmail.com. No one need memorize lines – child readers will tell the story. We'll be practicing in the church Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 10 from 12-1PM, (with lunch provided for parents, children, and siblings,) Sunday, Dec. 17 from 9:15- 10:15AM, and Saturday, Dec. 23 from 10-11AM. We hope children will attend as many practices as possible, but know that if they are comfortable with their roles and can follow the other kids, they can still participate with minimal practice. All pageant cast members need to gather in the Christian Education building at 4PM on Christmas Eve to put on costumes and do a final rehearsal.

Christmas Eve Reception

A festive reception will be held after the 5PM Christmas Eve service, and snacks including cheese, crackers, fruit, veggies, and other finger foods will be most appreciated (nothing with peanuts, please.) Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Catherine Drewry if you are willing to bring food for the reception. cbdrewry@gmail.com

YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Shopping

All youth invited to help shop for Community Christmas, Dec. 3. Come make an Advent wreath, eat lunch (remember to sign up), then we will gather at Eastside Wal-Mart about 1:30. We should be finished by 3:30. Come join us, Call Maggie Reinberger with any questions, 706-338-1471. Bring friends!

Dismantling Racism - Youth

We are offering an intense, thoughtful course for the youth, from the Beloved Community/Dismantling Racism, developed by the Diocese of Atlanta. This is a pilot program, which means not only will we benefit from this curriculum, but we will have input in how they develop it in the future. Maggie Reinberger and Will Drosos will lead the class.

If there are middle-school students interested, we will start with a 3-hour session on Sunday, Jan. 7, with middle and high school students. Then the high school students will finish up with a 6 hour retreat over Jan. 12-13 at Camp Mikell. The cost for the overnight retreat will be \$55. We will also need to schedule a parent/youth meeting prior to the course. Please contact Maggie with any questions. 706-338-1471.

CHRISTIANFORMATION

Adult Sunday School

Poetry of Advent (Parish Hall)

December 3, 10, 17

For the first 3 Sundays in December, Sarah Gordon will offer an Adult Forum discussion of poetry concerned with Advent. Poems of such diverse writers as John Donne, T. S. Eliot, Denise Levertov, R. S. Thomas, and Mary Oliver will be discussed. The texts will be xeroxed handouts provided each week. All are welcome, even those who may think they're allergic to poetry!

Parenting Spirituality (Office #1)

Ongoing

Come and mingle with other parents who face the same joys, concerns and challenges as you. Our goal is to build community through listening and sharing parenting experiences with one another. Parenting is wonderful, and at times can be the most difficult thing you've ever done. Working together in community will keep you motivated and encouraged while you make your way towards less reactive and more intentional parenting. Facilitated by Missy Hamlin.

Lectionary (Library): The more one studies the Bible, the more one realizes that it is a proverbial bottomless pit of meanings and nuances. Exploring those depths can be a rewarding experience. Ken Taylor leads a discussion of the assigned readings almost every Sunday (except for a parish breakfast and a visit by a bishop, mainly) in the library, starting at 9:15AM. This class will meet every Sunday in December.

Youth

Keep joining us for Sunday school on Sunday mornings at 9:15 as we study the J2A/Rite13 curriculum!

Children's Sunday School/Preparation for Christmas Pageant

Sunday School for kids Pre-K – 5th grade starts at 9:15 in the Children's Chapel with Songtime! Please come on time so we can practice our Christmas songs with Anna Hiers and The Band of Believers! (We will be swapping places with the choir on December 17 and meeting in the church Sanctuary that day.)

Rhythms of Grace



Families looking for a different worship experience are invited to Rhythms of Grace, on **Sunday, December 10 at 3PM** at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. This adaptive service is designed to be welcoming to those for whom conventional worship may be difficult, including those sensitive to loud music or crowds, those on the Autism spectrum, and wiggly children who just want to move! The service features scripture and storytelling, therapeutic play, and a simplified prayer for Holy Communion. Gathering and dismissal

rituals and visual and auditory cues help with transitioning. St. Gregory's hosts Rhythms of Grace on the second Sunday of each month in our sanctuary. All are welcome at every service at St. Gregory's. Please invite your friends!

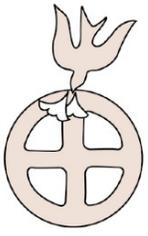
Wednesday Transitions/Meditation Group

Wednesdays at 4PM in the library

While many of us find these to be challenging times, there is also a great opportunity for those of us who wish to train ourselves to seek truth, feel connection and hope. We are currently reading the book *My Song* by the Linn family. We are discussing and exploring who we are and how we are being used in the world by God. Laughter, tears, and deep discussion.... come join in the fun!

Happy Birthday!

December 1	Julia Sanford
December 3	Danny Bray Sienna Rollie
December 4	Madeline Wheeler Patrice Camoston
December 5	Jenifer Borg Rob McNiff
December 7	Leeanne Krause
December 9	Pete Nicholls Caroline Ferguson Les House
December 10	Janet Jarrett Adam Carabello
December 11	George Watson Lisa Hunt
December 12	Sam Preston Cynthia Hoover
December 13	Louisa Temple-Roberts
December 14	Henry Scott
December 16	Betty Littleton
December 18	Victoria Knowlton
December 19	Karen Radde
December 20	Katie Bienvenue
December 21	Frankie Cook Mason Somerville
December 23	Jo Benton Karen Shetterley Janie Reynolds
December 25	Judith DeJoy
December 28	Susanne Burton
December 31	Michele Lease



St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
3195 Barnett Shoals Road
Athens, GA 30605

>>Return Service Requested<<
706-546-7553