



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 25, 2020
10:00 a.m. Livestream
Reformation Sunday
Confirmation 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 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Johann Sebastian Bach

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

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Drawn by love, we come to offer our whole selves in Christ's service.

Let us worship the Lord!

Hymn 423 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* DUKE STREET

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Living Lord, in you we live and move and have our being. You call us to give all that we are and all that we have in service to Christ. But we hold tightly to our treasure, afraid we will not have enough for ourselves, and hold back our talents, afraid these gifts will not be enough. God, unclench our first and help us to give fully and freely so that, in all things, we might serve and glorify you.

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.

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer, John Hatton.

CONFIRMATION

CLASS OF 2020

Mentor
Family

ABIGALE BISHOP

Judy Scanlon
Matt and Natalie
Bishop

JOHNNY CARR

Stephen Simmons
Eric and Jennifer Carr

WYATT HAYNES

Michael Earl
Matt and Charlee
Haynes

RACHEL HUFF

Carol Robinson
David and Susan Huff

KATE MACMILLAN

Sarah Bryan
David and Holly
MacMillan

DAVID MAGRINO

Tim Burg
Darryl and Jane
Magrino

**GRIER MARTIN-
WILLIAMS**

Smith Wilson
Moffatt and Jean
Martin-Williams

PARKER MIDDLETON

Andrea Doornbos
Allan and Rene
Middleton

BEN NESS

Rob Haire
Erik and Kim Ness

KATHERINE QUEEN

Margaret Davis
Chris and Leslye
Queen

THADD PRUITT

Lawton Stephens
Matt and Colleen
Pruitt

ISABELLE SEWARD*

Meghan Bawcum
Ed and Laura Seward

CAROLINA TURNER

Amy Baer
John and Kim Turner

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 1:30-33

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

Second Lesson

2 Samuel 7:1-17

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

Sermon

Leap

Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

Confirmation

Presentation of Confirmands

Profession of Faith

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 Sacrament of Baptism**

Isabelle Seward

Prayer and Welcome

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

*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.*

Offertory Solo *Et exsultavit spiritus meus* from *Magnificat* J. S. Bach
Translation: And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior

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 260 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN FESTE BURG

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 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Johann Pachelbel

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns:

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*
Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Meghan Bawcum, *Elder*
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 honor of Judy Burch's birthday by her 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).

Food Sunday
Friday, October 30

You may bring donations of **sweet peas, canned diced tomatoes, and condiments (salad dressings, bbq sauces, mayonnaise, salt/pepper, etc.)** to church 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on **Friday, October 30**. 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 October - our neighbors in need are grateful.

Election Day Prayer Service
Tuesday, November 3, 12:00 p.m.

Join us on Facebook or YouTube for a prayer service at 12:00 noon on Election Day as we pray for God's peace, healing, and justice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday is November 15

Can you provide a bag of food that can be used by an Athens family of four to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner? Given the economic impact resulting from COVID-19, this year's collection will be even more important than ever. Please put the food you purchase in paper bags (no plastic, please) and drop them off at the church during normal business hours by 2 p.m. **Friday, November 13**. Alternatively, you can send a check for \$40 to the church or donate at firstpresathens.org/home/giving/ (please select General Fund and add "Thanksgiving bags" in the memo box)

If you would like to volunteer to help move the bags to the sanctuary, assemble bags, and move them from the sanctuary to the Emergency food bank, please click on the signup genius link that will be posted on our website soon.

2020 Shopping List

- Canned Ham
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned fruit
- Peas
- Stuffing/Dressing Mix
- Cornbread mix
- Gravy/cans or jars
- Cookies
- Fresh sweet potatoes
- Brown and serve rolls
- French fried onions (that go on top of bean casserole)
- Chicken broth
- White or brown sugar (small bag)

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 kittydavedonnan@gmail.com or call the church office 706-543-4338.

If you would like to make a donation (FPC pays for the meals, with the cost generally around \$1,000), please send a check to the office with "Meals on Wheels Holiday Donation" noted on the bottom, or go to firstpresathens.org/home/giving/ (please select "Meals on Wheels" under "Select a Fund").

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!

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.

Labyrinth will be closed for November, and reopens for Advent on November 30

We have a 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. 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 27: chapters 13, 14, and 15. Our deeper dive will be Chapter 14, *Paul’s Letter to American Christians*.

Zoom ID: 894-7644-7825

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

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)

ACCA FOOD PICKUP & DELIVERY NEW DELIVERY DAY

Would you like to help deliver food for those who are homebound? Athens Community Council on Aging is requesting help from First Presbyterian on **Thursdays** 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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.

Limited In-Person Worship to Begin November 8

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.

Please go to firstpresathens.org for more information about resuming in-person worship.

Devotionals for Advent and the Twelve Days of Christmas

It is time to begin planning for our Devotionals for Advent, 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 inviting 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.

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 25 - Reformation and Confirmation Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Adult 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*)
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (*Zoom ID: 843-3066-1223*)

Monday, October 26

- 9:00 a.m. WDS 3's Muffins with Mom
- 3:00 p.m. Labyrinth open until 6:00 p.m. (*please go to FirstPresAthens.org to make a reservation*)
- 8:00 p.m. Parent Support Circle via Zoom

Tuesday, October 27

- 9:00 a.m. WDS 3's Muffins with Mom
- 12:00 p.m. Book Study: *Strength to Love*, by Martin Luther King Jr. (*Zoom ID: 894-7644-7825*)

Wednesday, October 28

- 9:00 a.m. WDS 3's Muffins with Mom
- 12:00 p.m. "Prayer Exercises" led by Dr. Carol Strickland (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: *Love's Labor's Lost* via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Thursday, October 29

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

Sunday, November 1 - All Saints' Sunday, Communion Sunday, End of Daylight Saving Time

- 9:00 a.m. Adult 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*)

LOOKING AHEAD

November 3 - Election Day Prayer Service

November 8 - Limited in-person worship begins (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)

November 12 - Stated Session Meeting via Zoom



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.

423 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET LM

John Hatton (d. 1793)

Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

Desc. David McKinley Williams, 1959

Descant

5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -

1. Je - sus shall reign where - e'er the sun Does its suc -
 2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on His
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns; The pris - oners

cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with

ces - sive jour - neys run, His king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown His head; His name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, The wea - ry find e -

songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud A - men!

shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
 ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.

5. Let every creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King; Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud Amen!

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Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name? Will you
2 "Will you leave your-self be - hind if I but call your name? Will you
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name? Will you
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name. Let me



go where you don'tknow and nev - er be the same? Will you let my
care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same? Will you risk the
set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the
quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same? Will you use the
turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same. In your com - pa-



love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you
hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare? Will you
lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen, and ad -
faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round, through my
ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
move and live and grow in you and you in me.

260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

Martin Luther, 1529

Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852

Martin Luther, 1529



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth;



For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a -
 The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y



power are great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
 can en - dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 they may kill, God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.



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*