



First Presbyterian Church of Athens

In response to God's grace, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to create a community where people seek the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejoice in worship, and go forth sharing the love of Christ with Athens and the world!

March 1, 2020
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space this morning, **please silence your cell phone.** The nursery is available downstairs during both services. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin, or large-print hymnal.*

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

Forty Days and Forty Nights

C.P.E. Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Save Your Vision Month

Julie Hayes

Song of Gathering

Hymn 77, Stanza 1

**Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.**

Call to Worship

We do not live by bread alone,
so we gather to feast on God's sustaining Word.

We come at the Spirit's leading
to offer ourselves in service to Christ.

Come, find strength for the journey.

Let us worship the one, true God.

***Hymn 477** *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim* HANOVER

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you call us to worship and to serve only you. Yet, when other things demand our attention, we stray from the path Jesus tread. We serve powers that privilege the comfort of some over the well-being of many. We serve a culture that values competition over collaboration. We serve our own desires without considering the needs of our neighbors. Forgive us, Lord. Send your Spirit to guide us back to you. Free us from the clutches of sin and death and draw us close, that we might respond to the grace we know in Christ and follow the ways of justice and righteousness.

*Silent Prayer

*The congregation is invited to speak or sing the liturgy in **bold** type.*

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, and check in on Facebook.

FPC 2nd Graders are our Communion Helpers. Bringing in the bread and cup at the 11:00 a.m. service are Evie Bawcum Art Ryder.

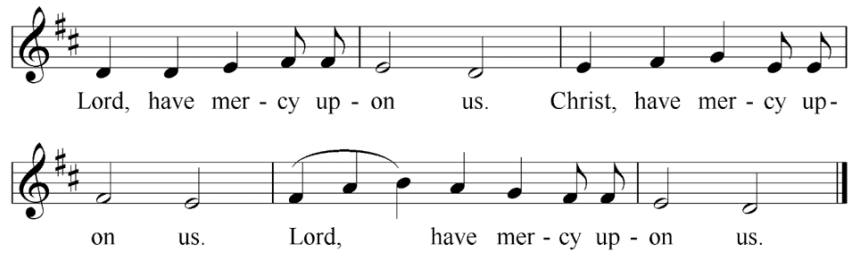
Hymn 477 resembles many 18th-century drawings that show parallels between worship on earth and worship in heaven, especially as described in Revelation 7:9-11. The tune has had many names; the one used here honors the dynasty of British monarchs, 1714-1901.

After a moment of silent prayer, the traditional response Kyrie eleison ("Lord have mercy") will be sung.

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Congregational Response**

Healey Willan



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

At "The Peace," worshipers are invited to greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

On Communion Sundays children are invited to remain in the sanctuary.

The anthem, sung by the St. Andrews Choir, is a traditional text for Lent set to an English folksong, *The Turtle Dove* by contemporary English composer Richard Shephard.

The stanzas of Hymn 339 are selected from a 20th century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating back to at least the 10th century. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***The Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

11:00 Anthem

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Richard Shephard

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay. As thou did hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self and chiefly live by thy most holy word. And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide, yes, evermore, in life and death, Jesus, with us abide!

First Lesson

Psalm 19:7-10, page 488

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson

Mark 10:17-31, page 923

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Possessed

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 339**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

***Affirmation of Faith**

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 Offertory

Be Thou My Vision

Paul Manz

11:00 Offertory

Wash Me Thoroughly

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

***Doxology**

Hymn 592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

“...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na
in the high- est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

“...Great is the mystery of faith:”

Christ has died; Christ is ris - en;
Christ will come a - gain.

“...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever.”

A - men, a - men, a - men.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

The musical setting of the communion liturgy is by contemporary American composer Thomas Pavlechko.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 81** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 540, Stanza 2

**God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

***Postlude** *Improvisation on SLANE* John Coble

*Following worship, all
are invited for a time of
fellowship in the Atrium.*

*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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A special word of welcome to our guests: thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Please fill out the fellowship pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

Nurseries for infants and toddlers, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

Children's Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays. Children's Church will resume next Sunday.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Acolytes

Chase Parker and Sammy Pope

Call to Worship Liturgist

Lachlan Morris

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Jill Hopkins

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),

Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller (head),

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. Jayne Bailey, Jane Mann,

Carol McKay, Kitty Lay

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Sara Kipp and Phyllis Crowell from Circle 7

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Cuyler Marshall (Buck) Adams given by his wife, Diane Albert Adams.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is on Facebook.

Available in the Narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS:

SONGS OF LOVE

We started our daily e-mail Lenten Devotionals on Ash Wednesday. Written by members and friends of the church, each meditation is a reflection on a favorite hymn which we hope will keep you humming all day. To receive the daily devotional, please contact the church office. Desiring to be good stewards of creation, only a few copies will be printed and available for those who do not use email.

WEEK OF WONDER 2020:

Growing God's Love!

Online Registration Opens March 2

First Presbyterian Vacation Bible School has a new name – Week of Wonder! Mark your calendars with our Week of Wonder, Tuesday, May 26 - Friday, May 29. We need adult and youth volunteers. Please contact Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org if you would like to join our wonderful Week of Wonder Volunteer Team.

SAVE YOUR VISION MONTH

Your donation of old but useful eyeglasses will help many who are in need of vision correction receive a true “twenty-twenty” gift in the year 2020. Donations accepted include prescription glasses, reading glasses, and sunglasses (prescription or plain). Our Bicentennial goal is to collect 200+ pair of glasses. Donation stations are located in the Atrium and at both Dougherty Street entrances.

FAMILY PROMISE OF ATHENS

The next Family Promise of Athens host week is March 22 - 29. The sign-up poster is available in the Atrium. Please contact Susan Boatwright at boatwrightsusan@gmail.com, Jean Bock at jboc@bellsouth.net, or Frank Sherrill at frankwsherrill@gmail.com with questions.

NEW FPC T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!

In celebration of our church's 200th birthday, we are selling new t-shirts. Adult sizes are \$20 and child sizes are \$10. All proceeds benefit the Puerto Rico Mission Trip. They will be on sale between the services and after the 11:00 a.m. service or you may contact Kim Ness at kness@firstpresathens.org to purchase yours.

Wed@First: Dinner and Conversation

Wednesday, March 4, Fellowship Hall

Dinner: 5:45 p.m.

\$8/adult, \$5/child (12 and under), \$20 max per family. Please make reservations for dinner on the Fellowship Pad, online, or by contacting the church office **by Mondays at 12:00 p.m.** Please contact Rosemary Stancil (rstancil@charter.net) if you would like to help cook or clean up.

Conversation: 6:30-7:30 p.m led by Dr. Ryan Baer - *The Book of Psalms*

What is a psalm? Who wrote the psalms, and why? Why should we bother reading, praying, and singing the psalms today? Join us in the Moses Waddel room from 6:30-7:30 during Wed@First as Dr. Ryan Baer leads us in a conversation about the Book of Psalms.

Stephen Ministry

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God's plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.

So when you are experiencing difficult times, don't struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life or the life of someone that you know. Our Stephen Ministry team works with church members and non-members. **Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!**

Contact a Stephen Leader for more information:

Bob Frisch: rpfrisch@aol.com, 914-262-1078

Dawn Frisch: dawnmfrisch@aol.com, 914-255-3447

Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com, 706-540-4251

Carol Strickland: cstrickland@firstpresathens.org, 706-765-7671

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants - 5th Grade

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Infants • Nursery Baby Room

Room Lead: Rita Raines

Toddlers - Preschoolers • Nursery Playroom

Room Lead: Mary Smith

Our toddler and preschooler curriculum is Group Publishing's *Play-n-Worship*. It is filled with music, activities, and storyboards that encourage little ones to interact with Bible stories.

Pre-Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Our elementary aged children will experience Godly Play during Sunday School. Godly Play helps children to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language, and to grow their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

Pre-Kindergarten - 1st Grade • Godly Play Room 127

2nd - 3rd Grade • Godly Play Room 126

4th - 5th Grade • Godly Play Room 124

Godly Play Guides: Jennifer Abbott, Carol Ashmore, Natalie Bishop, Charlotte Chromiak, Jody Corry, Greta Covington, Jill Crim, Margaret Davis, Susan Ferguson, Madie Fischetti, Julie Hayes, Denise Horton, Sydney Jackson, Matt Jones, Paul Lee, Carmen Meadows, Lisa Oelke, Heather Roberts, Carol Strickland, Dan Trier, Gail Wilfong

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Christian Issues • Room 308

Study of *The Story - The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People* (NIV version). The Bible in chronological order, related as a story.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies.

- March 1: DVD Studies, *The Other Side of History*.
- Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss, Larry Jones

Living on a Prayer • March 1: Fellowship Hall Devotionals based on scripture, led by different class members. Join us as we pack sack lunches for the Homeless Day Center on the first Sunday of the month.
Coordinator: Karen Burg

New Voices • Room 310

Finishing the study of the book, *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor and study of the book, *The Book of Job* by Donald Kraus.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Andrew Marshall

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

Study of the New Testament book of Revelation.

Led by: Jerris Hayes

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley-Stern

Study of *John Calvin for the Armchair Theologian*, by Christopher Elwood.

Led by: Jim Scanlon

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Study of Exodus in our verse-by-verse approach.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

College Interns: Jordan Osborne, Leighton Parker, Natalie Siegman

Youth in grades 6-12 are fortunate to have their own special space, lovingly called "The PIT," located on the basement level. The PIT features small group break-out rooms, a kitchen, pool tables, and comfortable couches to just hang out.

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:45-10:40 a.m.

This year Youth Sunday School will follow the Narrative Lectionary. After a time of fellowship and donuts, we will read the day's scripture and talk about how it applies to our lives today. Rotating leadership by: Kathy Bangle, Meghan Bawcum, Susan Boatright, Robbie Bryan, Jean Martin-Williams, and Erik Ness.
TODAY: *Jesus and the rich man*.

SUNDAY EVENINGS 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Youth Group is held 2-3/month (visit www.fpcathenspitt.com for full calendar). We first gather for dinner in Fellowship Hall provided by volunteers before moving to the PIT for middle school and high school small groups.
TONIGHT: *A Holy Journey to the Cross - Jesus' journey to serve*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 1, First Sunday in Lent, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship and Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Tea, Home of Sandy and Jim Boyles, 1021 Maple Court, Athens
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Choir, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner and Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. MS and HS Small Groups, The PIT

Monday, March 2

- 8:30 a.m. Week of Wonder 2020 (VBS) Online Registration Opens
- 10:00 a.m. Circle Two, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

Tuesday, March 3

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Kitty Donnan
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, March 4

- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare Class, The Merchant of Venice, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. Ukulele Class, Room 203
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. A Conversation about the Book of Psalms, Dr. Baer, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 5

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:30 p.m. Mellows, Quiet Oaks, Crawford
- 5:30 p.m. Family Promise of Athens Training, First Baptist Church Day Center

Friday, March 6

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday School Teacher Training Conference - No School

Sunday, March 8, Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time Begins, New Member Reception

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 11** Circle 7, Bookless Book Group
- March 12** Josephine Paine Bible Study Class
- March 17** Our Daily Bread, Breakfast
- March 22 & 25** Envisioning the Future of the Church with Matt Bishop
- March 22 - 29** Family Promise of Athens Host Week
- March 24** First Friends

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2020	CLASS OF 2021	CLASS OF 2022
Jeff Bangle	Jennifer Walden Abbott	Karen Burg
Meghan Bawcum	Sandy Boyles	Kitty Donnan
Bob Burton	Michelle Clendenen-Shaw	Larry Jones
Julie Hayes	Elizabeth Earl	Andy Jordan
Sydney Jackson	Ed Ferguson	Jimbo LaBoon
Avery McLean	Rob Haire	Tom Landrum
Jeanne Nadenicek	Grace Lu	Beverly Phares
Carl Nichols	Chris Pope	Courtney Pittman
Tom Reigle	Mixon Robinson	Smith Wilson
Judy Scanlon	Rosemary Stancil	

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School*
Mr. Roger Burbage, *Church Administrator*
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Administrative Assistant for
Congregational Care & Membership*
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist*
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant*
Ms. Katherine Worsham, *Accountant*
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant*
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant*
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*

STUDENT INTERNS

Ms. Naina Amballa, *Website Technician*
Ms. Jordan Osborne, *Middle School Ministry*
Ms. Natalie Siegman, *High School Ministry*

WADDEL FELLOWS

Ms. Emmaline Michael, *Mission & Outreach*
Ms. Leighton Parker, *High School Ministry*

**PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**