



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!

October 18, 2020
10:00 a.m. Livestream
Twentieth 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

Improvisation on MORNING SONG

John Coble

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

DUKE STREET

**Let every voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

Call to Worship

Come, all who hunger for good news.

We thirst for words of hope and healing.

Come, from rural road and city street.

We gather at the King's invitation.

Come, join the celebration.

Let us worship the Lord!

Hymn 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Extravagant God, you invite us to your table in the kingdom of heaven. But we do not take our place at the feast. We say, "We have more important things to do," and turn back to labors that threaten to consume us. Beckon us again, we pray, that we may respond with gratitude. In your mercy, gather us in that we might experience the joy of your kingdom and taste the abundance of your grace.

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 text *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn Charles Wesley wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. The tune, adapted from music by a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

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 solo is an English paraphrase of the Magnificat or Song of Mary, set to music by Michael Praetorius with interludes by American composer Roland E. Martin.

Song of Mary is a 20th-century paraphrase of Luke 1:46-55, commonly known by its opening Latin word, *Magnificat*. This song of praise offers clear reminders that God's purposes often lead to the reversal of human values, exalting the poor and dethroning the mighty.

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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome William Thomas Jordan, into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Question to the Congregation

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture William by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

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.**

Hymn

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

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

Solo

Magnificat

Michael Praetorius

My soul doth magnify the Lord, in God, my Savior shall rejoice;
he raises me from low estate, and give a hundred blessings voice.
All generations call me blest, yes, god has done great things for me;
and holy is his righteous name, to those who know his majesty.
His arm is strong to all who fear, the proud he scatters in their greed;
he casts the mighty from their thrones, and lifts the lowly from their need.
He fills the hungry with good things, the rich he sends away in shame;
the humble he has lifted high, to magnify his holy name.
Remembering his mercy sure, his servants, Israel, embrace;
as prophesied in days of old, to Abraham and all his race.
All glory to the Father God, and to the Son, whom we adore;
the Holy Spirit, three in one, forever, and forever more.

Second Lesson

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20, 2:1-10

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

Sermon

God Answers

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 600

Song of Mary

MORNING SONG

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. (cont.)

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 *My Soul Magnifies the Lord* Johann Sebastian Bach

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 543 *Abide with Me* EVENTIDE

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 *Postlude on AZMON* Charles Callahan

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The postlude is from *Be Glad and Rejoice! Ten Postludes on Familiar Hymn Tunes for Organ* by Charles Callahan.

This new collection was commissioned by Kathryn and Carl Nichols and it includes the following dedication:

In celebration of the Bicentennial of First Presbyterian Church, Athens, Georgia, and in honor of the calling of Dr. Ryan Baer as Senior Pastor Dr. John Coble, Director of Music and Organist

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*
Mark Hopkins, *Lay Reader*

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

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).

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Jo Carol Nessel-Sale to the glory of God, at the anniversary of the death of her son Michael and, as she moves to Oregon for grandchildren, “in gratitude for this church: its resolve by word and deed to love our neighbors; its opportunities for service; sermons that challenge; members who have become friends; the New Voices Sunday School class that ponders life’s mysteries; and especially the bell choir, where I hoarded notes A and B, without which my life here would have been flat.”

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.

Limited in-person worship to resume November 8

Dear friends in Christ,

The session has been closely monitoring the latest available public health data and relying upon recommendations from our own COVID-19 Task Force. Based on the latest available information, the session has approved a plan for resuming in-person worship on a limited basis beginning Sunday, November 8.

It's important to note that Governor Kemp's public health emergency orders remain in effect statewide, and until the emergency passes, in-person worship will necessarily be different. The current plans are as follows:

- Anyone who is feeling ill, has been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days, or is considered to be at high-risk from adverse effects of COVID-19 should continue participating in the life of the church online until the public health emergency has passed.
- Governor Kemp's latest emergency orders limit indoor gatherings to a capacity of 50, and while religious organizations are exempt from this limit, we will abide by it. Should there be high demand for in-person worship in the month of November, the session will consider adjusting the schedule for December.
- Each week, online registration for in-person worship will open at 9:00 a.m. on the prior Monday morning and will close at 10:00 a.m. on the prior Saturday morning. Every attendee must pre-register.
- All persons except for infants and toddlers are required to wear a mask over the nose and mouth while on church property. (Worship leaders may be exempt from this policy at the discretion of the Senior Pastor.)
- Children of all ages are welcome, but nursery care and children's church are suspended until the public health emergency has passed.
- While the parking decks along Dougherty Street will be open, all attendees must enter and exit the church through the Hancock Avenue entrance, where greeters will check in your party and conduct temperature checks.
- While on church property, all persons are required to practice appropriate physical distancing from anyone who is not a member of their immediate household. To ensure appropriate distancing, the balcony and some pews will be closed.
- In-person attendees are asked to refrain from singing and participating in responsive readings.

We close with these words of encouragement from Paul's letter to the Philippians. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5)

May the peace of Christ be with you and yours,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Athens

Devotionals for Advent and The Twelve Days of Christmas

It is time to begin planning for our Advent Devotional, and we are going a step further by adding the days after Christmas to Twelfth Night and Epiphany.



Our emailed Lenten devotionals written by members of the congregation were so meaningful that we are again soliciting writers from our church for the upcoming Advent/Christmas devotionals. The theme will be favorite seasonal hymns and carols. Dr. John Coble will provide the musical links. Jennifer Poole will be the editor.

More information to come. If you are interested in writing a devotional, please contact Jennifer Poole at jsnp5462@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS”

Sundays at 11:30 a.m. (Sunday Conversations will return on October 25)

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)

**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 20: chapters 10, 11, and 12 with an emphasis on Chapter 12, *Antidotes for Fear*.

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

I would like to send a shout out to all of the volunteers who have helped Athens Community Council on Aging with their deliveries since June. We will continue once-a-week meal delivery to Columbia Brookside until there is no longer a need. Your support of this effort makes a huge difference to those who are homebound during the pandemic. Deliveries are every Tuesday with pickup beginning at 1:00. Email me at sally.vandiver@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.

Sally Vandiver

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.

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

Led by Dr. Carol Strickland (cstrickland@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.

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.

Holiday Meals on Wheels Delivery

In these strange times many things have changed, but one thing is the same--Seniors need meals and especially during holidays need to know someone cares about them. Will you be that someone? For many years First Presbyterian members and friends have delivered meals on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. It makes such a difference to our neighbors--and to those who deliver! It is a great intergenerational activity. Bring your children or grandchildren. The only requirement is that **all wear masks**.

Like many other things, this year will be a bit different. The protocols have changed to keep the volunteers and recipients safe. Please help if you can. To sign up contact contact Kitty Donnan at kittedavedonnan@gmail.com or call the church office 706-543-4338.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 18

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. Confirmation Closing Retreat
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Family Pumpkin Carving and Game Night

Monday, October 19

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

Tuesday, October 20

- 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 21

- 12:00 p.m. "Prayer Exercises" led by Dr. Carol Strickland (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: *Love's Labor's Lost* via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)
- 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Storytime Circle via Zoom

Thursday, October 22

- 7:30 p.m. Called Session Meeting via Zoom to meet with Confirmation Class 2020

Saturday, October 24

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

Sunday, October 25 - Confirmation Sunday

- 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. Carol Strickland preaching
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer, (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)



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.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

466

AZMON CM

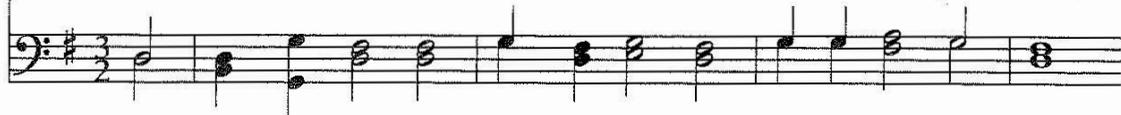
Charles Wesley, 1738; alt.

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828

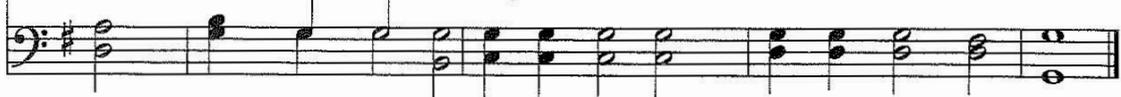
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839



1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My dear Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease;
3. Christ breaks the power of reign - ing sin, And sets the pris - oner free;
4. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,



The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of God's grace!
'Tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
Christ's blood can make the sin - ful clean, Christ's blood a - vailed for me.
To spread through all the earth a - broad The hon - ors of Thy name.



Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

Michael A. Saward, 1981

Gaelic melody

arr. Dale Grotenhuis,

1985



Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the



blood of Christ, our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing the



pro - mise, faith-ful-ly now God's prais-es we sing.

Song of Mary

600

Magnificat

MORNING SONG CM

Para. Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

Cm Fm Eb Ab Db Eb Fm Cm Fm

1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God, My
 2. My God has done great things for me: Yes,
 3. From age to age to all who fear, Such
 4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, Pro -
 5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant Sup -

Db Eb7 Ab Bbm Ab Ab Db Eb Ab

heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 ho - ly is this Name. All peo - ple will de -
 mer - cy love im - parts, Dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 motes the in - se - cure, Leaves hun - gry spir - its
 ports those in dis - tress, Re - mem - ber - ing past

Eb7 Bbm Ab Db Eb Bbm Eb Fm

low - li - ness In man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
 clare me blessed, And bless - ings they shall claim.
 far and near, Dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 sat - is - fied; The rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 prom - is - es With pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

543

Abide with Me

Henry Francis Lyte, 1847

EVENTIDE 10.10.10.10

William Henry Monk, 1861

1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3. I need Thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide!
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
 Who, like Thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, Thy vic - to - ry?

Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if Thou a - bide with me.

5. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies:
 Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2020

Jeff Bangle
Meghan Bawcum
Bob Burton
Julie Hayes
Sydney Jackson
Avery McLean
Jeanne Nadenicek
Carl Nichols
Tom Reigle
Judy Scanlon

CLASS OF 2021

Jennifer Walden Abbott
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Elizabeth Earl
Ed Ferguson
Rob Haire
Grace Lu
Chris Pope
Mixon Robinson
Rosemary Stancil

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Kitty Donnan
Larry Jones
Andy Jordan
Jimbo LaBoon
Tom Landrum
Beverly Phares
Courtney Pittman
Smith Wilson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor* (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* (kness@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* (natalie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Roger Burbage, *Church Administrator* (rburbage@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & Membership* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *Accountant* (angie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotteposs@gmail.com)
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*