



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!

May 3, 2020
11:00 a.m. Livestream
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Highland Cathedral

Charles Callahan

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Come, behold the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
“Come! the banquet is prepared.” Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

The Shepherd calls us by name and leads us to abundant life.

We hear your voice and hasten to follow.

The Shepherd prepares a table and lavishly pours out grace.

We hear your invitation and take our place at the feast.

The Shepherd gathers us in and welcomes us to the house of the Lord.

We hear your call and give you praise.

Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We have gone astray, O Shepherd. You call us to follow, and we hear your voice. Yet we choose to heed other voices -- voices that promise status and comfort -- but such promises are empty. Call to us again, O Shepherd. Summon us onto right paths to pursue justice in your name, to seek after the well-being of all. Lead us to the table you prepare for us, where we discover that there is enough for all.

Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

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 opening line of *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17, and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

Congregational Response

Hymn 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

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

Acts 17:1-9, page 1012

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

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, page 1077

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

Sermon

Imitators

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 505

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

ST. FLAVIAN

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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way, as gives us breath;
such a truth, as ends all strife; such a life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light, as shows a feast;
such a feast, as mends in length; such a strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy, as none can move;
such a love, as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

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

Not all communion texts refer to the Last Supper. *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread* is based on the meal at Emmaus shared by the Risen Christ and his two companions on the road (Luke 2:13-35). It is set to a 16th-century psalm tune.

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.

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The 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....

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Hymn 508 *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* KINGDOM

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.**

Postlude *Improvisation on ST. DENIO* John Coble

To participate, you'll need to have enough bread and wine on hand for everyone worshipping with you. Note that grape juice will also do, or if neither of those options are available or possible, any other bread product (crackers, etc.) and beverage that you have on hand will do in a pinch.

The author of *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*, an editor of several Presbyterian hymnals, was the foremost American hymnologist of the early 20th century. Although some of his language in this text echoes early hymns of the church, he is writing here not as a scholar but as a person of deep faith.

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

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

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Jack Palmer

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).

Stephen Ministry

In recent weeks our lives have been turned upside down by the coronavirus. The degree of this negative impact varies from person to person. Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative who has been struggling with life changes due to the virus, loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life changes? Our Stephen Ministers can provide them with the focused care, encouragement, and support they need to make it through the crisis. If anyone you know is hurting, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders.

They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care. First Presbyterian Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. Male Stephen Ministers are always matched with men, and female Stephen Ministers are matched with women. Our Stephen Ministry team works with church members and non-members. If you or someone you know is struggling, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders.

Bob Frisch: rpfisch@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

Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

Wed@First Online - Apostles' Creed

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 - Book of Job

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 explore 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.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 263

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

Welsh folk melody
Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread 505

ST. FLAVIAN CM

James Montgomery, 1825

Day's Psalter, 1562

1. Be known to us in break-ing bread, But do not then de - part;
2. There sup with us in love di - vine; Thy bod - y and Thy blood,

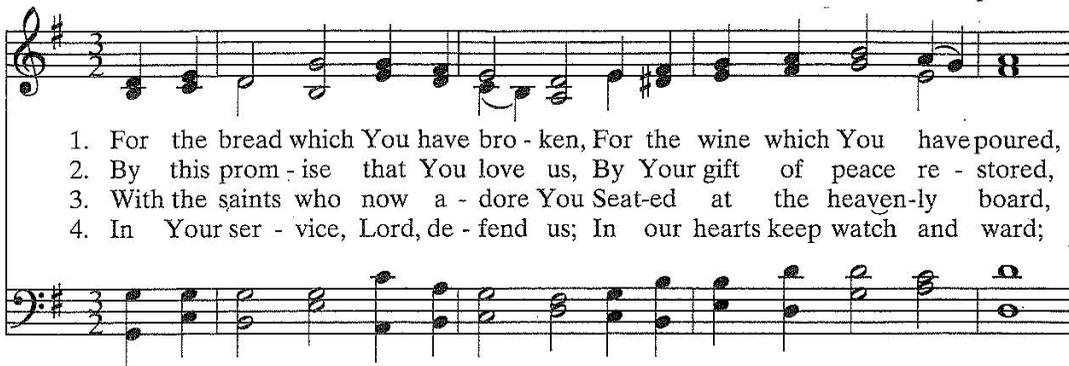
Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread Thy ta - ble in our heart.
That liv - ing bread, that heav-en-ly wine, Be our im - mor - tal food.

508 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

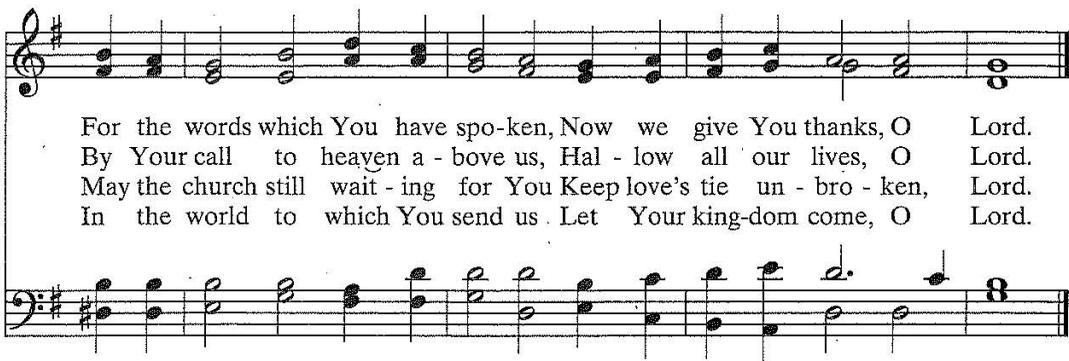
KINGDOM 8.7.8.7

Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924; alt.

V. Earle Copes, 1959



1. For the bread which You have bro - ken, For the wine which You have poured,
2. By this prom - ise that You love us, By Your gift of peace re - stored,
3. With the saints who now a - dore You Seat-ed at the heaven-ly board,
4. In Your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; In our hearts keep watch and ward;



For the words which You have spo-ken, Now we give You thanks, O Lord.
By Your call to heaven a - bove us, Hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
May the church still wait - ing for You Keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
In the world to which You send us. Let Your king-dom come, O Lord.

Text: Copyright, 1925, Louis F. Benson. Used by permission of Robert F. Jefferys, Jr.

Music: Copyright © 1960. Renewal 1988 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.