



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!

April 26, 2020
11:00 a.m. Livestream
Third Sunday of Easter

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Greeting

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

Psalm 118:24

Prelude

Prelude on SLANE

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 104, stanza 1

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

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.

Call to Worship

Open our lips, O Lord,

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

The text of *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in the Methodist hymnals worldwide. The tune, adapted from a German composition, is the usual North American setting.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Living Lord, by the power of your Spirit you are present among us. Yet, like the first disciples, we fail to see you in our midst. We do not realize you are walking beside us in this present moment, for we are filled with anxiety about the future. We do not notice you in everyday encounters, for we are distracted by daily labors and consumed by our own concerns. Our expectations are too limited to imagine all the ways you dwell among us. Open our eyes to perceive you in our midst, so that we might follow you faithfully.

Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response Hymn 104, Stanza 2
Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

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 Mark 6:53-56, page 919
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Solo *Balm in Gilead* arr. H.T. Burleigh
There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain*
If you can't preach like Peter, if you can't pray like Paul,
go home and tell your neighbor he died to save us all. *Refrain*

Second Lesson Acts 3:1-10, page 995
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *What We Have to Give* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 298 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONIE

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed*
I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. 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.

The solo is a spiritual arranged by H. T. Burleigh. Burleigh played a major role in developing characteristically American music. He made African-American music available to classically trained musicians by introducing them to spirituals and by arranging spirituals in a more classical form.

These stanzas of *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles' Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *There Is A Balm in Gilead* Charles Callahan

Doxology

**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.**

Hymn 592

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

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Hymn 339 *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response Hymn 540, Stanza 1

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

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and sung responses reprint-
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Postlude *Gavotte from Concerto III* George Frideric Handel

A Word from the Session of First Presbyterian Church

April 23, 2020

Dear Friends,

Grace to you and peace in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

In our Presbyterian way of being the church, our Constitution gives the Session (governing council) the responsibility for setting the dates, times, places, and occasions for worship. In view of the ongoing public health emergency, at the stated meeting on April 16, the Session of First Presbyterian Church extended our congregation's current emergency operating plan through May 31. While all of us are eager to resume in-person activities, each Elder has taken a solemn vow to watch over the people of God and provide for their worship, nurture, and service, and the well-being of the members and friends of the congregation remains our highest priority.

The Session will continue to monitor the latest information from federal, state, and local authorities and will continue to confer with our sisters and brothers across Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Until then, remember that the church has not been closed, but rather deployed to carry the good news about Jesus Christ into a broken, frightened, and hurting world. The next stated meeting of the Session is Thursday, May 14.

May the peace of Christ be with you and yours,

Ryan Baer
Senior Pastor

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).

Food Sunday

You may bring donations of **dry beans, dry pasta, and instant hot cereals (oatmeal & grits)** to church 10:30 a.m. – noon on **Friday, May 1**. Please bring food in plastic bags and put them in the open trunk. If it is more convenient, Oconee residents may leave them on Kitty Donnan's front porch anytime from Monday, April 27 through Thursday, April 30.

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.

Wed@First Online

Join Dr. Baer online via Zoom on Wednesday nights as we continue theological conversations, using the Apostles' Creed as our guide. What do we mean when we say, "He descended into hell?" What do we mean when we say, "I believe in the holy catholic church?" We'll explore these questions and more from 6:30-7:30 p.m. each Wednesday night.

Shortly before the starting time of the event, please go to <https://zoom.us/j/7065434338>. The meeting ID is the main church number (706-543-4338) and the password is 185185. For more information on how to set up Zoom, please check the website.

Online Sunday School

During the pandemic, online Sunday School continues from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. Join Dr. Baer, Lewis Hudgins, and Drew Marshall as we begin a new exploration of the Book of Job. All are welcome.

Shortly before the starting time of the event, please go to <https://zoom.us/j/7065434338>. The meeting ID is the main church number (706-543-4338) and the password is 185185. For more information on how to set up Zoom, please check the website.

Women's Montreat Conference

Join FPC women attending the Women's Connection Conference August 14-16 in the beautiful NC mountains. Register on our website to stay with us at the Georgia Lodge and register for the conference itself at montreat.org. The keynoter is popular author, speaker, blogger Jen Hatmaker. Contact Carol McKay at carol_mckay@att.net with questions and Carol Strickland at cstrickland@firstpresathens.org for scholarship help.

Helping the Local Community During COVID-19 Crisis

Dear Friends in Christ,

The worldwide pandemic calls us to great compassion to meet the great need. Many of you have wondered how you can help.

Of course, social distancing, handwashing, and wearing PPE (personal protective equipment) are crucial to stem the tide of the coronavirus. You can also pray for those whose health and/or livelihood are adversely affected by this crisis as well as those working extra hard to address its many ramifications.

Beyond safety measures and prayer, we encourage you to be generous. Perhaps you don't need any or all of the forthcoming stimulus check or can give out of your own surplus.

Below you will find a list of organizations that our church has vetted and supports with an Outreach Grant. Invariably they are in the business of helping "the least of these, our brothers and sisters," (Matt. 25:40) folks whose lives were

already difficult before COVID-19. They all would welcome an online donation or check in the mail. Some have told us of other specific needs.

However, before making an over-and-above gift to other organizations in these dire times, please be sure you are honoring your 2020 financial commitment to First Presbyterian Church. After all, our entire budget, including the Outreach Grants and other benevolences we have pledged, depends upon the faithful giving of our members. So, assuming you are able*, please keep giving even though you can't come to church. Thank you!

In faith,

Your Outreach and Mission Commission

*Should your financial situation change for better or worse, you are always able to adjust your pledge by contacting Roger Burbage, our Church Administrator, at rburbage@firstpresathens.org.

Athens Nurses Clinic

P.O. Box 1732
Athens, GA 30603
AthensNursesClinic.org

To continue to provide medications and home-health-management kits.

Bethlehem Ministry

P.O. Box 48387
Athens, GA 30604
BethlehemMinistry.org

To buy handwashing soap, which is sorely lacking in Haiti, from the economic development project which makes it from native jatropha trees.

Casa de Amistad

P.O. Box 841
Athens, GA 30603
AthensAmistad.com

To assist those in the underserved Hispanic community who have lost income due to the COVID-19.

Family Promise (formerly IHNA)

P. O. Box 581, Athens, GA 30603
IHNAthens.org

To buy groceries for families to prepare breakfast/lunch (congregations are providing dinners). Also need paper towels, Windex, 409 cleaner, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer.

Our Daily Bread

Sponsored by Downtown Ministries
165 Pulaski Street, Athens, GA 30601
DowntownMinistries.org

To provide grab-n-go sack lunches M-F at First Baptist Church.

Also need bottled water and "Blessing Bags," which are 1 gallon ziplock bag filled with baby wipes, bar soap, washcloth, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, 8 tampons/maxipads, 4 granola bars. Drop off at FBC lobby, Tue or Thurs, 9-10 am.

The Ark United Ministry Outreach Center

640 Barber Street, Athens, GA 30601
AthensArk.org

To pay rent/utilities assistance for workers whose jobs are impacted by Covid 19.

Additionally, many of our members are participating in the Facebook group, **Mask Making for Athens**. You can volunteer to sew, deliver, or donate supplies for protective face masks.

Also, the **Red Cross** needs donors. Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

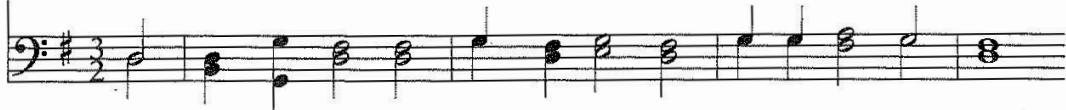
466

AZMON CM

Charles Wesley, 1738; alt.

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My dear Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease;
3. Christ breaks the power of reign - ing sin, And sets the pris - oner free;
4. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,



The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of God's grace!
'Tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
Christ's blood can make the sin - ful clean, Christ's blood a - vailed for me.
To spread through all the earth a - broad The hon - ors of Thy name.



GOD

298 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONES 8.7.8.7 D

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)

Musical notation for the first stanza, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth-note chords and eighth-note pairs.

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;

Musical notation for the second stanza, continuing the melody from the first stanza. It features a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp.

There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

Musical notation for the third stanza, continuing the melody. It features a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God's Word;

Musical notation for the fourth stanza, continuing the melody. It features a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp.

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg - ment given.
And our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.

Musical notation for the fifth stanza, continuing the melody. It features a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp.

339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Ancient Irish poem
Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad
Harm. David Evans, 1927

The musical score consists of four systems of music, each with two staves: treble and bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (indicated by '3').

System 1:

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

System 2:

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

System 3:

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

System 4:

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.