



# 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 23, 2020  
10:00 a.m. Livestream  
Twelfth 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

*Alla siciliana* and *Presto*

George Frideric Handel

### 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

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**A family formed by faith, we gather to worship the Living Lord.**

Lifelong followers seeking sustenance, new disciples searching for grace—

**a family formed by faith, we gather to kneel before the Giver of Mercy.**

Children of God, come home!

**The Lord gathers us in and calls us his own. Let us praise God!**

### Hymn 464

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

### Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**Holy One, there is much we must confess. When we discount another's pain or overlook neighbors in distress, forgive us.**

**When we choose callous words over compassionate impulses, forgive us. When we think others less deserving of grace and**

**ration kindness as if it could be exhausted, forgive us. Have mercy upon us, Lord, and heal our brokenness so that every word and deed that proceeds from our hearts might glorify you.**

### 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.

Since the last movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony used Schiller's secular text, "Ode to Joy," the author (while visiting Williams College and admiring the Berkshire mountains) composed sacred words with the admonition, "It must be sung to the music of Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy.'" The result is one of the most popular of American hymns.

The text of the solo, attributed to Swiss philosopher and poet Henri-Frédéric Amiel, is set to music by Kenton Coe, the first American to have an opera produced by the Paris Opera. Coe has also written orchestral, choral, and chamber music, including a suite for jazz trio and symphony orchestra. He now resides in South Carolina.

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*, was written by an English Baptist minister who was leaving a congregation to accept another call to a bigger church. After preaching his final sermon and packing to leave, he changed his mind and stayed, preferring the fellowship of his smaller church.

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.

*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.*

## 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

John 17:20-24

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

#### Solo

*A Scottish Blessing*

Kenton Coe

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us; so be quick to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you forever.

#### Second Lesson

Psalm 133

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

#### Sermon

*That They May Be One*

Dr. Ryan Baer

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

#### Hymn 438

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

#### 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.**

#### Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

#### Offertory

*Andante tranquillo*

Felix Mendelssohn

**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 440**

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

MC KEE

**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 McKee*

John Coble

*In Christ There Is Not East or West* expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.

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*  
Kendall Marie Kookogey, *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 celebration of the wedding of Sarah Olney and Carson Hill.

**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)).

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, August 23**

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

**Tuesday, August 25**

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

**Sunday, August 30**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CARDEE KILPATRICK SERVICE

An online memorial service thanking God for the life of Cardee Kilpatrick will be held at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, August 30. The service will be livestreamed the same way our Sunday morning services are broadcast via Facebook and YouTube. The service will be available on both channels so it can be watched later. Please contact Paulo Santos at paulo@firstpresathens.org if you have any questions.

### FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The following dates are available to dedicate flowers for Sunday worship: September 20, 27, October 18 and 25. The cost for two arrangements is \$100. Please contact Lucy Bell Johnson, lbell@firstpresathens.org or (706) 543-4338 to schedule a date.

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The church office will close at 2:00 p.m. on Friday afternoons through September 25. Our office hours are: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday.

### 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.

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## Volunteers Needed! Family Promise Host Week, September 13-20

The upcoming Family Promise Host Week for FPC is September 13-20 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

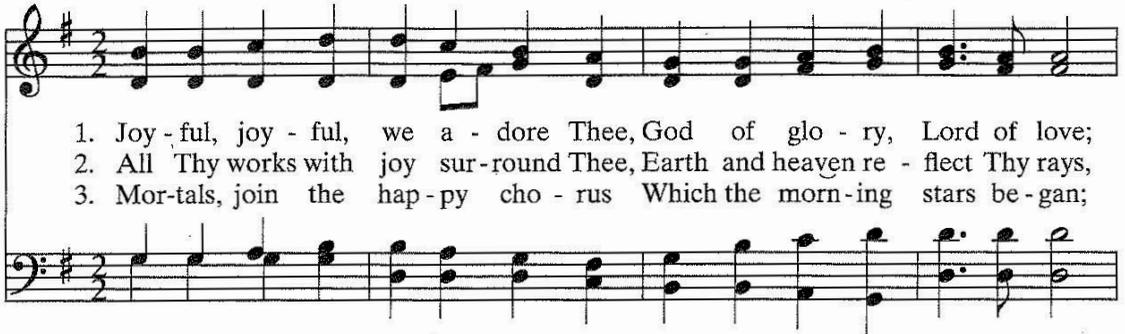
Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

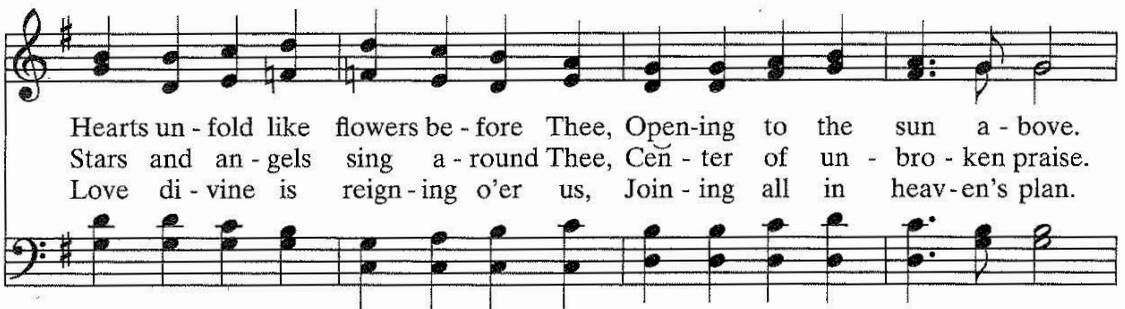
464

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

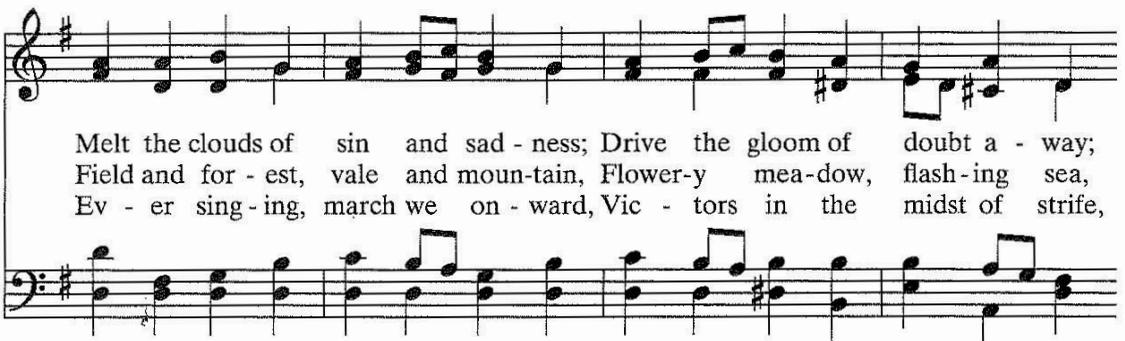
Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824  
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.


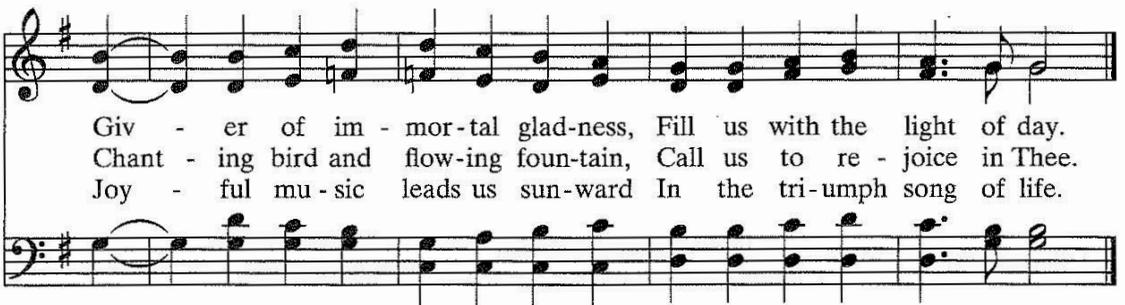
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mea - dow, flash - ing sea,  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

## Blest Be the Tie That Binds

438

DENNIS SM

John Fawcett, 1782

Johann Georg Nägeli (1773-1836)

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris-tian love:  
 2. Be - fore our \*Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;  
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
 4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free;

The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com-forts and our cares.  
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 And per - fect love and friend-ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

\*Or "Maker's."

# 440 In Christ There Is No East or West

MCKEE CM

African-American spiritual  
*Jubilee Songs*, 1884  
 Adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.

C G C F B $\flat$  F C F Am Dm7 G7 C F C

1. In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north;  
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where Their high com-mu-nion find;  
 3. Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, What-e'er your race may be.  
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In Him meet south and north;

Am C Am C G7 C G7 C F C Am C G7 C

But one great fel-low-ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.  
 His ser-vice is the gold-en cord Close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.  
 All chil-dren of the liv-ing God Are sure-ly kin to me.  
 All Christ-ly souls are one in Him Through-out the whole wide earth.

*Text:* Reprinted by permission of the American Tract Society, Garland, Texas.

## 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](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**