



# 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 10, 2020  
11:00 a.m. Livestream  
Fifth 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

*Shalom (Peace)*

Dan Locklair

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### Moment for Mission

*Caring Hands Offering*

### Song of Gathering

DIX

**Make a joyful noise to God!  
All creation sings your praise!  
Great your wonders here displayed,  
unexcelled throughout our days.  
Glorious is your sacred name,  
ages old, yet still the same.**

### Call to Worship

Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

**We long for abiding peace and friendship that renews our souls.**

Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

**We seek wisdom that endures and guidance for our journey.**

Jesus says, "Where I am, there you may be also."

**We come to encounter Christ. Let us worship God!**

### Hymn 417

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

REGENT SQUARE

### Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, in baptism you claim us as beloved children and set us apart as witnesses to your love. At times we forget we bear the mark of your grace and act as if you have no claim on our lives. You call us to the risky work of justice and peace, but we default to what is comfortable and safe. You call us to ministries of generosity and compassion, but we make little room in our busy lives for gestures of mercy beyond moments of spontaneous kindness. Wash us again with your grace and transform us by your Word, that we might proclaim your good news in word and deed.**

### 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.

Please mail your check to the church office or go to our website: [firstpresathens.org/home/giving](http://firstpresathens.org/home/giving). Please select "Presby Homes/Mother's Day." Alternatively, you can visit [www.phgainc.org](http://www.phgainc.org) and click the donate button to help support the Caring Hands Fund.

Although the ancient text *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God, and the second to the place where they meet. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

## Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

### 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.**

## Recognition and Blessing of Our High School Graduates

GRAHAM BLANKS	Athens Academy - Harvard University
CELESTE COVINGTON	Athens Academy - University of North Carolina
MAGGIE DEMARIA	Clarke Central - University of Georgia
GEORGIA BLUE SIMMONS	Clarke Central - Sewanee, University of the South
ROBERT SIMMONS	Clarke Central - Sewanee, University of the South
TURNER TRAPNELL	Athens Academy - University of Virginia

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### Prayer for Illumination

#### First Lesson

Acts 18:1-4, page 1013

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

#### Solo

*O Day of Peace*

C. Hubert H. Parry

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes,  
may swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.  
Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

#### Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:10-18, page 1040

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

#### Sermon

*Gospel Foolishness*

Dr. Ryan Baer

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

#### Hymn 101

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

HAMBURG

#### 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; (cont.)**

The text *O Day of Peace* was created to offer non-nationalistic words for a popular British tune. The first stanza depicts *pax*, a mode of peace focused on ending conflict, and the second (based on Isaiah 11:6-9) describes *shalom*, the condition of living in harmony and mutual good will.

The familiar text from the 18th century, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, grew out of Isaac Watts' desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by patterns of Gregorian chant.

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.**

#### Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory**      *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*      Johann Sebastian 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

### SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

**Hymn**      *God, Bless Your Church with Strength!*      DIADEMATA

#### 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**      *O Day of Peace*      Mark Sedio

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](http://firstpresathens.org/home/giving)

The text *God, Bless Your Church with Strength!* was written in 1984 by John A. Dalles for the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of First Presbyterian Church, South Bend, Indiana. Rather than a hymn that could only be used as an anniversary piece, he chose to write a general hymn with a primary focus on the changing world of the twentieth century and a Christian response to those changes.

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

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## 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](http://firstpresathens.org)).

## Recognizing Our High School Graduates

This Sunday would have been Graduation Sunday when we honor our high school seniors in worship. Since we will not be together in person, we created a video for each of our graduates that has been posted to our church Facebook page. We also delivered graduation gifts which included the devotional *Live In Grace, Walk In Love* by Bob Goff, a pennant from their new school, and a FPC water bottle so that they might always remember their baptism. Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

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## 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.

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

Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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](http://montreat.org). The keynoter is popular author, speaker, blogger Jen Hatmaker. Contact Carol McKay at [carol\\_mckay@att.net](mailto:carol_mckay@att.net) with questions and Carol Strickland at [cstrickland@firstpresathens.org](mailto: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](mailto:rburbage@firstpresathens.org).

### **Athens Nurses Clinic**

P.O. Box 1732  
Athens, GA 30603  
[AthensNursesClinic.org](http://AthensNursesClinic.org)

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

### **Bethlehem Ministry**

P.O. Box 48387  
Athens, GA 30604  
[BethlehemMinistry.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment.

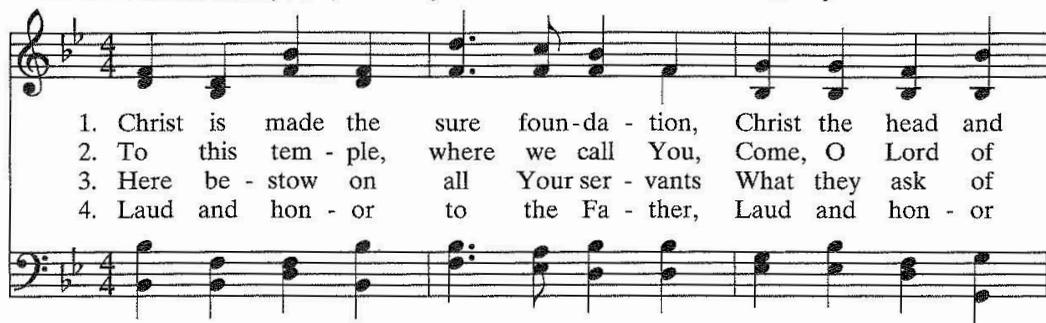
# Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 417

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.7

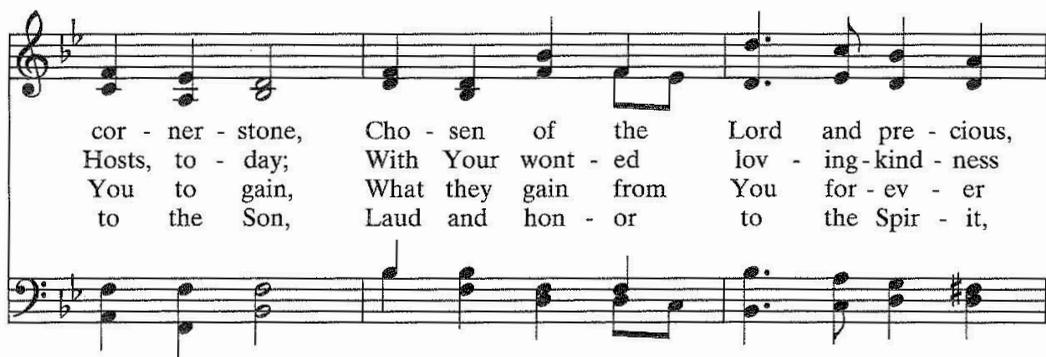
7th century, Latin

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1861, 1972

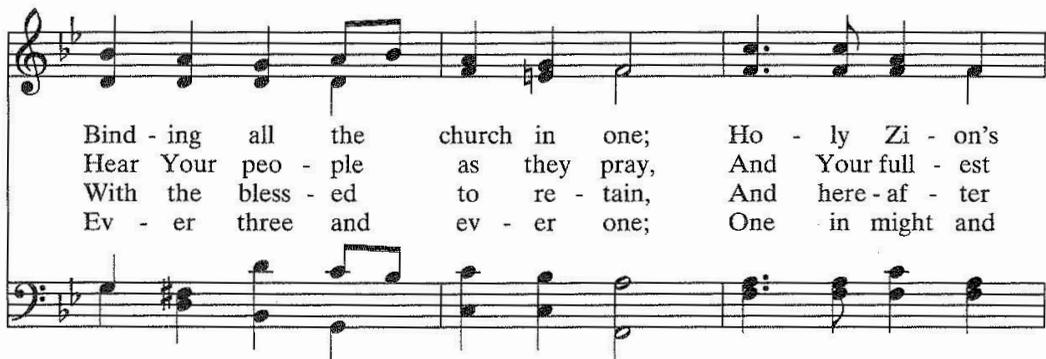
Henry Thomas Smart, 1867



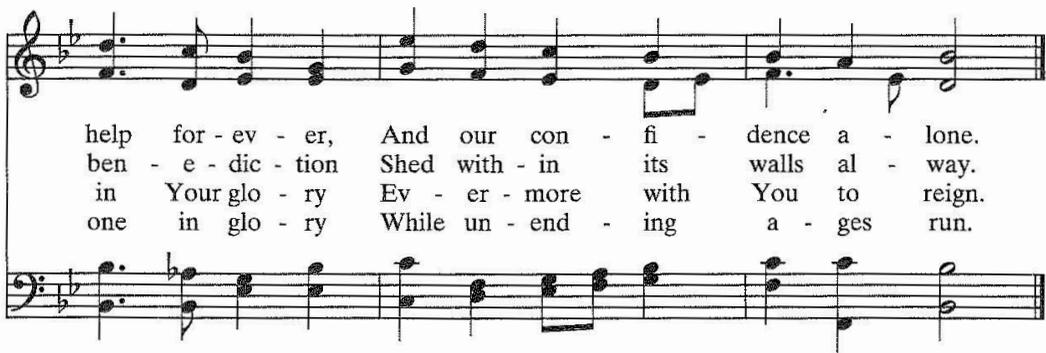
1. Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and  
2. To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of  
3. Here be - stow on all Your ser - vants What they ask of  
4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
Hosts, to - day; With Your wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness  
You to gain, What they gain from You for - ev - er  
to the Son, Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's  
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray, And Your full - est  
With the bless - ed to re - tain, And here - af - ter  
Ev - er three and ev - er one; One in might and



help for - ev - er, And our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.  
in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.  
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run.

# When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 101

HAMBURG LM

Isaac Watts, 1707

Lowell Mason, 1824

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the  
 3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and  
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a

Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ my God; All the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
 sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

# God, Bless Your Church with Strength!

DIADEMATA

John A. Dallas, 1984

George Job Elvey, 1868

1. God, bless your church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may be, up -  
2. God, bless your church with life! May all our branch-es thrive, un -  
3. God, bless your church with hope! De - spite cha - ot - ic days, may

build your ser - vants as we work in com - mon min - is - try. Urge  
blem-ished, whole-some, bear - ing fruit, a - bun - dant - ly a - live. From  
we in cha - os shine to light a path - way through life's maze. May

us from fledg - ling faith to ven - ture and to soar through  
you, one ho - ly vine, in free - dom may we grow; sus -  
just - tice be our aim, and kind - ness ours to share, in

o - pen skies, to sing the praise of Christ whom we a - dore.  
tain us in our mis - sion, Lord, your love and peace to show.  
hum - ble-ness O may we walk, as - sured our God is there!