

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
The Holy Eucharist—Rite II
Holy Eucharist—Rite II
Recovery Sunday

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026
8:00 AM

The Reverend Christopher Harding, *Celebrant*
Gena Vallee, *Preacher*

September is being observed as Recovery Month and churches across the nation are taking part with special recognition services throughout the month. St. Gregory's is host to several recovery groups and it's only fitting that we join with them as they celebrate their journey of recovery. If you need help with any mental health crises, including addiction, call 988.

Welcome to Saint Gregory's! We invite you to join us in active participation in the worship of God. The service of worship begins with the music of the organ. Through its power and brilliance, may you feel God's majesty and glory—in its quietness, God's peace.

Please silence all cell phones.

Please refrain from bringing food or drink into the sanctuary.

The Organ Prelude

All stand as able, as the bells peal and the Procession enters the Sanctuary.

The Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Gloria in Excelsis *Said by All.*

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 Salutation and Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Said by all.

O Lord, our God, we offer ourselves to you, to build with us and do with us as you see fit. Relieve us of the bondage of self, that we may do your will always. Take away our difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those we would help through your power and your love. Amen.

The People are seated for

A Reading from the Book of Exodus *[17:1-7]*

Jackie Rogers, Lector.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

READER The Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Thanks be to God.***

The Psalm *Recited by all, by whole verse.* *[25:1-8]*

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
2 Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
4 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
8 He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians *[2:1-13]*

Gena Vallee, Lector.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

READER The Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Thanks be to God.***

The People stand for

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW *[21:23-32]*

PEOPLE ***Glory to you Lord Christ.***

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

GOSPELER The Gospel of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Praise to you Lord Christ.***

The People are seated for

THE SERMON *GENA VALLEE, PREACHER*

The People stand for

THE NICENE CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Led by Jeff Miller.*

The Leader says

God, help us to admit our powerlessness and the unmanageability of our lives. Lord, there are some things over which we have no control. The more we try to manage them alone, the worse they become. Without your help, our lives just don't make sense. We have come to believe that a Power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity. Restore us to sanity, Lord. *(Based on AA, Steps 1 and 2)*

The People respond:
Loving God, receive our prayer.

God, help us to make a decision to turn our will and our lives over to your care. It is difficult to let go and to let you work your grace in our lives, Lord. But you are God, who meets us where we are. Help us to release our grip and flow into the loving arms of your embrace. *(Based on AA, Step 3)*
Loving God, receive our prayer.

God, help us to make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. With your help Lord, we can face our brokenness and share that brokenness with a person we trust, admitting to you, to ourselves, and to that person the exact nature of our wrongs. We will not be abandoned, and we trust that you will remove these stumbling blocks that cause us to fall. We are entirely ready to have you remove all these defects of character and to give us strength when we are tempted to fall back into old patterns of behavior. God, we ask you to remove our shortcomings. *(Based on AA, Steps 4, 5, 6, and 7)*
Loving God, receive our prayer.

God, help us to make a list of all persons we have harmed and become willing to make amends to them all. As hard as it is, God, we will make amends to all whom we have injured whenever possible, except when to do so would cause even more hurt. Grant us courage to make our amends. *(Based on AA, Steps 8 and 9)*
Loving God, receive our prayer.

God, help us to continue to reflect on our thoughts and actions, especially those that tempt us to sin, and when we are wrong, help us to admit it. It is not enough to live these prayers once. Help us to reflect often on who we are and who we are becoming. Give us humility to know ourselves. *(Based on AA, Step 10)*
Loving God, receive our prayer.

Through prayer and meditation we will continue to improve our conscious contact with you, God, praying only for knowledge of your will for us and the power to carry that out. We know that prayer and meditation takes practice, God. Help us to learn and grow in the ways we seek to hear your voice. We pray, Lord, for the power, grace, and will to seek you out in all that we do, to know and to do your will always, day by day. *(Based on AA, Step 11)*
Loving God, receive our prayer.

Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these practices, we will try to carry the message of your love to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs. All good gifts are meant to be shared, God. Grant us grace and opportunity to share the blessings you have given to us and to let our lives reflect them in our prayer. *(Based on AA, Step 12)*
Loving God, receive our prayer.

We pray also for the special needs and concerns of this congregation:
Please add any intercessions specific to your community.
Loving God, receive our prayer.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is know to you alone, and especially for those lost to the disease of addiction, that, with all the saints, they may rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal.
The people may add their own petitions.
Loving God, receive our prayer.

The Celebrant adds this concluding collect.

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, and for ever. ***AMEN.***

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

FROM ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP

Deacon or Celebrant

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. AMEN.

The Celebrant says,

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 the Lord be always with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.
All are welcomed formally as announcements, birthday, and anniversary blessings are made.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

An offering will be collected at this time. To make an electronic offering via your phone, simply scan this QR Code with your camera application, and follow the prompts, or text SGEgive to: 833-672-4095. Your gifts make a meaningful difference. Thank you for walking in love and responding in faith.

The People stand as the Gifts are presented.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***
CELEBRANT Lift up your hearts.
PEOPLE ***We lift them to the Lord.***
CELEBRANT Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
PEOPLE ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit

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.

The People stand or kneel as able. The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We remember his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob, Bilha, Zilpah, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation ***AMEN.***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

CELEBRANT Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
PEOPLE ***Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.***

The Invitation to Communion

Facing the people, the celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

In the Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion. In Jesus' name, all are welcome! At the time of Holy Communion, please follow the direction of the ushers. Both the Host (the blessed wafer) and the Chalice (wine) will be offered. If you prefer to receive only the Host, it is full communion. We also provide gluten-free Hosts. Please indicate your preference for a gluten-free Host to the Eucharistic Minister at the altar. Should you not wish to receive Holy Communion, you are still invited to come to the altar for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference for a blessing.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

After Communion, the People stand as the Celebrant says

Now, let us give thanks for all we have received.

All say together

Holy, gracious, and loving God, you have welcomed us into your presence, poured your forgiving and healing power upon us, and nourished us with holy food and drink. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, to proclaim your truth and live your love, one day at a time, forever more. AMEN.

The Celebrant says

In the presence of our Creator who has led us to this holy space and time, let us say together the Serenity Prayer:

All say together

God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as we would have it; trusting that you will make all things right if we surrender to your will, so we may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next.

The Blessing

May the Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, giving you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the wonderful works of God; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***AMEN.***

The Dismissal

DEACON Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

PEOPLE ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

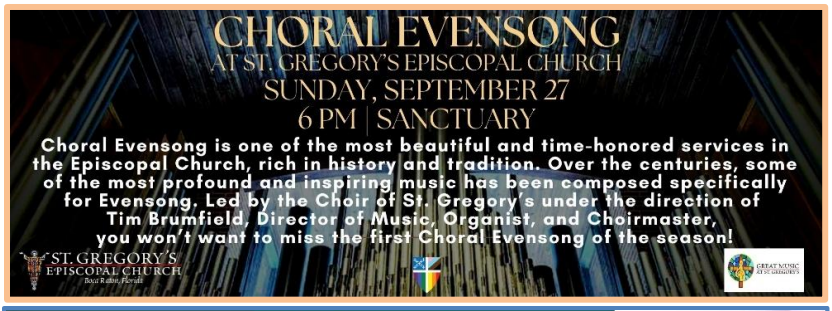
The Trumpets sound as the Procession retires.

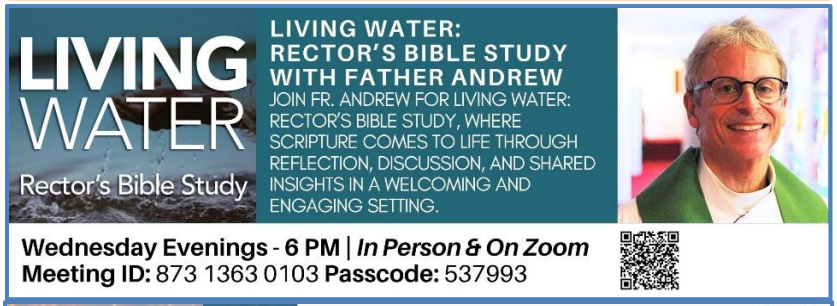
The Organ Voluntary

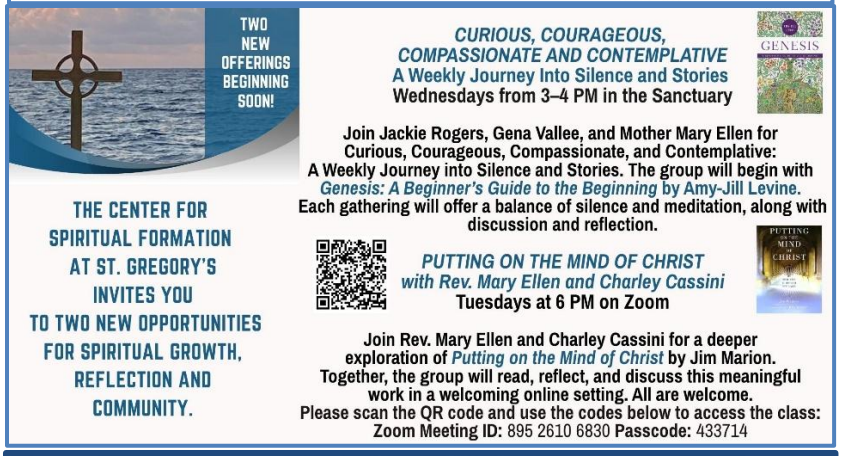
We welcome you to this service of worship! It is our fervent prayer that you will find God's love and peace in this holy place. We invite you to explore life at St. Gregory's by speaking with one of the clergy. Please scan the QR code and fill out the form provided to be sent information about all the opportunities and ministries offered at St. Gregory's!

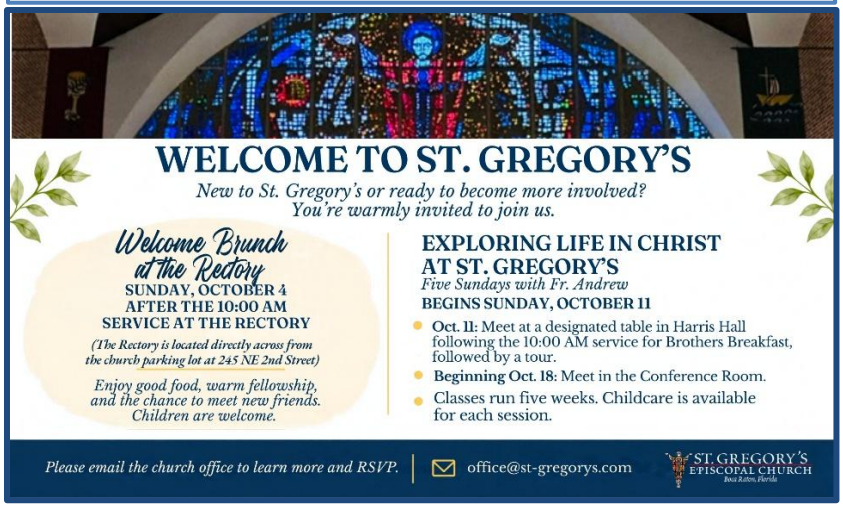
We welcome Gena Vallee, Director of Outreach and Pastoral Support, as our guest preacher this morning.

If you would like to attend a recovery support group, Men's AA meets Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in Harris Hall and Al-Anon meets Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in the Youth Room.


CHORAL EVENSONG
AT ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
6 PM | SANCTUARY
Choral Evensong is one of the most beautiful and time-honored services in the Episcopal Church, rich in history and tradition. Over the centuries, some of the most profound and inspiring music has been composed specifically for Evensong. Led by the Choir of St. Gregory's under the direction of Tim Brumfield, Director of Music, Organist, and Choirmaster, you won't want to miss the first Choral Evensong of the season!
ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH


LIVING WATER
Rector's Bible Study
LIVING WATER: RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER ANDREW
JOIN FR. ANDREW FOR LIVING WATER: RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY, WHERE SCRIPTURE COMES TO LIFE THROUGH REFLECTION, DISCUSSION, AND SHARED INSIGHTS IN A WELCOMING AND ENGAGING SETTING.
Wednesday Evenings - 6 PM | In Person & On Zoom
Meeting ID: 873 1363 0103 Passcode: 537993


TWO NEW OFFERINGS BEGINNING SOON!
THE CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION AT ST. GREGORY'S INVITES YOU TO TWO NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH, REFLECTION AND COMMUNITY.
CURIOUS, COURAGEOUS, COMPASSIONATE AND CONTEMPLATIVE
A Weekly Journey Into Silence and Stories
Wednesdays from 3–4 PM in the Sanctuary
Join Jackie Rogers, Gena Vallee, and Mother Mary Ellen for Curious, Courageous, Compassionate, and Contemplative: A Weekly Journey into Silence and Stories. The group will begin with Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning by Amy-Jill Levine. Each gathering will offer a balance of silence and meditation, along with discussion and reflection.
PUTTING ON THE MIND OF CHRIST
with Rev. Mary Ellen and Charley Cassini
Tuesdays at 6 PM on Zoom
Join Rev. Mary Ellen and Charley Cassini for a deeper exploration of Putting on the Mind of Christ by Jim Marion. Together, the group will read, reflect, and discuss this meaningful work in a welcoming online setting. All are welcome.
Please scan the QR code and use the codes below to access the class:
Zoom Meeting ID: 895 2610 6830 Passcode: 433714


WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S
New to St. Gregory's or ready to become more involved?
You're warmly invited to join us.
Welcome Brunch at the Rectory
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
AFTER THE 10:00 AM SERVICE AT THE RECTORY
(The Rectory is located directly across from the church parking lot at 245 NE 2nd Street)
Enjoy good food, warm fellowship, and the chance to meet new friends. Children are welcome.
EXPLORING LIFE IN CHRIST AT ST. GREGORY'S
Five Sundays with Fr. Andrew
BEGINS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
Oct. 11: Meet at a designated table in Harris Hall following the 10:00 AM service for Brothers Breakfast, followed by a tour.
Beginning Oct. 18: Meet in the Conference Room.
Classes run five weeks. Childcare is available for each session.
Please email the church office to learn more and RSVP.
office@st-gregorys.com
ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH