



MAY THE
GOD OF PEACE
GIVE YOU
PEACE AT ALL TIMES
IN ALL WAYS.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

October 4, 2020
10:00 a.m. Livestream
World Communion Sunday

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 *Aria* Flor Peeters

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission *Peace & Global Witness Offering*
Paige Cummings, Executive Director of Athens Nurses Clinic

Song of Gathering LLANFAIR

**Come, behold! The feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
“Come! the banquet is prepared.” Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

When disaster comes,
We will not be destroyed.
When danger looms,
We will not be afraid.
For we belong to God
Who has called us and claimed us.

Hymn *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* HOLY MANNA

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of all ages, you have chosen us as your own, yet we so often live as if it were not so. We succumb to things which are not good for us. We believe we know better than you. We refuse to put our trust in your promises. Sweep away our foolishness and bring us back into a trusting relationship with you, the one who has lovingly created us and longs to be our strength and life.

Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

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.**

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 author of *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*, a United Church of Canada minister, was introduced to shape note tunes at the 1990 Hymn Society conference in Charleston, SC. Afterwards she vacationed with friends and worked out this text to go with this tune while walking on the beach.

Not all communion texts refer to the Last Supper: *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread* is based on the meal at Emmaus shared by the Risen Christ and his two companions on the road. It is set to a 16th-century psalm tune that carries the text with appropriate simplicity.

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.

The offertory solo is an arrangement of a text celebrating the radical hospitality that characterizes Christ's welcome, which transcends time and reaches in all directions (Matthew 8:11/Luke 13:29). Saints of old are, like us, people in need of forgiveness and the response to such pardon is "thanks and praise." The hymn tune was written by Dr. Michael Corzine, Organist & Choirmaster at First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, FL, retired Professor of Organ at Florida State University, and teacher of our own John Coble.

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.

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 22:14-20
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *The Passover* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 505 *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread* ST. FLAVIAN
The Apostles' Creed

Affirmation of Faith

**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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table* John Ferguson
Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring. Some are weeping, some are laughing, some have songs they want to sing. Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done. Christ insists they all are welcome, there is room for everyone. Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers appear. Saints confessing how they wrestled with their guilt, their doubt, their fear. Peter tells of his denying Christ was ever in his sight; Paul relates his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light. Their sad stories are repeated in a thousand different ways, but they share one thing in common: they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has invited north and south and east and west to converge around this table, where all life is fed and blest. Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes when he blesses bread and breaks it – truth and manna from above! – and then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...and so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

"...Great is the mystery of faith:"

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain.

"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."

A - men, a - men, a - men.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

The musical setting of the communion liturgy is based on the American folk hymn LAND OF REST, arranged by American composer Richard Proulx

The author of *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*, editor of several Presbyterian hymnals, was the foremost American hymnologist of the early 20th century. Although some of his language echoes early hymns, he is writing here not as a scholar but as a person of deep faith.

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

**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.**

Hymn 540, Stanza 1

Postlude

Improvisation on *COPELAND*

John Coble

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Mr. John Tsao, *Soloist*
Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, *Horn*

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 Mrs. Susie Mendenhall given by the Mendenhall family.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Margaret Hale Bikoff on September 27, 2020. Her parents are Erin and James Bikoff. Grandparents are Eve and Mike Morris.

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).

Peace and Global Witness Offering Today

World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, marks the day we receive a special offering for Peace and Global Witness. Your gift will enable the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Twenty-five percent will stay locally to aid the Athens Nurses Clinic as a witness to Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Please note your gift to FPC is for "Peace & Global Witness." If you are making your contribution through FPC website, select "Peacemaking" fund.

Called Congregational Meeting October 11, 11:30 a.m.

The Session calls the congregation to meet via Zoom videoconference on Sunday, October 11, at 11:30 a.m., for the purpose of receiving a report from the Nominating Committee and electing officers to their respective terms. To join the meeting via videoconference, go to: **us02web.zoom.us/j/7065434338**

Alternatively, you may dial into the meeting via telephone by calling 346-248-7799, and when prompted, enter the meeting ID: 706 543 4338.

First Things for Newcomers October 25, 4:00 p.m.

Are you, or someone you know, interested in finding out more about FPC membership? "First Things," a class to introduce you to the mission and ministry of our church, will be held 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. via Zoom on Sunday afternoon, October 25. Dr. Ryan Baer will facilitate the class where you will meet our program staff as well as other newcomers and have a chance to ask questions about our church. Those who wish to join the church will meet with our governing board (Session) the following Sunday afternoon, also via Zoom. Please notify the church office (706-543-4338) if you would like to sign up for "First Things," or email Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS”

Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

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

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

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

WALK THE LABYRINTH

Mondays: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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 and Monday afternoons. 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.

BOOK STUDY: *Strength to Love*, MLK Jr.

Tuesdays at noon

Martin Luther King’s sermons seem as relevant today as they’ve ever been. Each week we will discuss one or more of his sermons that deal directly with racial justice, reflecting on what his words call us to do. Join for one or all sessions. Homework for October 5: Read Chapters 4-6. Our deeper dive will be Chapter 5, Loving Your Enemies.

Zoom ID: 894-7644-7825

For more information, contact Erik Ness (erikness@yahoo.com) or Carol Strickland (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org).

ATHENS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON AGING FOOD PICKUP & DELIVERY

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.

PRAYER EXERCISES

Wednesdays at noon

Join Carol Strickland on Wednesdays at noon via Zoom for “Prayer Exercises.” In these weekly sessions we’ll be introduced to a variety of ways to pray. The sessions last 20-30 minutes. Please join us next Wednesday, October 7 as we explore Celtic working prayers. Have paper and pen on hand.

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

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

Many of the classes started meeting via Zoom. For more information, and to join a class, go to **FirstPresAthens.org**, and click on the “Sunday School Information” button. There you will find information about the classes, and contact information of the instructors if you have any further questions.

Christ Caring for People Through People

That’s the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister’s role is to bring God’s love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God’s healing love comes pouring through. If someone you know is facing a crisis - large or small - and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to 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. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

THIS WEEK

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

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 9:00 a.m. Godly Play on YouTube (*please e-mail Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org for link*)
- 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 Game Night: "What is justice?" (*Zoom ID: 725-346-682*)

Monday, October 5

- 3:00 p.m. Labyrinth open until 6:00 p.m. (*please go to FirstPresAthens.org to make a reservation*)

Tuesday, October 6

- 12:00 p.m. Book Study: *Strength to Love*, by Martin Luther King Jr. (*Zoom ID: 894-7644-7825*)
- 1:00 p.m. Athens Community Council on Aging Food Pickup & Delivery
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 7

- 10:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread prep, First Baptist Church
- 12:00 p.m. "Prayer Exercises" led by Dr. Carol Strickland, (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)
- 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Storytime Circle via Zoom

Thursday, October 8

- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting via Zoom

Saturday, October 10

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

Sunday, October 11

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 9:00 a.m. Godly Play on YouTube (*please e-mail Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org for link*)
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:30 a.m. Called Congregational Meeting via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (*Zoom ID: 843-3066-1223*)
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group (*Zoom ID: 725-346-682*)

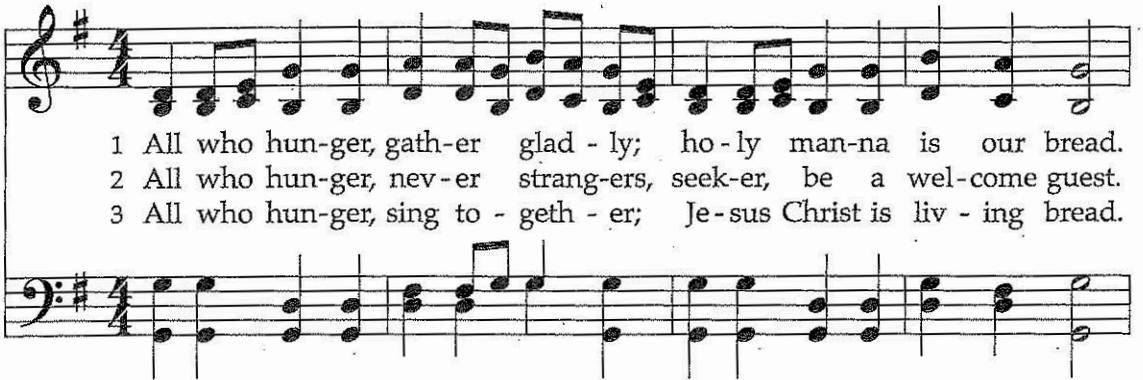


FPC Athens: Fall 2020
September 13 – November 22

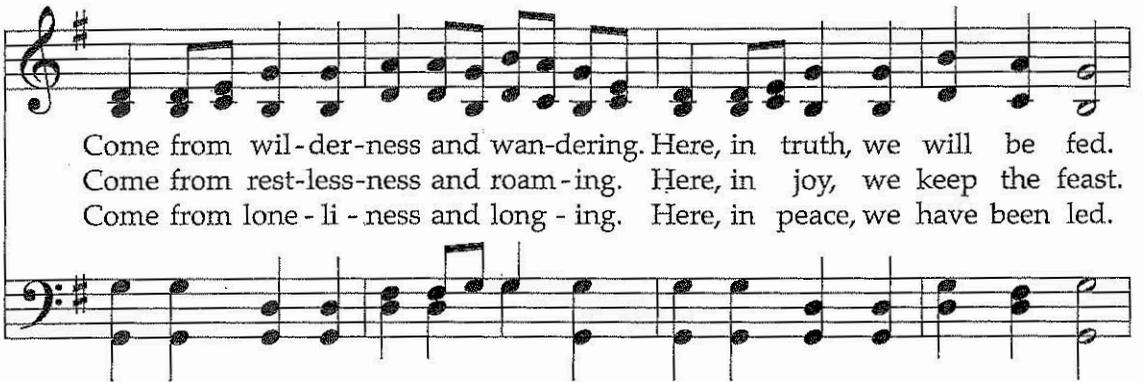
**One with God;
One with each other**
... that they may all be one. - John 17:21

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.

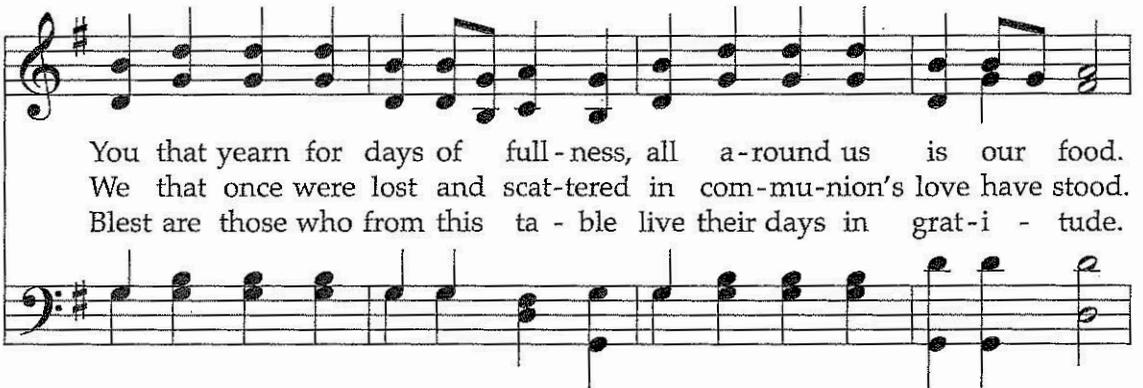
509 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel - come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread 505

ST. FLAVIAN CM

James Montgomery, 1825

Day's Psalter, 1562

1. Be known to us in break-ing bread, But do not then de - part;
2. There sup with us in love di - vine; Thy bod - y and Thy blood,

Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread Thy ta - ble in our heart.
That liv - ing bread, that heav-en-ly wine, Be our im - mor - tal food.

508 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM 8.7.8.7

Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924; alt.

V. Earle Copes, 1959

1. For the bread which You have bro - ken, For the wine which You have poured,
2. By this prom - ise that You love us, By Your gift of peace re - stored,
3. With the saints who now a - dore You Seat-ed at the heav-en-ly board,
4. In Your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; In our hearts keep watch and ward;

For the words which You have spo-ken, Now we give You thanks, O Lord.
By Your call to heav-en a - bove us, Hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
May the church still wait - ing for You Keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
In the world to which You send us. Let Your king-dom come, O Lord.