

St. Gregory the Great
Episcopal Church
Athens, GA

GREGORIAN CHANT

MARCH 2017



Dear Friends in Christ,

Nothing better.

There is nothing better to me than having companionship on the journey of faith. This seems most powerfully true for me during the season of Lent, when both personally and corporately, we seek to discern more deeply God's claim on us, ponder anew what it means to lose one's life in order to save it, and stand in awe at the breadth and depth of God's love for us and this world.

I invite you, as it says in the Ash Wednesday service, to the observance of a Holy Lent, and to the joy of companionship on this journey. Read below for more information about special opportunities during the season of Lent.

Invitation to a Holy Lent

You are invited to these special opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and prayer during the season of Lent at St. Gregory's. The season of Lent is a time for rich and lasting spiritual change as we accompany Jesus on the journey to the Cross and prepare for the joy of the Resurrection.

* Scripture Meditation with Noonday Prayers 12-12:40

Wednesdays March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5

This is a contemplative service with time for lectio divina, an ancient and easy practice of savoring and praying the scriptures. All are welcome.

* The 5 Marks of Love : Evening Program and Supper (childcare available)

Wednesdays March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5

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 Marks of Love

If we are "marked as Christ's own forever" what are the "marks of love" that are signs of God's love abiding and at work within us?

In this Lenten series we will be examining and reflecting on the ways in which God's life and God's mission express themselves in and through us. We will look for signs of God's presence and activity in our lives, in our communities, and in the world around us. Each week we will explore one of the "Marks," using short videos, thought-provoking questions and activities, and prayerful discussions to reflect on what God is doing in our lives and in our world.

* Stations of the Cross

Fridays March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7 @ 6 pm in the Nave

The stations mark Jesus' journey through the streets of Jerusalem from his arrest and trial to his crucifixion and burial. At each station, we pause for a brief reading and prayer.

Contemplative Presence

Contemplative Presence will be taking a break and possibly meeting again in the future when a good meeting time can be agreed upon.

Ash
Wednesday 

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 1 and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will have services at 12 noon and 6PM with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist. Childcare will be available for the 6PM service.

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. Copies available in the Christian Education building and the church narthex.

Lent for Children

[Click here](#) for a link to a wonderful site for parents of young children to begin conversations about Lent!

Healing Service During Lent

A reminder that even if you do not wish to join in the Weds. Lenten program, but enjoy attending the Healing Service on Wednesdays, the Healing Service will begin at 5:30PM instead of 6PM all through Lent (beginning March 8).

Movie Night!

The parish movie for March will be *Chocolat* (PG-13, 2000). In the film, Vianne



Rocher (portrayed by Juliette Binoche) and her daughter move into a small, very Catholic village in France in 1960. Vianne opens a chocolate shop at the beginning of Lent, thereby shaking up the moral code of the community. The screening time will be 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 24. Free drinks and popcorn will be available. Child care can be available, given advance notice.

Threads of Prayer

Threads of Prayer will meet on Thursday, March 23 at 10AM in the library. All who knit or crochet are welcome. For more information, [contact](#) Annette Bates.

Faith at Home

Copies of a new book full of practical ideas, *Faith at Home*, by Wendy Claire Barrie are available to share with parishioners. Contact Catherine Drewry cbdrewry@gmail.com or 706-201-7241.

Easter Candy

Donations of candy (peanut free) to fill Easter eggs are needed for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, which takes place after the 10:30 service Easter Sunday.

Our Condolences

- to Allena Armour, on the death of her aunt;

May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Burying the Alleluia

This Sunday, February 26, 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 that the children have prepared and sing “Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!”

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The men of St. Gregory and members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew are, once again, pleased to sponsor our all-you-can-eat Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The pancake supper is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2017 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 Don Miller’s great “secret” 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?

The day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, it used to be the custom 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”.

Regarding the Importance of Studying Scripture

Part of the wonder of the Bible is that, regardless of how long and seriously one studies it, one can always learn more while continuing to study it. This has been my experience. I grew up steeped in the Bible, for my father was a United Methodist minister. I continued Bible study on my own, taking that project into other realms, including the Russian Orthodox canon of scripture (78 books.) I have concluded that the Council of Trent defined the canon of scripture correctly; 73 books is the proper count. For years I have maintained the discipline of my private Bible study by following lectionaries and converting my regimen of Bible study into a blogging project. At every step of this spiritual journey I have encountered wisdom that was always present but that I had missed somehow.

We, as Episcopalians, stand in tradition with Richard Hooker (1554-1600), who formulated the Three-Legged Stool: scripture, tradition, and reason. "Stool" is a misnomer, though, for the leg of scripture is longer than the other legs; one would fall off the stool. Due to the primacy of scripture a better metaphor is a tricycle, with its dominant front wheel. Scripture is the most important topic one can study in church. Our liturgy values scripture so much that we more than one reading each Sunday. If one attends Sunday worship every week for three consecutive years in a congregation that follows the Revised Common Lectionary (as St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church does), one will hear about a quarter of the Protestant Bible read aloud. (According to my reading in the field of lectionaries, a seven-year cycle would be necessary to hear nearly all the Protestant Bible read aloud in Church. I wonder how many churches are ready for Years A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.) We, as a church, obviously pay at least lip service to the priority of scripture. It is fitting, then, to take seriously the study of the Bible also.

I encourage participation in Bible studies in this parish as one is able to attend them.

Kenneth Taylor

Spiritual Formation

At the Spiritual Formation Committee Meeting on February 12 the Committee also planned additional programs for the spring and summer. After Easter Ron Balthazor will present a four week series on Creation, Science and Spirituality. We will also do a multi-week course based on Catherine Meeks' book *Living Gods Dream* as part of the Diocesan-wide effort on Dismantling Racism; and Wayne Coppins is planning a multi-week course on one of the books of the New Testament. During the Summer, we will view selections from the new Great Courses DVD Series by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson of Emory University entitled *Jesus and the Gospels*. These courses will be held Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 and will be offered in parallel to Ken Taylor's weekly discussions of the Lectionary readings for the day. Topics for other courses that were discussed include a series of lessons based upon the parables of Jesus, and a discussion of the book by John Dominic Crossan entitled, *How to Read the Bible & Still Be a Christian*. In the fall the Committee would also like to sponsor a day-long retreat at St. Gregory on some topic. If you have specific ideas about topics or books or discussion leaders that you think would be appropriate for our Sunday morning programs or for a day-long retreat, please contact Bill Alworth or Laura. You don't have to wait for the next meeting of the Spiritual Formation Committee.

Search Committee Update

The search committee has been meeting regularly and we are getting ready to embark on creating our Parish Profile. This will be a multi-step process that will require completing a financial audit, a survey with Holy Cow consulting, focus group conversations and putting together a history of St. Gregory's. For each of these steps we will need lots of community input, photos, honest opinions and prayers.

APPLICATIONS: Once our Parish Profile is complete we will be distributing it far and wide as we search for candidates for the position of Rector. Applications will be handled through the Diocese of Atlanta, but mailing a Parish Profile with a note will be a great way of letting any candidate you know that applications are open. Expect these to be ready by the beginning of the summer.

UP NEXT IN SEARCH PROCESS: This week Search Committee members will spend Saturday participating in the Dismantling Racism program required by the Diocese before we embark upon our Parish Profile. Our March meeting will focus on compiling an inventory of the ministries of St. Gregory the Great so that we can prepare reports for our consultants.

Please keep us, our Diocesan consultant Pat Merchant, Rev. Laura and our parish in your prayers as we work.

*Elizabeth Dubberly
For the Search Committee*

Book Sale

St. Gregory's Occasional Book Sale returns the first three weeks in March, from Saturday, March 4 - Sunday, March 19! We welcome donations of fiction, poetry, prose, DVDs and CDs for our sale. Computer manuals, textbooks, and old reference works (alas) do not sell, so please donate elsewhere or recycle. Please leave clearly marked donations for the book sale in the library near the windows.

If you have textbooks you'd like to get rid of, please consider donating your textbooks to Books for Keeps, a local non-profit that works to improve children's reading achievement by addressing barriers related to the accessibility and appeal of reading material. If you want to bring them to the church and clearly separate them from the book sale items, Kendall can take care of making sure the books get to Books for Keeps. If you want to take care of it yourself, email aaronmm84@gmail.com to set up a time/place to donate your books. They can meet you at a convenient location and pick up any textbooks/non-fiction books you'd like to donate.



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 or 706-546-7552 x2.

*You are sealed by the Holy Spirit
in baptism and marked as
Christ's own forever*

Prayer for the Search Committee

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the hearts and minds of the members of the search committee, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Give them the desire to truly hear each other, and the discernment to hear your voice in all their deliberations. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Pockets Empty?

Many of us today carry no money. We pay our bills using online banking or debit or credit cards. It works for St. Gregory's too. You can instruct your bank, online or in person, to send your pledge contribution regularly to the church, 3195 Barnett Shoals Road, Athens, GA 30605. All that we have - including our very breath - comes from God. Our thoughtful and prayerful act of giving back to God's church acknowledges our dependence and trust in God. Thank you for supporting God's work at St. Gregory's!

Conoly Hester, Stewardship

Happy Birthday!

March 1	OC Carlisle David DeJoy Sami Johnson
March 5	Franchesca Lane Jeremy Hankins
March 7	Jack Armistead Mincey Moffett
March 8	Marilyn Walsh Mark Reinberger Janeanne Napoli Sam Johnson
March 14	Andrew Lane
March 15	Missy Martin Julie Worley
March 16	Max McNiff Emery Freeman
March 18	Beth Davis
March 19	Cheryl Copeland Paul Davis
March 20	Margaret Agner Dylan Severens Jessica Severens
March 22	Rhonda Hefner- Packer Maddy Kuhn Cory Tillman
March 23	Berry Rice
March 24	Nancy Hobart Maggie Reinberger
March 25	Evan Lewis
March 27	Jill Crandall Miles Peck
March 28	Bernice Clark Viviane Van Giesen
March 29	Randall Abney
March 30	Ann Stoneburner
March 31	Erika Knowlton Johnny Wheeler Skylar Davis Nathan Cape

Adult Sunday School

Scripture contains many subtleties and grand themes--more than even the best sermon, based on lectionary readings, can address in the assigned texts on any given Sunday. Shall we meet in the library at 9:15 each Sunday and discuss them?

Youth Sunday School

Gina Defalco is leading a wonderful class from 9:15-10:15am every week. Please wake up earlier and come hang out with her and another adult in the youth room upstairs parish hall! [Email her](#) if you would like to help or have questions.

Children's Sunday School

March 5th – Lenten program

March 12th – Make lunches for the Homeless Day Center

March 19 – April 9th – Workshops focused on The Last Supper and the Eucharist

No Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Thank you!

Shout Outs and Thank-you's to Susanne Burton and Ron Balthazar for organizing the wonderful visit and worship with Jubilee Partners; to Conoly Hester and Julia Marlowe for organizing "Spotlight Sunday" and showcasing our worship ministries; and also to the leaders of our worship ministries—David Stooksbury, Ken Taylor, Jennie Granrose, Ann Stoneburner, Kelly Black, Barbara Dean, and Julia Marlowe, and our music maestros, Jonathan Klein and Joe Napoli, as well as to all the new volunteers!

Healing Grief Group

Wednesdays 4-5:30PM

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 March 12 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 drewrys@hm-e.net. The Rev. Gordon Bienvenue may be reached at 706-850-0090 or gordon11901@gmail.com.

EYC - Episcopal Youth Community: March

Hunger Walk

This is a HUGE diocesan event on **March 5** in Atlanta around Turner Field. Maggie and Julie are contemplating taking the confirmation class. The schedule for the morning is as follows:

- 8am: Leave Athens
- 10am: Easton Davis leading breakfast and youth worship service
- 12-3pm: Lunch and the 5K walk/run around Turner Field
- 3pm: Drive home

As this is Spring Break, I know this will be hard for Clarke County school families to do but please email myself, Maggie, and Julie with any interest so carpooling and registration can happen ASAP. [Click here](#) for the webpage about the event.

Acolytes

We congratulate Kelly Black on accepting the Acolyte Shepherd role. We are revamping the program! Kate is taking over scheduling so anyone wishing to acolyte in grades 3-12 should [email her](#) so scheduling for March through June can be completed. Conflict weekends accepted but once the schedule is published families will be responsible for finding replacements. Kate will include this in her weekly youth email and Facebook posts.

For families not in youth (3-5th graders), will receive a separate reminder email weekly of the acolytes. We want 4 acolytes every week so there can be 2 torches, large cross, and small cross.

Youth Room Paint Night

Sunday March 19 we will have a pizza dinner and paint the youth room. Mark Reinberger will get us brushes and drop cloths. We have the paint. If youth have any ideas or passion in photography or art I would love to hang some in the rooms to make it their own. *Potential Adults: Julie Worley, Carolyn Hodges, Gina Defalco*

Confirmation

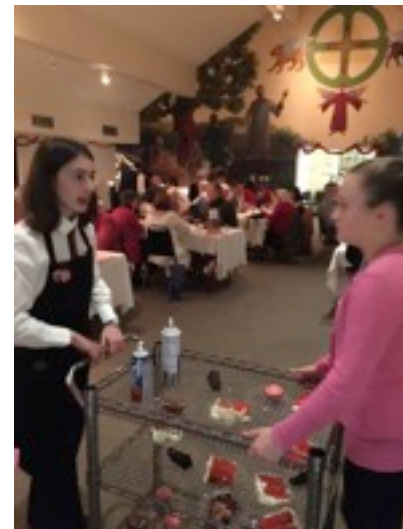
Marge Massey brought lunch last week and is looking for other volunteers to bring lunch for about 12 people. There is money in the youth budget for reimbursement too. Please email her at mmassey@uga.edu if you can provide this service to the class.

- Classes every Sunday from 12-1:30PM until confirmation at Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta on April 2
- Led by Maggie Reinberger, Julie Worley, Rev. Laura Bryant, & Marge Massey
- Marge is organizing lunches for participants
- For youth in 9th-12 grades

Readers

We really need to know who can do this and when so it can be in the bulletin!! The Confirmands are encouraged to sign up with Maggie and Julie for these slots in March:

- New Testament, March 5
- Prayers of the People, March 12
- New Testament, March 19
- Prayers of the People, March 26



Valentine Dinner



Thank you to every one who came out and supported the Youth's Annual Valentine Dinner! They profited \$2000!!



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3195 Barnett Shoals Road
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>>Return Service Requested<<

706-546-7553