



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!

September 13, 2020
10:00 a.m. Livestream
Fifteenth 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

Morning Has Broken

Robert J. Powell

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 470, stanza 1

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
this day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God triune.**

Call to Worship

Our God is majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and worthy of our highest praise.

Who is like the Lord?

Our God blew back the waters, prepared a path through the sea, and appeared as a pillar of fire to light the pilgrim way.

Who is like the Lord?

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Let us sing to the Lord who triumphs gloriously!

Hymn 469

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace when we have fallen short and for patience when we have stubbornly turned away from you. Why are we slow to show the same mercy to others? We keep track of wrongs and cling to old hurts, rather than offering the forgiveness that could free others and ourselves. We strive to be more faithful, Lord; we want to be more loving. So, we kneel before you once again to ask for patience and grace. Transform us, we pray. Pour out your mercy upon us, until it flows forth from us through acts of love.

Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

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.

Morning Has Broken is a 20th-century text created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Luke 11:2-4

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

Solo

Now is the Cool of the Day

Jean Ritchie

arr. Peter and Jon Pickow

My Lord, he said unto me: do you like my garden so fair?
You may live in this garden if you keep the grasses green,
and I'll return in the cool of the day.

Refrain: Now is the cool of the day, now is the cool of the day;
O this earth is a garden, the garden of my Lord;
and he walks in his garden in the cool of the day.

Then my Lord, he said unto me: do you like my garden so pure?
You may live in this garden if you keep the waters clean,
and I'll return in the cool of the day. *Refrain*

Then my Lord, he said unto me: do you like my pastures of green?
You may live in this garden if you will feed my lambs;
and I'll return in the cool of the day. *Refrain*

Second Lesson

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-10

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

Sermon

Hide and Seek

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

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.**

The solo is a setting of a song by American folk singer and Appalachian dulcimer player Jean Ritchie. It was arranged by her sons and adapted by James Erb, an American musicologist, composer, and arranger.

With minimal revision, *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breath and wonder.

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.

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 *Improvisation on AUSTRIAN HYMN* John Coble

Doxology

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.

Hymn 592

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Hymn 285 *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*
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 *Prelude and Fugue in C* attr. J. S. Bach

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.

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, "In the Image of God," is variously considered here as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity.

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*
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.

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).

"Sunday Conversations" starts today

Join Dr. Ryan Baer for "Sunday Conversations" as we reflect on the morning worship service and take a deeper dive deeper into the Bible stories read and proclaimed from the pulpit.

Sundays at 11:30 a.m., September 13 - November 22

Zoom ID: 706-543-4338 - Password: 185185

Led by Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER, WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

Is your prayer life stagnant? Would you like to learn new ways to pray? Join us on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. to experiment with some different ways to connect with God. The sessions will last 20-30 minutes. Each will be stand-alone, so feel free to participate in as many or few as you like.

Zoom ID: 706-543-4338 (PW: 185185)

Led by Dr. Carol Strickland (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org)

WALK THE LABYRINTH

We have a new cloth labyrinth that is now displayed in Fellowship Hall. All members are invited to come to the church to have a few moments of peace and prayer as you walk the labyrinth and/or sit in the sanctuary.

Reservations and masks are required. The labyrinth and sanctuary will be open to church members (with reservations) on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A staff member will be available to greet church members at the atrium doors, front of the church. To sign up, click on the Signup Genius link on firstpresathens.org or contact the church office at (706) 543-4338.

THANK YOU NOTE

The family of Millie Warren would like to express their appreciation for the support from the church family, the memorials to the Weekday School, and the cards that have touched their hearts. Thank you very much.

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.

ATHENS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON AGING

Would you like to help deliver food for those who are homebound? Athens Community Council on Aging is requesting help from First Presbyterian on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. You will load multiple bags of groceries into your vehicle at the Cotton Press at 149 Oneta St. and unload them at the Columbia Brookside office. The route takes no more than 1 hour. There is very little contact, and masks are worn for each pickup and delivery. A large SUV or truck is helpful. If you are interested, contact Sally Vandiver at sally.vandiver@gmail.com and she will put you on the schedule.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEW FPC YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

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, go to youtube.com/c/firstpresathensga or click on the button on the FPC website. If you have any questions, please contact Paulo Santos at paulo@firstpresathens.org.

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

The Family Promise Host Week for FPC is this week (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, click on the link on FPC website (www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-fpainterfaith) or contact Susan Boatwright at boatwrightsusan@gmail.com or Frank Sherrill at frankwsherrill@gmail.com.

You Can Play an Important Role in Our Stephen Ministry...

...Because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk 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

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 to show how much you care!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 13

- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer, (Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185)
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (Zoom ID: 8433-066-1223)
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (RSVP on www.fpcathenspit.com)

Sunday, September 13 - 20 - Family Promise of Athens Host Week, Athens Church of Christ

Tuesday, September 15

- 1:00 p.m. Athens Community Council on Aging Food Pickup & Delivery
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, September 16

- 12:00 p.m. "Prayer" led by Dr. Carol Strickland, (Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185)

Saturday, September 19

- 9:00 a.m. Labyrinth open until noon (*please go to firstpresathens.org to make a reservation*)

Sunday, September 20

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer, (Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185)
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Family Game Night, "Name That Tune" (Zoom ID: 725-346-682)

LOOKING AHEAD

September 29 - Book Study Begins (Strength to Love, by MLK Jr.)

October 3 - Blessing of the Animals, 10:00 a.m. at FPC Courtyard

October 4 - World Communion Sunday, Peace and Global Witness Offering



FPC Athens: Fall 2020
September 13 – November 22

**One with God;
One with each other**
... that they may all be one. - John 17:21

Fall@First 2020
For more information about FPC Fall Programs, please go to firstpresathens.org and look for the Fall@First brochure in the home page.

Morning Has Broken

469

BUNESSAN. 5.5.5.4 D

Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

Gaelic melody
Arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness Of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, Praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am Dm G7 C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

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288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE CMD

*Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen
Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784; alt. 1868*

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

1. I sing the might-y power of God That made the moun-tains rise;
 2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord That filled the earth with food;
 3. There's not a plant or flower be-low But makes Thy glo - ries known;

That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad And built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures with a word And then pro-nounced them good.
 And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, By or - der from Thy throne;

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained The sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how Thy won-ders are dis - played, Wher - e'er I turn my eyes;
 While all that bor-rows life from Thee Is ev - er in Thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.
 If I sur - vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up - on the skies!
 And ev - ery - where that we can be, Thou, God, art pres-ent there.

285 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1978

Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

1. God, You spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,
 2. You have called us to be faith-ful In our life and min - is - try.
 3. God, Your word is still cre - at - ing, Call - ing us to life made new.

Mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, Call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.
 We re-pond in grate-ful wor-ship Joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.
 Now re-veal to us fresh vis - tas Where there's work to dare and do.

We, cre - at - ed in Your im - age, Would a true re - flec - tion be
 When we blur Your gra-cious im - age, Fo - cus us and make us whole.
 Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.

Of Your jus - tice, grace, and mer-cy And the truth that makes us free.
 Healed and strength-ened as Your peo-ple, We move on - ward toward Your goal.
 Thus, new crea - tures in Your im - age, We'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.