



# 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!*

August 16, 2020  
10:00 a.m. Livestream  
Eleventh 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** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* Keith Kolander

**Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church**

**Song of Gathering** Hymn 489, stanza 1

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;  
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.**

**Call to Worship**

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;  
**yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

Let us worship God!

**Hymn 263** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

**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 comes 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

Matthew 6:25-30

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

#### Solo

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.  
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.  
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.  
For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine, flowers of earth and birds of heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

#### Second Lesson

Psalm 104

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

#### Sermon

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Dr. Carol Strickland

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

#### Hymn 267

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

ROYAL OAK

#### 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.**

One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.

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**      *Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works*  
Timothy Albrecht

**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 446**      *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*  
AUSTRIAN HYMN

### 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**      *Toccata in Seven*      John Rutter

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

The Nazi appropriation of the tune AUSTRIAN HYMN for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with the text *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that the text is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20-21 with allusions to several other passages.

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 TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

### FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Edwina Tidwell Ferguson.

### 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)).

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## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, August 16

10:00 a.m.      Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching  
4:00 p.m.      Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting via Zoom  
5:00 p.m.      Middle School Youth Group via Zoom  
8:00 p.m.      High School Youth Group via Zoom

### Tuesday, August 18

10:30 a.m.      Staff Meeting via Zoom  
1:00 p.m.      Athens Community Council on Aging Pickup & Delivery

### Sunday, August 23

10:00 a.m.      Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching  
11:30 p.m.      WDS Parent Meeting, Fellowship Hall  
8:00 p.m.      Family Game Night via Zoom (*Are you smarter than a 5th grader?*)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEW FPC YOUTUBE CHANNEL!**

As we work to improve our online worship experience, we have launched our YouTube channel. If you don't have Facebook, this is another 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.

### **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.

### **WEEKDAY SCHOOL**

Weekday School Parents (Only) Meetings will take place in Fellowship Hall with only one class of parents in the building at a time, and all distancing, masking, and safety protocols in place. Instead of the traditional one meeting for all, these meetings will be spread across nine hours days on August 23, starting at 11:30 a.m. The meetings will be followed by a spaced out walk through of classrooms, knowing that this will be the only time the parents will be in the building for the fall. We have prepared thoroughly and look forward to the return of our children on August 24 and ask our congregation's support through prayer.

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## **Volunteers Needed! Family Promise Host Week, September 14-19**

The upcoming Family Promise Host Week for FPC is September 14-19 and we need you. For the past months Athens Church of Christ has served as "home" for the homeless families being served by Family Promise. Congregations have provided support through volunteering to take a day or evening host shift or to provide an evening meal. There are multiple preventive measures in place to socially distance, prevent contact, and keep everyone safe. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Boatwright at boatwrightsusan@gmail.com or Frank Sherrill at franksherrill@gmail.com.

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## **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: 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!

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

263

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11

Welsh folk melody

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

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!

## All Things Bright and Beautiful

267

ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6 with refrain

English melody, 17th century

Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

Harm. for *The Hymnbook*, 1953

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

*Refrain*

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,

All things wise and won - der - ful: The Lord God made them all.

1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings:  
 2. The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run-ning by,  
 3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas-ant sum-mer sun,  
 4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell

God made their glow-ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.  
 The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright-ens up the sky,  
 The ripe fruits in the gar - den: God made them ev - ery one.  
 How great is God Al - might - y, Who has made all things well.\*

\*Repeat Refrain.

Music: Harmonization copyright, MCMLV, by John Ribble; renewed 1983; from *The Hymnbook*, published by Westminster Press.

# 446 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D

Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797  
 Desc. Michael E. Young, 1979

John Newton, 1779; alt.

*Descant*

3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, See the cloud and

1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y  
 2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -  
 3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, See the cloud and

fire ap - pear For a glo - ry

of our God; God, whose word can - not be  
 ter - nal love, Well sup - ply thy sons and  
 fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a

cov - ering, Show - ing that the Lord is near.

bro - ken, Formed thee for a blest a - bode.  
 daugh - ters, And all fear of want re - move.  
 cov - ering, Show - ing that the Lord is near.

Thus de - riv - ing light by night and

On the rock of a - ges found - ed, What can shake thy  
 Who can faint while such a riv - er Ev - er flows their  
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner Light by night and

shade by day, Safe they feed on

sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -  
 thirst to as - suage? Grace, which like the Lord the  
 shade by day, Safe they feed up - on the

man - na Which God gives them when they pray.

round - ed, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
 giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.  
 man - na Which God gives them when they pray.

Alternate tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH, 461