

FEBRUARY 2018

# GREGORIAN CHANT

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church | Athens, GA

## The Gift of Lent

“... and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.” (Mark 1:13)

The season of Lent begins with the story of Jesus’ retreat and temptation in the wilderness. There, in that rigorous time, he received the blessing and ministrations of wild beasts and angels.

Lent is a penitential season, marked by special devotions of prayer, repentance, self-examination, and almsgiving. But in this season, we also discover unexpected gifts, blessings, and the deep joy of the Christian journey, leading towards the Easter promise.

I invite you to a Holy Lent and participation in special lenten offerings and worship services.

I especially invite you to the Lenten program on Wednesday evenings. We will be using Desmond Tutu’s book “The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World” as the basis for our study, discussion, and reflection as a community.

Peace,  
Laura

**The Book of Forgiving:  
The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World  
Lenten Evening Program and Supper (childcare available)**

*Wednesdays February 21, 28; March 7, 14, and 21*

Please sign up in the narthex or call Kendall, parish administrator, at the church office so that we know how many to expect for supper.

**5:30 Healing Service w/Holy Eucharist  
5:45-6:30 Simple Supper  
6:30-7:30 Program—The Book of Forgiving**

*The gift of forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus’ life and ministry, and forgiveness is at the heart of our Christian faith. Yet we struggle with **how** to practice forgiveness in all the circumstances of our personal and community lives. Join us for learning and reflection.*

## Lenten Meditations

Booklets of daily meditations for your Lenten journey will be available on Ash Wednesday. The booklets are published by the church and Episcopal Relief and Development.

## Important February Dates

**Sunday, February 11:**  
Burying of the Alleluia (after the 10:30am service)

**Tuesday, February 13:**  
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**Wednesday, February 14:**  
Ash Wednesday

**Sunday, February 18:**  
First Sunday in Lent

**Wednesday, February 21:**  
Lenten program begins

## Welcome New Vestry Members

Please welcome our 4 new Vestry members: Rhonda Hefner-Packer, Barbara Crowley, Mary Alice Isele, and Kathryn Musholt! Mark Tavernier will serve as our Sr. Warden in 2018.

## Wednesday Meditation Group

**Wednesdays at 4PM in the library**

Dive into our fun, interactive classes to truly integrate these transformative tools and techniques. Learn by doing to develop a more focused, relaxed and less reactive attitude. Let’s come together on Wednesdays to practice healing meditation to become the healthiest, happiest version of yourself.

## Lenten Giving Calendars

Pick up your Lenten Giving Calendar to help guide your journey through Lent this year. For all ages – young and old, singles and families. The small boxes will be available in the Christian Education building and the church narthex. All proceeds will go to Episcopal Relief and Development.

## Pancake Flippers Needed!

Come join the cooks at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13! Please contact Mason Somerville ([mason1221@gmail.com](mailto:mason1221@gmail.com)/ 315-534-2351) or Rev. Laura if you can help!

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 14. We will have services at 12 noon and 6PM. Childcare will be provided at both services.

## Baptisms

If anyone would like to be baptized, or have their child/children baptized, please speak with Rev. Laura. The next dates for baptisms will be at the 10:30AM service on Sunday, February 11 and at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 31. The Easter Vigil is a nighttime service (8PM).

## Parish Life Needs Towels!

Needed: Gently used dish towels for our kitchen. If you have a few extra that are not needed at your house, would you mind donating them to Parish Life? Our stash is just a little low. Please leave the dish towels in the office or on the kitchen counter. Thanks so much.

## Valentine's Day Romantic Dinner | Feb. 10



The Youth of St. Gregory's will be hosting the Valentine's Day Romantic Dinner on Saturday, February 10, with 2 seatings at 5:30pm & 7pm. Tickets are \$20/person (& tips are greatly appreciated!) and include an Italian dinner (with different entree choices), fresh salad, hot bread, homemade desserts, wine, iced tea, and coffee. There will be complimentary childcare as well, including dinner and entertainment for your children! Proceeds

go toward financing EYC Pilgrimage. Reservations should be made by RSVPing on the homepage of our website ([stgregoryathens.org](http://stgregoryathens.org)). No tickets -- pay when you finish dinner!

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

The men of St. Gregory are pleased to sponsor our all-you-can-eat Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The pancake supper is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM in our Parish Hall. All are invited to come and bring friends to celebrate the spirit of Mardi Gras. This is a fund raising event to support our newly confirmed members of our church with Prayer books and Bibles; the suggested contribution is \$5. We will serve pancakes with lots of syrup and fruit toppings, sausage, vegan patties, lemonade, orange juice, water, and coffee.



## Do you know why we eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday?

It was once the custom, before Lent began, to use up all milk, eggs, and fat in the cupboards since these were not allowed in the strict fasting of Lent. The ingredients were made into pancakes, a meal which came to symbolize preparation for the discipline of Lent. Shrove comes from the verb "to shrive", referring to the practice of confessing and receiving absolution in order to begin a holy Lent. Other names for this day include "Carnival" which means "farewell to meat" and Mardi Gras, which means "fat Tuesday".

## Burying the Alleluia

On Sunday, February 11, after the 10:30 service, you are invited to follow the procession outside for the "Burying of the Alleluia". This is a traditional (and dramatic!) way of emphasizing that we don't use "Alleluia" during the season of Lent. On Easter Day we will dig up the Alleluias as we sing "Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!"

## Movie Night!



You must remember this; the parish movie for February will be *Casablanca* (1942), starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Claude Rains, Sydney Greenstreet, and Peter Lorre. As time goes by the film retains its appeal, as the theme of laying one's desires aside for a higher cause works. So round up the usual suspects and attend the screening; the event is sure to be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

As much as I enjoyed working lines from the movie into the previous lines, I tell you the next details accurately. The screening will occur in the chapel on Friday, February 23, at 6:30 p.m. Free drinks and popcorn will be available. Childcare can be available, if notice is given by Wednesday, February 21 by 12 noon by calling the church office (706-546-7553).

— Ken Taylor

## Fill a Blue Bag

In partnership with the Athens Immigrant Rights Coalition who provides support for families in crisis because of possible pending deportation, fill a blue bag. Help us send blue bags of staples along with the member who visit these families.

**BLUE BAG ITEMS:** dried beans rice, corn flour, oil, hand soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

We also have a big blue bag in the education building for larger items that can help families stay warm and comfortable: linens, blankets, and towels.

If you'd like to visit families, contact Elizabeth Dubberly at [edubberly@gmail.com](mailto:edubberly@gmail.com).

## THE GO SUMMIT: Local and Global Mission in the Diocese of Atl

Saturday, February 10 from 8:30AM-3PM at The Cathedral of St. Philip. Keynote Speaker: Robert Lupton, founder of Focused Community Strategies and author of several books including *Toxic Charity*, *Theirs is the Kingdom*, and *Renewing the City*. \$30. Register [here](http://www.episcopalatlanta.org).



## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

### Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens - Training @ St. G's

This year St. Gregory will coordinate with Oconee Street United Methodist Church and Princeton Methodist Church to provide support to IHN families at the IHN Day House during the weeks of March 11-18, 2018 and September 9-16, 2018. **Volunteers are needed to prepare dinner meals; drive vans to school/daycare in the mornings and afternoons; set up/take down for family arrival and departure; serve as a dinner host; and serve as an onsite overnight hosts.**

Stacey Pardue, IHN Assistant Director, will conduct a volunteer training on Sunday, February 11 from 2:00-3:30PM at St. Gregory's. New volunteers must attend a training. Current volunteers are encouraged to attend. **If you plan on attending, please contact Rhonda Packer at [packer.rhonda@gmail.com](mailto:packer.rhonda@gmail.com) or 706-202-2825.**

IHN Athens is a coalition of Athens Area Churches whose mission is to mobilize our community to help homeless families in crisis situations achieve sustainable independence. It is the goal of IHN Athens to give homeless families the opportunity to stay together as a family and the time and resources for up to 90 days to get back on their feet. Families must apply for and be accepted to receive IHN services and a maximum of 3 families participate during a 90-day cycle.

### Tutoring Local Refugees

The Outreach Committee is currently tutoring legal Karen refugees, who fled their homeland in Burma because of fighting and violence. These refugees need assistance to improve their English and learn more about the United States in preparation to take their US citizenship test. There are presently 15 Karen families that live in the Lavender Lakes development in West Athens - some of whom are attending these sessions. If you would like to help, we are getting together with them on Monday, Feb. 5th, 12th & 19th at 10:00 am. Call Cheryl Copeland at (706) 549-9722 or email her at [bccopeland76@gmail.com](mailto:bccopeland76@gmail.com) for more information.

### Hunger Walk

Registration is now open for teams and individuals for the Hunger Walk Run on Sunday, February 25, 2018. This event, in partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, allows the Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia to provide grants supporting hunger-related ministries in our Episcopal parishes.



The parish that raises the most money for hunger will be awarded the Bishop's Cup, which includes a cool trophy, bragging rights, and a \$3,400 grant for your parish's outreach ministries!

This year, the Hunger Walk Run has been moved to the International Plaza at the Georgia World Congress Center (also known as "Falcon's Landing"). Register [here](http://www.hungerwalkrun.org).

### Bringing Faith Home

The office of Congregational Vitality, the Commission for Christian Faith Formation of Atlanta, and Grace Episcopal Church present an exciting workshop ... Bringing Faith Home: Revitalization of the Church Begins in the Home, at Grace Church on Saturday, March 3 from 9AM-3PM, facilitated by The Rev. Dr. David Anderson, Co-Director at Milestones Ministry. To learn more or to register, click [here](http://www.episcopalatlanta.org).

# CHRISTIANFORMATION

## Adult Sunday School

The Book of Amos (Parish Hall)

January 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11

Dr. Joel Hunt will be leading a class for 5 weeks on the book of Amos, beginning January 14. Please bring your Bible and a notebook to this class for discovery and discussion.

## Parenting Spirituality (Office #1)

### Ongoing

Building community through listening and sharing parenting experiences with one another, we share strategies and encouragement while working towards less reactive and more intentional parenting.

**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 February.

## Living Faith: Adult Inquirer's Class

Where are you on your journey of faith? As adults our faith grows and develops over time in light of our life experiences. This class is an opportunity to explore and examine core beliefs and convictions in fellowship with others and in dialogue with scripture, tradition, spiritual practices, and the riches of our Episcopal heritage. We will also reflect on ways to integrate our faith more fully into our daily lives and relationships.

All are welcome; the class is especially appropriate for newcomers and also serves as preparation for those seeking confirmation in the Episcopal Church, or desiring to renew their baptismal vows. Class will begin Sunday, February 4 from 12-1PM and meet for 6 weeks. Contact Rev. Laura for questions.

## Youth

- New Beginnings is Feb. 2nd-4th up at Camp Mikell, and is a middle school youth retreat held by the Atlanta Diocese!
- The Valentines Dinner is scheduled for Feb. 10th!
- Happening 69 is scheduled for Feb. 16th-18th, and is also set up at Camp Mikell! It is a high school retreat led by other young adults in the diocese. Registration for this event closes on Feb. 5th. Click [here](#) to register!

## Rhythms of Grace

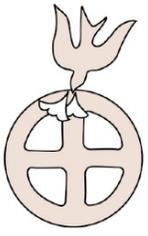


Families looking for a different worship experience are invited to Rhythms of Grace, on **Sunday, February 11 at 3PM** at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church. This adaptive service is designed to be welcoming to those for whom conventional worship may be difficult, including those sensitive to loud music 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!

## Happy Birthday!

February 1	Kenneth Taylor Harper Ann Moffett
February 4	Tina Majsztrik
February 5	Madison Cape
February 7	Charley Laing
February 11	Lane Norton
February 12	Shelby Welch Jude Red Bear
February 13	AJ Preston
February 14	Margaret Heald Mirabelle Freeman
February 15	Stephen Corn
February 16	Karen Hankins Vivian Carabello
February 18	Gary Rollie Oliver Buckley
February 20	Paula Weaver
February 21	Madeleine Lewis Cedric Van Giesen
February 22	Porter Welch John Barrett
February 23	Paula Sanford
February 24	Sonia Vail
February 26	Ben Barkdoll
February 27	Zachary Hamlin Rachel Hoover
February 29	Nancy Watson



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

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