

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church  
**THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II**  
ADVENT III  
GAUDETE SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 15, 2025

8:00 AM

THE REVEREND ANDREW J. SHERMAN, *CELEBRANT*  
THE REVEREND DR. ROBYN M. NEVILLE, *PREACHER*

*Welcome to Saint Gregory's! We invite you to join us in active participation in the worship of God.  
This leaflet contains the service music and congregational portions of the liturgy taken from the Book of Common Prayer.  
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 turn off all electronic devices including cell phones.*

**THE ORGAN PRELUDE**

*All stand as the bells peal and the Procession enters the sanctuary.*

**THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE—JOY**

CELEBRANT Let us join together in the lighting of the Advent Wreath.

LEADER The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
PEOPLE ***Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.***  
LEADER We join with sisters and brothers around the world, lighting candles to mark our steps in this Advent journey.  
PEOPLE ***Today, we light the candle of Joy.***  
LEADER Even though the world seems dark and cold, we know that the light of Christ is coming. The face of our Lord will shine, and we shall be saved.  
PEOPLE ***Testifying against all suffering and darkness, we kindle this light. Together, we proclaim to the world that in Christ, we have Joy.***

**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.***

*The Celebrant continues*

**A**lmighty 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 TRISAGION** *Said by All three times.*

***Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.***

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

CELEBRANT The Lord be with you.  
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***  
CELEBRANT Let us pray.

**S**tir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*The People are seated for*

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH**

[35:1-10]

*Betsy Wenzel, Lector.*

**T**he wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

READER	The Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE	<b><i>Thanks be to God.</i></b>

**M**y soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
 From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
 the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
 He has mercy on those who fear him  
 in every generation.  
 He has shown the strength of his arm,  
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
 and has lifted up the lowly.  
 He has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he has sent away empty.  
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
 The promise he made to our fathers,  
 to Abraham and his children for ever.

*All stand as able for the Gloria Patri.*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**  
*as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

*The People are seated for*

**A READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF JAMES**

[5:7-10]

*Jackie Rogers, Lector.*

**B**e patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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**

[11:2-11]

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

**W**hen John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

READER The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE ***Praise to you Lord Christ.***

*The People are seated.*

**THE SERMON** *THE REVEREND DR. ROBYN M. NEVILLE, PH. D.*

*Silence is kept.*

*The People stand for*

**THE NICENE CREED**

**W**e 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** *Michelle Santarelli, leader. The People pray responsively with words in **Bold**.*

Sisters and brothers, as we joyfully await the full manifestation of God's reign in Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church and the world.

*O Wisdom*, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High and reach from beginning to end, mightily ordering all things. Behold and bless your church. Be present in the ordering of our common life together at St. Gregory's.

***Come and teach us the way of prudence.***

*O Adonai*, God of the Covenant, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave your law. Forgive us when we stray from your guidance and will.

***Come and redeem us for our life together.***

*O Root of Jesse*, you stand as a sign to humankind. Before you rulers will shut their mouths and nations bow in worship. We pray for your peace and justice in every nation. Be present to all whose lives are ravaged by war and strife. Guide the leaders of this and every land into the path of peace.

***Come save us and do not delay.***

*O Key of David*, and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open. Guide us in opening the doors of opportunity for the unemployed, for the homeless, for prisoners, and for all who are oppressed. And lead us in closing the doors to poverty, bigotry, and injustice.

***Come and free the captives.***

*O King of the Nations*, you are the cornerstone that makes us one. We lift up all who are suffering and in need. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous and help us minister to them in your love.

***Come and save us whom you have fashioned out of clay.***

*O Dayspring*, radiance of the Light Eternal and Sun of Righteousness. Shine your light on those who have died and bring comfort to all those who mourn.

***Come and enlighten all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.***

*O Emmanuel*, God with us, Expected One and Savior, we give thanks for all the blessings of this life. Make each of us ready to receive you into our hearts, to serve you in all whom we meet, and to greet you in the fullness of your glory in the day of your appearing.

***Come and save us, O Lord our God.***

*The People may add their own petitions at this time. The Celebrant adds the concluding collect.*

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

*Deacon or Celebrant*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept.*

**M**ost merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant says,*

**A**lmighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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.*

*The people stand as the Gifts are presented.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

*The Celebrant says*

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

*The Celebrant proceeds*

**I**t is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT

**H**oly, 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 may stand, sit, or kneel as the Celebrant continues*

**W**e give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

***We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.***

*The Celebrant continues*

**A**nd we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Gregory, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**O**ur 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

**T**he 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 POST COMMUNION PRAYER

POEM BY JAN RICHARDSON

*After Communion the People stand as the Celebrant says  
Let us pray.*

*All say together*

**B**lessed are you who bear the light in unbearable times, who testify to its endurance amid the unendurable, who bear witness to its persistence when everything seems in shadow and grief. Blessed are you in whom the light lives, in whom the brightness blazes— your heart a chapel, an altar where in the deepest night can be seen the fire that shines forth in you in unaccountable faith, in stubborn hope, in love that illumines every broken thing it finds. AMEN.

## THE BLESSING

**A**s we wait expectantly and with hope renewed for the coming of Christ as both the Child of Bethlehem and the Judge of the nations, may the blessing of God, Abba, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

## 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 POSTLUDE

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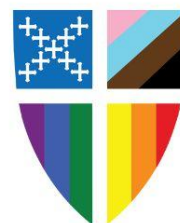
*We welcome you to this service of worship!* It is our fervent prayer that you will find God's love and peace in this holy place. We invite you to explore life at St. Gregory's by speaking with one of the clergy. Please scan the QR code below and fill out the form provided to be sent information about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



*\*The Prayers of the People* are adapted from an original source provided through the *United Church of Christ* and has been used in previous years at *St. Luke's Church*, Fairport, NY. The chief feature is the use the Great "O" Antiphon messianic titles to address God as well as provide the responses of the people. The prayers are set in a form for use in either the Episcopal Church in the United States or the Anglican Church of Canada.

*Today we will celebrate Gaudete Sunday* when the clergy don their beautiful rose-pink vestments, and we light the rose-pink candle of the Advent Wreath. Advent was originally observed as a 40 day fast in preparation for Christmas, beginning after the *Feast of Saint Martin* when it was often referred to as *St. Martin's Lent* as early as the fifth century. In the ninth century, the season of Advent was reduced to four weeks, beginning four Sundays before Christmas, and the season retained characteristics of a penitential season. *Gaudete "Rejoice" Sunday* is akin to *Laetare Sunday* in Lent and serves as a midway break from some of the penitential elements of the liturgy and is a signal of the nearness of the Lord's coming.

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Dear Friends and Members of St Gregory's,

The members of our Beloved Community are delighted to invite you to join us as we launch a new LGBTQIA+ Fellowship Gathering in the Second floor Conference Room, a space where ALL God's children are celebrated, supported, and affirmed. Rooted in the Episcopal tradition of openness and love, this gathering is an opportunity to share in community, conversation, and Christ-centered fellowship.

**Event: LGBTQIA+ Fellowship Gathering**

**Date: Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**Time: 12:00 Noon - After Brothers Breakfast is enjoyed**

**Location: 2nd floor Conference Room**

This event is open to ALL- LGBTQIA+ individuals, allies, families, and anyone seeking a safe and joyful place to connect in faith. Together, we hope to create a circle of the St Gregory's Beloved Community where stories are honored, questions are embraced, and God's love is made visible in our care for one another.

Come as you are, as you are loved, welcomed, and you belong here!

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, December 14!

See you soon!

In Christ's Peace,

Fr. Andrew Sherman

Rev. Robyn Neville

Cyndi Bloom- Co-Chair The Beloved Community

Robb Rusinko. Member The Beloved Community



# *A St. Gregory's Christmas*



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21  
AT 6 PM**

**The Choir of St. Gregory's**  
Timothy J. Brumfield  
Director of Music, Organist & Choirmaster  
with Soloists and Guest Musicians

***A Service of Readings, Anthems and Carols  
Celebrating the Season of Advent  
and the Birth of Christ***

**SAINT GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
*The Cultural and Sacred Hub of Arts and Service*



# Holiday TOY DRIVE

During this Holiday Season, we will be welcoming unwrapped toys and gift cards from now through December 17th. We are also in need of wrapping paper and gift bag items.

Gifts may be brought to Church on Sundays or dropped off in the Church Office on weekdays.

St. Gregory's generous support of Family Promise now and throughout the year brings us closer to reaching our mission: "*Every Child Deserves a Home* "

Thank you for all you do for the kids !

Blessings,  
Paula Holgerson  
954-325-6955 | [plholgerson@hotmail.com](mailto:plholgerson@hotmail.com)







COME HOME TO ST. GREGORY'S  
THIS CHRISTMAS

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**4 PM** - The Christmas Story  
(Christmas Pageant with Eucharist)

**7 PM** - A Service of Lessons and Carols

**10:30 PM** - Prelude featuring the Choir of St. Gregory's

**11 PM** - The Christ Mass  
(Choral Eucharist and Sermon with incense)

### CHRISTMAS DAY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

#### Christmas Day Service

**10 AM** - Christmas Day Eucharist

## CLERGY AND STAFF

RECTOR *THE REVEREND ANDREW J. SHERMAN*  
SENIOR ASSOCIATE RECTOR *THE REVEREND DR. ROBYN M. NEVILLE*  
PASTORAL COUNSELOR AND CLERGY ASSOCIATE *THE REVEREND ELIZABETH PANKEY-WARREN*  
CLERGY ASSOCIATE *THE REVEREND JEAN BRUNO*  
CLERGY ASSOCIATE *THE REVEREND DR. EMILIO ROSOLEN*  
CLERGY ASSOCIATE EMERITUS *THE REVEREND DR. R. CRAIG BURLINGTON*  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY, ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER *TIMOTHY J. BRUMFIELD*  
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH AND PASTORAL SUPPORT *GENA VALLEE*  
YOUTH MINISTRIES PROGRAM COORDINATOR *ANITA SHERMAN*  
SENIOR VERGER *JEFF MILLER*  
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR *KRISTEN CHANEY*  
COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA COORDINATOR *DAWN RAHICKI*  
AUDIO/VISUAL COORDINATOR *LOUIS BIRRO*  
FINANCIAL MANAGER *LEANDA ROBINSON*  
OFFICE MANAGER *KAY HOLT*  
FACILITIES MANAGER/SEXTON *STEVE DEMOREUILLE*

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## SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
10:00 AM Choral Eucharist  
9:45 AM Church School  
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Evening Prayer, or Choral Evensong

## WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Morning Prayer, 9:00 AM (Tuesday and Wednesday, online and in-person; Monday, Thursday and Friday, in-person.)  
Holy Eucharist every Tuesday and Thursday at 12 noon

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*Transforming  
Hearts and  
Community  
through  
Jesus' Love*



### SAINT GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH *The Cultural and Sacred Hub of Arts and Service*

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Diverse  
Traditional  
Dynamic

