



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!

July 26, 2020
10:00 a.m. Livestream
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Out of the Depths

Max Drischner

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Praise the Lord, God's glories show, Alleluia!
Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!
Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!
All that see and share God's love. Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

A tiny seed that burgeons into a majestic tree with branches that offer shelter and shade; or yeast, hidden within a bushel of flour, that transforms the dough in due time:

this is what the kingdom of heaven is like.

We gather around Jesus – our teacher and Lord – seeking wisdom and understanding, longing for a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven.

Let anyone with ears to hear listen!

Hymn 420

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, your kingdom confounds us. You challenge our assumptions about right living and stretch our understanding of what holds worth. You reverse our expectations and reorder our priorities until they reflect your vision of well-being for all. Your kingdom surprises us with grace upon grace. But we cling to the values of this world, which privilege products over people, success over service, and competition for resources over the common good. Forgive us, we pray, and open us to new ways of living that embody your desire for the flourishing of your creation.

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.

God of Grace and God of Glory, used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930, was written by its widely known and influential pastor. The hymn has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

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

Romans 8:26-27

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

Solo

Even When God Is Silent

Sumner Jenkins

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when feeling it not.
I believe in God even when God is silent.
I believe in the silence.

Second Lesson

Psalm 88

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

Sermon

The One with No Turn

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 30

O God, in a Mysterious Way

DUNDEE

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 text of the solo was found on a basement wall in Cologne, Germany. It had been written by someone hiding from the Gestapo. Contemporary American composer Sumner Jenkins is Organist and Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lynchburg, VA. (Music used by permission, St. James Music Press number 1941).

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

Prayer

Ludwig van Beethoven

O Lord, your goodness reaches far, as high as clouds are soaring; your tender mercies crown our days, our lives with peace restoring. Lord God, my rock, my fortress strong, to you my love, my prayers belong as now I kneel before you!

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 280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

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

God of Grace

Paul Manz

You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your pledge through your bank, or donate online at firstpresathens.org/home/giving. Thank you for your generosity.

As was his custom, the author of *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* wrote the text to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, preached on January 1, 1773. Much of its popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, as association that began in 1835.

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*

The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*

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

Kendall Marie Kookogey, *Soloist*

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Paulo Santos

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).

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 26

10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

Tuesday, July 28

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

1:00 p.m. Athens Community Council on Aging Pickup & Delivery

8:00 p.m. 21 Day Challenge - Adults Reflections via Zoom - ID: 843 2611 9120 (no password)

Sunday, August 2 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVING ALONE?

If you would like to have a fellow member who also lives alone check in with you daily, let us know. We can assign you a buddy who will text or call you each morning to see if you are okay. Especially during this time of social isolation, this can be an important safety measure. Contact Bill Patterson by August 15 if you wish to participate at 970-216-7052 or e-mail wmspatt@gmail.com.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE @FPC

Due to COVID-19 outbreak, hundreds of blood drives are being canceled, and Red Cross is experiencing a severe shortage of life-saving blood. They are organizing blood drives which will happen in our Fellowship Hall on **August 4 and 6**. If you are able and would like to donate, please go to redcrossblood.org and schedule your appointment.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The church office will close at 2:00 p.m. on Friday afternoons through August 28. Our office hours are: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday.

FOOD SUNDAY

You may bring donations of **canned salmon, jelly, and spaghetti sauces** to church 10:30 a.m. - noon on **Friday, July 31**. Please bring food in plastic bags and put them in the open trunk.

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. Thanks for your donations in July - our neighbors in need are grateful.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEW FPC YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

As we work to improve our online worship experience, we recently launched our YouTube channel. If you don't have Facebook, this is a new way for you to follow worship live.

To subscribe to our channel, click on the button on the FPC website or search for "First Presbyterian Church of Athens GA" on YouTube and you will find us. If you have any questions, please contact Paulo Santos at paulo@firstpresathens.org.

Prayer Service, Wednesday August 5

Please join us on Facebook and YouTube on **August 5** at noon for a Prayer Service. This will be an opportunity to lift up our concerns about social issues, the pandemic, the economy, and any other concern, as a community of faith. We will livestream on Facebook and YouTube, where you can comment with your prayer requests.

Stephen Ministry

In recent months our lives have been turned upside down by the COVID-19. 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: 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!

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

John Hughes, 1907

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that

pour Thy power; Crown Thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces,

Bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.
 That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

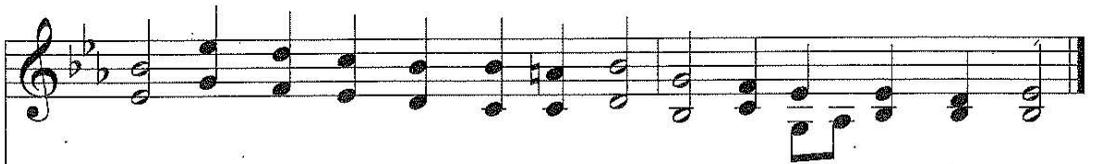
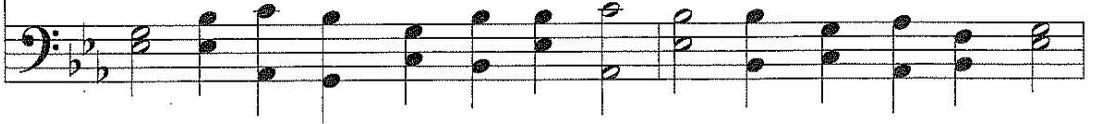
5. Save us from weak resignation
 To the evils we deplore;
 Let the gift of Thy salvation
 Be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 Serving Thee whom we adore,
 Serving Thee whom we adore.

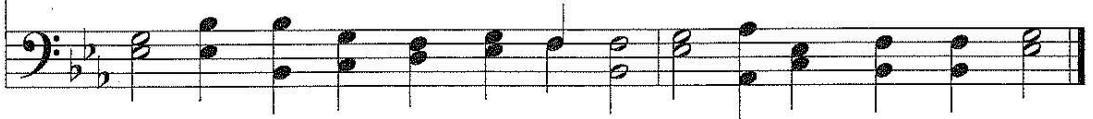
30 O God, in a Mysterious Way



1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.
2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread
4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.



You plant your foot - steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.
you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.
are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 280

AMAZING GRACE CM

Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1779
Stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

Virginia Harmony, 1831
Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.

5. When we've been there ten thousand
years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Choctaw
Shilombish holitopa ma!
Ishmminti pulla cha
Hatak ilbusha pia ha
Is pi yukpalashke

Kiowa
Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy he tsow'haw
Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy hee.
Bay dawtsahy taw, gaw aym ow thah t'aw,
Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy h'ee.

Cherokee
Ooh nay thla nah, hee oo way gee'.
E gah gwoo yah hay ee.
Naw gwoo joe sah, we you low say,
E gah gwoo yah ho nah.

Creek
Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
Ah non ah cha pa kas
Cha fee kee o funnan la kus
Um e ha ta la yus.

Navaho
Nizhóníígo jooba' diits' a'
Yisdáshítinígíí,
Lah yóóiiyá, k'ad shénáhoosdzin,
Doo eesh'íí da ní't'éeé.

Text: Phonetic transcription Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw: Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;
Navaho: phonetic transcription by Albert Tsosie.

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	Michelle Clendenen-Shaw	Kitty Donnan
Bob Burton	Elizabeth Earl	Larry Jones
Julie Hayes	Ed Ferguson	Andy Jordan
Sydney Jackson	Rob Haire	Jimbo LaBoon
Avery McLean	Grace Lu	Tom Landrum
Jeanne Nadenicek	Chris Pope	Beverly Phares
Carl Nichols	Mixon Robinson	Courtney Pittman
Tom Reigle	Rosemary Stancil	Smith Wilson
Judy Scanlon		

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*
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *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*

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