



# 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 30, 2020  
10:00 a.m. Livestream  
Thirteenth 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

*By the Waters of Babylon*

Johann Sebastian Bach

### 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

As one body we have many members, each uniquely gifted for a particular purpose.

**We, who are many, are one body in Christ.**

Prophets and poets, thinkers and teachers, artists and advocates, consolers and caregivers.

**We, who are many, are one body in Christ.**

With thanksgiving we offer our varied gifts in service to Christ, who makes us one.

**Let us glorify the Lord!**

### Hymn 339

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

### Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have sinned by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have sinned by what we have said, and by what we have left unsaid. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, to the glory of your holy name.**

### 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.

*Be Thou My Vision* exists in different versions, but all are from a 20th-century English version of an Irish prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

## 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 5:38-48

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

#### Solo

*By the Babylonian Rivers*

Latvian melody

By the Babylonian rivers we sat down in grief and wept;  
hung our harps upon the willow, mourned for Zion when we slept.  
There our captors in derision did require of us a song;  
so we sat with starting vision, and the days were hard and long.  
How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange and bitter land;  
can our voices veil the sorrow? Lord God, help your holy band.

#### Second Lesson

Psalms 137

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

#### Sermon

*Permission to Speak Freely*

Dr. Ryan Baer

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

#### Hymn 374

*Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace*

DICKINSON COLLEGE

#### 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.**

Babylon is both geographic and symbolic, the city where exiled Jews were taken and any place where people are forced to remain away from what is dear and holy to them. The solo is a paraphrase of Psalm 137 sung to a Latvian melody.

*Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace* is a prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, paraphrased by a Jesuit priest, Father James Quinn. The tune was composed in 1962 and named for Dickinson College, from which the composer received one of his eleven honorary doctorates.

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**      *A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester*      L.J. White

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly  
and follow thee more nearly. Amen.

**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 376**      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*      HYFRYDOL

**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**      *HYFRYDOL*      Healy Willan

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 text *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* and tune HYFRYDOL appear in almost all English-language hymnals, though not always together. The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and the Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.

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*  
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 memory of John and Elinor Terrell by their family.

### 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 30

10:00 a.m.      Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching  
1:00 p.m.      Memorial Service for Cardee Kilpatrick, Livestream on Facebook and YouTube

### Tuesday, September 1

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

### Wednesday, September 2

10:00 a.m.      Our Daily Bread prep, First Baptist Church

### Friday, September 4

9:30 a.m.      Food Sunday drop-off until 11:00 a.m., Church Office parking lot

### Sunday, September 6 - Communion Sunday

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 today at 1:00 p.m. 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.

### FOOD SUNDAY

You may bring donations of **sweet peas, dry milk, and canned tomatoes (diced, whole, stewed)** to church 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on **Friday, September 4**. 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.

### FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The following dates are available to dedicate flowers for Sunday worship: September 20, 27, October 18 and 25. The cost for the 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 frankwherrill@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.

Dawn Frisch: dawnmfrisch@aol.com, 914-255-3447

Bob Frisch: rpfrisch@aol.com, 914-262-1078

Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com, 706-540-4251

Carol Strickland: cstrickland@firstpresathens.org, 706-765-7671

Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

## Be Thou My Vision

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Ancient Irish poem

Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad

Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.  
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.  
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## 374 Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

DICKINSON COLLEGE LM

Francis of Assisi (1181/2-1226)  
Para. James Quinn (b. 1919)

Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr., 1962

1. Lord, make us ser - vants of Your peace: Where there is  
 2. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; Where all is  
 3. Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek To be con -  
 4. May we not look for love's re - turn, But seek to

hate, may we sow love; Where there is hurt, may we for -  
 gloom, may we sow hope; Where all is night, may we sow  
 soled, but to con - sole, Nor look to un - der - stand - ing  
 love un - self - ish - ly, For in our giv - ing we re -

give; Where there is strife, may we make one.  
 light; Where all is tears, may we sow joy.  
 hearts, But look for hearts to un - der - stand.  
 ceive, And in for - giv - ing are for - given.

5. Dying, we live, and are reborn  
 Through death's dark night to endless day:  
 Lord, make us servants of Your peace  
 To wake at last in heaven's light.

♩=104-112

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*Music:* Copyright © 1962, Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the publisher.

Charles Wesley, 1747

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery  
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy  
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less

earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,  
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in Thee in - her - it,  
 life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,  
 let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion

All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -  
 Let us find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way the love of  
 Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways  
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to

pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with  
 sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
 bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee  
 glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our

Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## 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.**