

St. Gregory the Great  
Episcopal Church  
Athens, GA

## GREGORIAN CHANT

APRIL 2017



Holy Week is the most dramatic and important week of the church year and in our life together as Christian people. During this week we walk with Christ through the redemptive events of his passion, death, and resurrection.

This holiest of weeks begins with the Hosannas of Passion/ Palm Sunday and builds to a crescendo with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and the glory of Easter morning.

The last meal that Jesus eats with his disciples becomes his body and blood. After supper, Jesus washes the disciples' feet, and spends a night of agonized prayer in a garden, followed by betrayal and arrest. The next day the trial and sufferings of the servant king end with his crucifixion and burial. At the Easter Vigil the chains of death and hell are broken and the first Alleluia breaks open the night.

These services reveal our Savior's last days in all their agony and power and mystery. We are meant to fully engage this journey with Christ with all our senses—to see, hear, touch, taste, and smell -- and with all our sorrows and hopes. Having travelled the whole way of this journey, the joy of Easter is profound.

Each service of Holy Week is remarkable and powerful. Children are encouraged to participate in all the special elements of these liturgies as they are able—supper and footwashing, the veneration of the cross, the Great Noise, the flowering of the cross.

In the midst of lives that are hectic and busy, I invite you to embrace the all the blessings of Holy Week as we are led to the astonishment and joy of meeting the Living One in our midst and at large in the world.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

\*\* Childcare will be provided at all Holy Week services\*\*

### PALM SUNDAY, April 9

8am and 10:30am Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist  
(both services begin on front lawn altar)

7-9pm: Guided Labyrinth Walk  
(see page 2 for more information)

### MONDAY & TUESDAY, April 10 & 11

All Day Labyrinth out in Parish Hall for independent walks

### WEDNESDAY, April 12

12 noon Lenten meditation at the Labyrinth  
6:00 pm Holy Eucharist & Healing Service

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 13

6:30pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy w/Agape Supper w/ Footwashing & Stripping of Altar (see page 2 for more information)  
9pm - 12 noon on Good Friday All-Night Prayer Vigil

### GOOD FRIDAY, April 14

11:30 am Stations of the Cross  
12pm Good Friday Liturgy  
6:30 pm Stations of the Cross  
7pm Good Friday Liturgy

### THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, April 15

8:05pm (sundown) Festival Eucharist & Choir starts outside with the lighting of the Paschal Candle  
Please bring bells, noisemakers, drums for the Great Noise to ring in Easter!

### EASTER DAY, April 16

8am Holy Eucharist w/ Music  
9am All Parish Easter Breakfast (see page 2)  
9:45am Raising of the Alleluia (see page 2)  
10:30am Festival Eucharist & Choir  
12pm Easter Egg Hunt for children

## Flowering the Cross

Children and others are encouraged to bring garden flowers to church Easter morning to use to “flower the cross” as they arrive at church.



## Easter Lilies

If you wish to dedicate an Easter lily in honor/thanksgiving of someone living or in remembrance of someone deceased, please complete the yellow form found in the narthex, and leave the form and your donation in the offering plate or in Kendall’s office. You may also [email](#) your dedication or call the church office. The suggested donation is \$10/lily. The deadline is Monday, April 10.

## Baptism

The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil on April 15th. If you desire baptism, or are interested in having your child baptized, please contact The Rev. Laura Bryant at [rector@stgregorysathens.org](mailto:rector@stgregorysathens.org) or 706-546-7552 x2.

## Raising of the Alleluia!

As you may recall, we “buried” the Alleluia on the first Sunday of Lent. At 9:45AM on Easter morning, meet us at the plot outside and we will dig it back up! Kids who want to help carry the Alleluia in the procession need to let Catherine Drewry know.



burying of alleluias  
First Sunday in Lent

## Labyrinth During Holy Week

St. Gregory’s Labyrinth will be open Palm Sunday until the morning of Maudy Thursday. Anytime the church is open, you are invited to come and walk in anticipation of Easter.

A guided walk, led by Lane Norton, will be held the night of Palm Sunday, April 9, from 7-9PM. The guided walk will offer a candlelit atmosphere and contemplative music and an opportunity to walk in community. We will begin and end with prayer and poems.

The Labyrinth will be adapted as a way of the Stations of the Cross all day Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week (April 10 & 11). Readings will be available for those who wish them. This is an independent walk and available as the church is open.

Wednesday, April 12, at 12 Noon, join us at the Labyrinth as we walk the final Lenten meditation of this year, facilitated by Lane Norton.

## Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday commemorates Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples and his commandment to “love one another as I have loved you.”

This year St. Gregory will hold an Agape Supper as part of its Maundy Thursday worship and celebration. The Agape “Love Feast” will feature foods and spices traditional in the Middle East. **For this supper, parishioners are asked to bring a Middle Eastern food or dish to share.** Fruits, hummus, pita bread and olives are some choices for parishioners who do not wish to cook. Please note that no desserts will be served with this meal.

Suggestion: Google “Middle Eastern food recipes” to find hundreds of easy to prepare dishes or food items. (Wikipedia also provides enlightening details about the early Christian Agape “lovefeast.”) The supper and worship service begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13. Please sign up on the sheet posted in the narthex. If you have questions about appropriate food, please call Ann Somerville at 706-850-4692.



## Easter Breakfast

Join us Easter morning for a breakfast celebration! Easter breakfast will be held in Parish Hall between services and will feature a variety of breakfast casseroles, fruits, and sweet delights. However, **Parish Life needs your help** in providing the food. If you attend, please bring an appropriate breakfast casserole, fruits, doughnuts, sweet rolls, hot cross buns, etc. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Coffee hour after the 10:30 service will include Easter sweets.

## Holy Week in a Box

Simple objects tucked into a small box, along with scripture, tell the story of Holy Week. Each item in the box is a symbol, representing a piece of the gospel narrative: from Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper, betrayal, burial, and finally the empty tomb on Easter morning. All households are encouraged to take home a box. These will be available in the Narthex.

## Easter Candy

Peanut-free candy needed for the Easter egg hunt (Please remember that our church is a peanut-free zone!!!). Please leave donations in the copy room across from the church office by Palm Sunday (April 9th) if possible. The Easter egg hunt will be held after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday, and is for children through 5th grade. Middle and High School youth will be stuffing the eggs on Palm Sunday, and will hide the eggs just after they take communion on Easter morning. (Goody bags will be given to all youth who hide eggs or serve as acolytes! :)

## Breadbakers arise! (pun intended)

Are you a baker? We are looking for 4 or 5 folks to take turns baking bread each week for Sunday worship. Providing bread is an act of love and a wonderful responsibility to share amongst those who enjoy baking. Many thanks to Katie Townes for working solo and supplying all the fresh baked bread for the past several years!

## Movie Night!

The parish movie for April will be *The Song of Bernadette* (1943), starring Jennifer Jones, Vincent Price, and Lee J. Cobb. It is the story of St.



St. Bernadette Soubirous, a peasant girl whose visions of Mary led to the establishment of the basilica and shrine at Lourdes, France. As the movie's opening credits announce, "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible."

The showtime will be 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 28, in the chapel. Free drinks and popcorn will be available. Childcare can be available, given sufficient advance notice to Kenneth Taylor ([intj1973@hotmail.com](mailto:intj1973@hotmail.com)).

## Threads of Prayer

Threads of Prayer will meet on Thursday, April 27 at 10AM in the library. All who knit or crochet are welcome. For more information, [contact](#) Annette Bates.

## Our Condolences

- to Ron and Annette Bates, on the death of their sister-in-law, Judi Bates;
- to RuthElizabeth Conine, on the death of her mother, Carol Street Conine.

*May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

Interested in joining an outreach organization but don't know how to start your first step? Want to make connections with families in the Athens area? Join us for an IHN Training Day on **Sunday April 2 from 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM** in the Parish Hall.



The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide immediate shelter and guidance to homeless families with children, due to the impact of misfortunes upon their lives. Once accepted into our program, IHNA provides food, shelter, daycare, and transportation as needed. IHNA helps to create structure out of chaos by implementing a goal-oriented plan so that those desperately in need can focus beyond daily survival, to a life of stability. IHNA is part of the national Family Promise network that includes more than 180 IHN's in 41 states, and has served over a half million guests since its inception in the 1980's.

Childcare will be provided at the training. If you have any questions about this training, please contact Evan Bradford at his number (404) 694-6298 or by email at [bradfordevan@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordevan@gmail.com).

## Search Committee

The Search Committee continues to meet regularly. During the last month our work has focused on identifying ministries of St. Gregory's and grouping these into areas. Each committee member is now working to produce a document about a distinct area of ministry. These documents will be edited and compiled into an overview of how St. Gregory the Great is serving God and our community.

We have also begun our Parish survey through Holy Cow Consulting. It is a simple online survey that takes about half an hour to complete. The survey must be completed in one sitting. Please plan to take the survey when the link becomes available.

This is a very important tool that will aid us in completing our parish profile. Vestry and Search Committee members have committed to participate in the survey by April 2 and will be available if you have questions.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

*For the Search Committee,*  
Elizabeth Dubberly  
[Edubberly@gmail.com](mailto:Edubberly@gmail.com)  
(404) 414-3249

## ATTENTION! The Survey is Coming!

All active members of St. Gregory's ages 16 and older will be receiving an invitation to complete a survey to help the Search Committee determine more about desires for the parish and the selection of a new rector.

It's very important for you to complete this survey. This is your opportunity to make your wishes known. What do you like about the parish? What do you want to keep? What do you want to change? What would you like to see in a new rector? Tell the Search Committee.

You will get an invitation in the mail along with a follow-up email with the link to the survey. Don't put it off. Do it right away and it won't get lost in your inbox. If you are not computer savvy, don't worry. We will help you.

If you have not gotten your survey by Monday, April 3, contact the office. Otherwise, thank you for doing your part to help our parish find the best Rector possible.

## EYC - Episcopal Youth Community: April

On April 2, our youth and their families will travel to the Diocese of Atlanta's St. Phillip's Cathedral for confirmation. The service begins at 4pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

On April 23, youth will play field games, cook out, and hang out at Ann and Mason Somerville's farm. We will meet their new goats and pasture pups. Parents are welcome to visit and hangout inside their house at the parent party.

Go ahead and mark your calendar for **Children and Youth Sunday May 7!** Let Kate Long or Catherine Drewry know who can participate and what they would like to do! We need readers, musicians, acolytes, and ushers.

## Dare to be Different!

Vacation Bible School this summer will be based on this theme, taken from Madeleine L'Engle's book, *A Wrinkle in Time*. Make plans to enjoy supper, skits, Bible stories, singing, games, and crafts each night. Vacation Bible School at St. G's is for EVERYONE – even adults get to enjoy fun and fellowship. Invite your friends. July 10 – 13, 5:30-7:45 pm. Contact Catherine Drewry to volunteer, or for more info 706-201-7241 [cbdrewry@gmail.com](mailto:cbdrewry@gmail.com). We need actors, cooks, artists, set-up and clean up crews, storytellers, song leaders, greeters.

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## Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to serve as senior warden on this year's vestry. The vestry met on March 17th and 18th to consider how it might best support the parish at this time. With nine new members on the vestry, we spent some time becoming acquainted with one another and with the various committees of St. Gregory that facilitate your work in our church community. We also gave thought to our shared and personal experiences over the last couple of years, and considered how those experiences shape our understanding of St. Gregory today.

We read and discussed the account of Jesus healing a paralytic in the gospel of St. John. The unnamed man suffered his disability for 38 years, waiting daily for healing by a pool in Jerusalem. Jesus asks the man if he wants to be healed. When the man replies that others reach the pool first whenever its healing water are stirred, Jesus tells him, "Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk!" The man stands, takes his mat and begins walking. No sooner is he healed of infirmity, however, than he is confronted by another constraint. He is censured for carrying his mat on the Sabbath.

Our community has felt the constraint of events and forces beyond our control. And we have known (and continue to experience) the interminable malaise of waiting, waiting, waiting. But even as we wait, we are not idle. You have been faithful in hearing and responding to the call of Christ, and I know that the parishioners of St. Gregory will continue to minister to one another and to the greater community with love and compassion. If there are ways that the vestry can encourage and support your ministry, please let us know.

Peace,  
Rob



## Acolytes

We are revamping this worship ministry. If you are in 3-12th grades, please speak to Kelly Black, the Acolyte Shepherd, about becoming trained. Acolyting is a great worship role for children and youth. The May-July schedule will be being made at the end of the month by Kate Long. Please email her conflicts/availability at [Eyc.st.gregorys@gmail.com](mailto:Eyc.st.gregorys@gmail.com).

## Youth Readers

Ken Taylor is working with the Youth Advisory Committee to schedule in more youth readers at Sunday services. This is another fabulous way for them to serve in worship. Please let Kate know interest for Palm Sunday April 9, April 23, and April 30. Also any availability for May.

## Camp Mikell

Camp Mikell has been in operation since 1941. During these years, Camp Mikell has provided a loving and caring summer program for thousands of campers. Many call Camp Mikell their second home, the place where Mikell Magic occurs, where lives are changed, where they are accepted for who they are, where they discovered God in new and exciting ways, where lifelong friends are made (many have discovered their future spouses here), a place that is unlike any other place on earth.

The campers who come to Mikell and all of us involved with the summer program know that Mikell is simply awesome. If you are a part of the Mikell family, we welcome you back again this summer. If you haven't been to Mikell before, give us a try.

Click [here](#) for more info and registration.

## Happy Birthday!

April 1	Klara Lankford Tristan Lankford
April 2	Terrell Benton Lucy Tavernier
April 5	Davis Gabriel
April 6	Barbara Kuhn Diana Lane
April 7	Berkeley Minor
April 11	Henri Johnson Glenn Knowlton
April 12	June Ball Gene Ruffin Roger Swagler Sarah Black
April 13	Jonathan Klein Parker Yates
April 14	Shelby Marquardt
April 15	Samuel Preston, IV Eddie Van Giesen
April 16	Linda Barrett
April 19	Paul Heald Clare Severens
April 20	Alex Buckley Del Hicks Walker McNiff
April 21	Philip Walter
April 22	Madelyn Coyne
April 24	Riley Byers
April 25	Jane Hudson Ian Van Giesen
April 28	Olivia Morris
April 29	Geneva Preston
April 30	Ron Balthazor Linda Morris

## Contact Info Update

Parishioners please note that the new email address for Catherine Drewry, director of Children's Ministries, is [cbdrewry@gmail.com](mailto:cbdrewry@gmail.com). You can also reach her by phone or text at 706-201-7241.

## Consider Your Call

Dear Friends in Christ,  
Whatever age we are, and no matter the job or vocation that is ours, there are times in life when we still wonder: What am I really called to do with my life?

As part of my Doctor of Ministry research, I want to gather a study group to explore how immersion in and study of the biblical narrative builds our capacity to discern God's call in our lives. How does attentiveness to Scripture shape our imagination in ways that help us perceive God's presence and call?

Ideally, I would like to bring together a group of 10-12 people, with a mix of ages and experience in the Christian faith. The group will start in late summer with some preparatory interviews beforehand.

If you are interested, or curious, please let me know and I can give more information and details.

*Peace,  
Laura*

## Children's Sunday School

March 19 – April 9th – Workshops focused on The Last Supper and the Eucharist  
No Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

## Adult Sunday School

The holy scriptures constitute a rich tapestry containing many threads. The lectionary class meets in the parish library each Sunday morning at 9:15 to consider the threads (or many of them, anyway) of the readings assigned for that day. The more who attend and contribute, the better the class is. *There will be no Sunday school on Easter Day.*

## Elementary Biblical Hebrew

Do you have a desire to read the Old Testament in its original language? If so, then the upcoming Elementary Biblical Hebrew class may be for you. The class will begin on Sunday, April 23 at 6:30 PM and will meet weekly thereafter at the home of Dr. Joel Hunt, the teacher. Contact Joel (814-521-4633 or [enlil.banda@gmail.com](mailto:enlil.banda@gmail.com)) for information about the books required and any other questions you might have.

## Transitions Group

Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:30pm there is a meeting of amazing humans in the church's library. We would like to invite you to come on by and visit with us. We have drawn strength and courage from community shared through our many stories, meditation tools and deep prayer. We practice being brave with open hearts. While celebrating healing in every possibility, we empower one another in growth and change. During this difficult time let's practice leaning on one another and fall into faith together!

## Rhythms of Grace

Families looking for a different worship experience are invited to Rhythms of Grace, on Sunday, April 9 at 3 pm 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! Any questions? Contact Catherine Drewry, director of Children's Ministries at 706-201-7241 or [cbdrewry@gmail.com](mailto:cbdrewry@gmail.com). The Rev. Gordon Bienvenue may be reached at 706-850-0090 or [gordon11901@gmail.com](mailto:gordon11901@gmail.com).



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>>Return Service Requested<<

706-546-7553