



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 29, 2020
11:00 a.m. Livestream
Fifth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

My Lord, What a Morning Richard Billingham

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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

Let us worship the Lord, who is enthroned forever,

Whose name endures for all generations.

Nations fear the name of the Lord,

And all its leaders God's glory.

Praise the Lord, who answers prayer,

Whose love endures forever.

Hymn 442

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

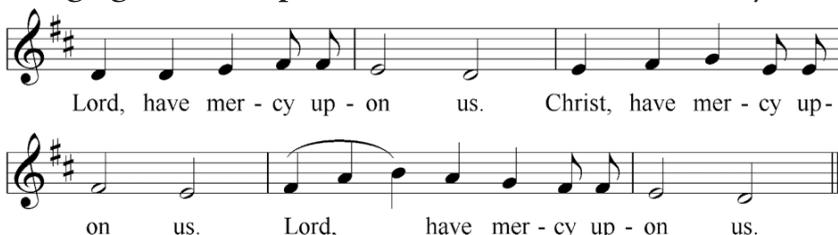
Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have sinned by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have sinned by what we have said, and by what we have left unsaid. In your grace, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, to the glory of your holy name.

Silent Prayer

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

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.

A special word of welcome: thank you for being with us online for worship this morning. We are delighted and hope that you will join us again next Sunday.

The Church's One Foundation was one of twelve hymns written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 102:12-17, page 542

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

Anthem

Keep Your Lamps!

André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

Second Lesson

Mark 13:1-8; 24-37, page 927

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

Sermon

The End of the Age

Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 449

My Lord! What a Morning

African-American spiritual

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.

Prayers of the People and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

When We Are in Deepest Need

J. S. Bach

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

The anthem is a spiritual arranged by Dr. André Thomas, contemporary American composer, conductor, and professor of music at Florida State University.

The spiritual *My Lord! What a Morning* reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes as recorded in Mark 13:24-26. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Please mail your check to the church office or go to our website:
firstpresathens.org/home/giving

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Hymn 210 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

Benediction

Congregational Response

**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.**

Hymn 540, Stanza 2

Postlude *Fugue in E-flat* J. S. Bach

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

Many people sing *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because the text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to the tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

A Word from the Session of First Presbyterian Church

March 25, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ! We pray that this letter finds you well and that you stay well.

Yesterday, in a called meeting via video-conference, we extended the church's current emergency operating plan through April 30. Due to the ongoing national emergency, the church building will be closed through the month of April, and all in-person gatherings are suspended.

However, the work of the church will continue. We will continue to move worship services and education opportunities to online formats. We are in constant communication with our mission partners about how the church might be a resource during these uncertain times. Ministries of pastoral care and compassion continue, and trained Stephen Ministers are available to those who request a partner with whom to walk through these difficult days. The church staff continues to work remotely, and they continue to find new and innovative ways to faithfully carry out their ministries. Thanks to modern technology, the main church office phone will continue to be answered during regular business hours should you need to reach any member of the staff.

We are mindful that this emergency operation plan will dramatically change much of what we had planned for Holy Week and Easter. In some sense, we are getting a small taste of what our ancestors in faith endured in seasons of exile; we are unable to gather together in the house of the Lord, and we long for better days. At the same time, we are mindful that even in exile, our ancestors still found ways to mark holy days and to worship together. As Jesus himself

reminds us, wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is there also. Therefore, we will still observe Palm Sunday at 11 a.m. on April 5, Maundy Thursday on April 9 at 7 p.m., Good Friday on April 10 at 7 p.m., and Easter on April 12 at 11 a.m. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and to the church website about how to engage in these Holy Week observances.

We are mindful that there are mixed messages coming from our elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels about how to best respond to the crisis, but as elders in the church of Jesus Christ, we have taken solemn vows to watch over the people of God and to serve them with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. As much as we long for the day when we can all be together again, we are united in our belief that continuing our emergency operating plan through April is the faithful and prudent thing to do.

We close with these words from the Letter to the Colossians:

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. -- Colossians 1:9-14 (NRSV)

May the peace of Christ be with you and yours,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

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

John Tsao, *Soloist*

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD SUNDAY

You may bring donations of **canned salmon, hamburger helper, and ramen noodles** (or any non-perishable items) to church 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday or Saturday, April 3 - 4. Please leave them outside under the porte cochere/ Weekday School entrance in plastic bags. If it is more convenient, Oconee residents may leave them on Kitty Donnan's porch the same days and hours: 1050 Simonton Way, Watkinsville, 30677.

Alternatively, you may take your donations directly to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank between 9:00 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday at 640 Barber Street, Athens, 30601 (don't confuse this with the Northeast Georgia Food Bank on Newton Bridge Rd). Please put food on loading dock at far end of building.

SEW IMPORTANT

Help provide protective medical face masks. Volunteer to sew or donate supplies at Facebook group "Mask Making for Athens Area Healthcare Workers."

GENEVA STONECIPHER-OVERBAUGH ORGAN RECITAL POSTPONED

In response to the crisis that has unfolded in recent weeks, the organ recital with Geneva Stonecipher-Overbaugh in April 5 is postponed to a later date.

SAVING 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). You may drop off your donations in the church office from 9:00 a.m. until noon, Mondays through Fridays.

Wed@First Online and Online Sunday School

Please join us for Wed@First Online and Online Sunday School on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9:45 a.m. via Zoom. Zoom is a web-based audio and video conferencing tool that can be used through desktop computers, laptops and smartphones. Information on how to set up Zoom and join the conversation can be found on the website.

On Wednesdays, shortly before 6:30 p.m. please go to <https://zoom.us/j/598537769>.

On Sundays, shortly before 9:45 a.m. please go to <https://zoom.us/j/602531892>.

You can either watch from your laptop or install the app on your smartphone. Please keep in mind that if you are using a desktop computer or laptop you will need a built-in camera or microphone to join the conversation.

Easter Lily Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by Monday, April 6. Each dedication is \$12. You may go to the website and fill out the form, mail your completed form and check to the church office, or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications. Each dedication will be listed in the April 12 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

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The Church's One Foundation

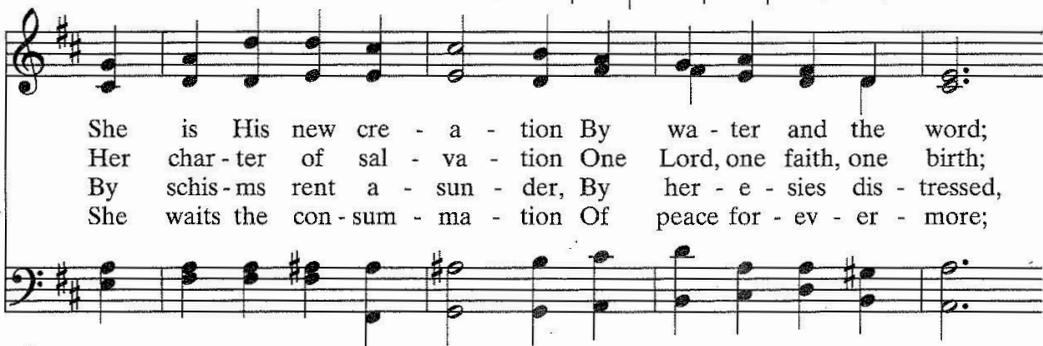
Samuel John Stone, 1866; alt.

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D

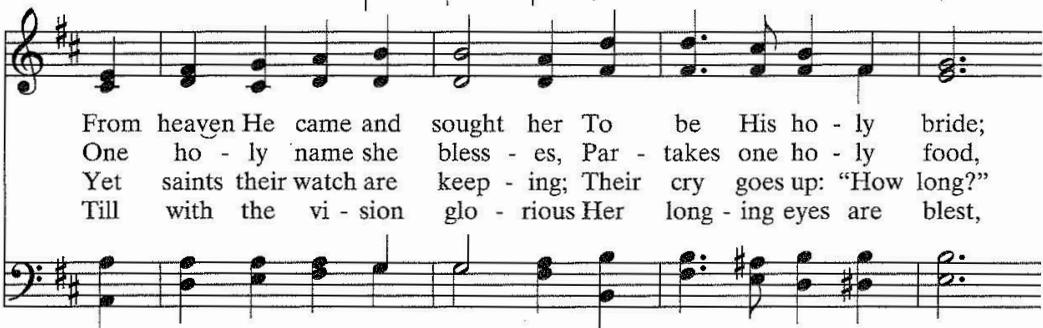
Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864



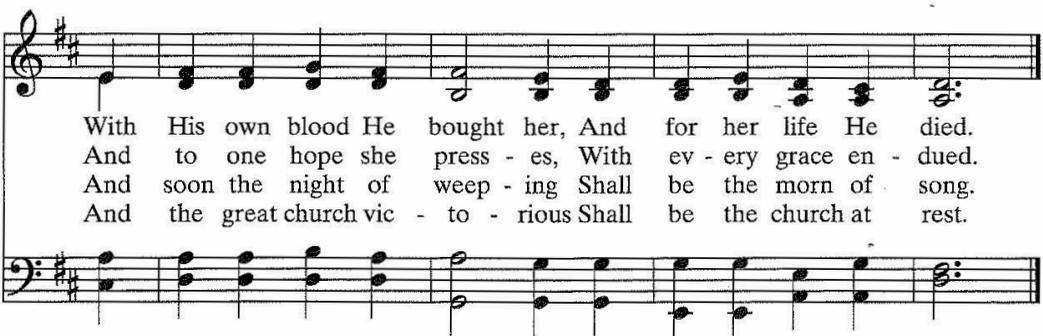
1. The chur - ch's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. Though with a scorn-ful won - der This world sees her op - pressed,
 4. Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word;
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth;
 By schis - ms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;



From heaven He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up: "How long?"
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 And to one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great church vic - to - rious Shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth has union
 With God the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won:

O happy ones and holy!
 Lord, give us grace that we,
 Like them, the meek and lowly,
 May live eternally.

449

My Lord! What a Morning

Irregular

African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual
Arr. Melva W. Costen, 1989

Refrain

My Lord! what a morn-ing, My Lord! what a morn-ing,

Oh, my Lord! what a morn-ing, When the stars be-gin to

Fine

fall, When the stars be-gin to fall.

1. You will hear the trum-pet
2. You will hear the sin - ner
3. You will hear the Chris-tian

sound
cry
shout To wake the na - tions un - der - ground,

D.C.

Look-ing to my God's right hand When the stars be-gin to fall.

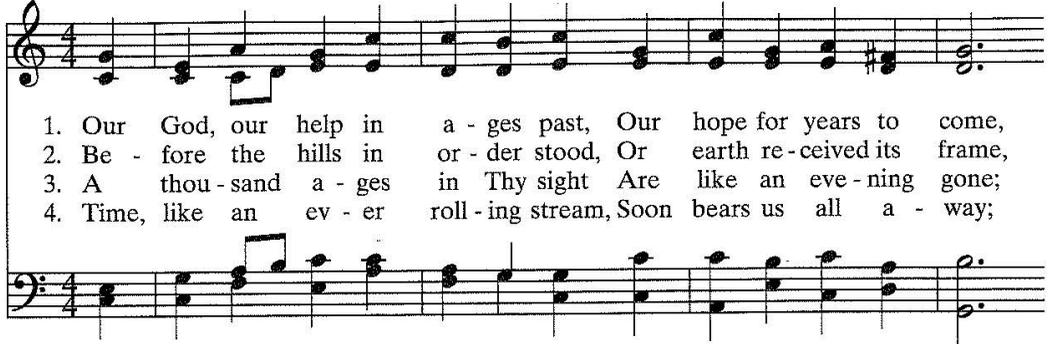
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

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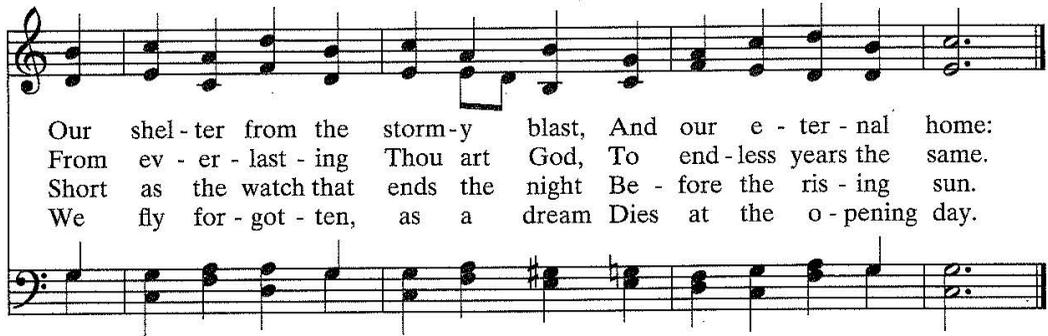
ST. ANNE CM

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Attr. William Croft, 1708



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived its frame,
 3. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
 4. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - pening day.

5. Our God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
 And our eternal home.

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.**