



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!

November 15, 2020

10:00 a.m. Livestream

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space this morning, please silence your cell phone. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin or large-print hymnal.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

REPTON

Marilyn Biery

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

OLD HUNDREDTH

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.**

Call to Worship

Lift up your eyes to the Lord, the exalted one, who is enthroned in the heavens.

Seeking compassion, seeking grace, we look to the Lord, the giver of mercy.

Pour into God's temple, draw near to the king of creation.

We worship the Lord of heaven and earth!

*Hymn 138

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICEA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Lord, you have made us stewards of your creation and commissioned us to carry out your work to the best of our ability. But we have not served you with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. We withhold our gifts and live in fear. Have mercy upon us, we pray. Make us bold to use our talents for the sake of your kingdom, until you come in glory.

*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.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

A special word of

welcome: thank you for being with us for worship this morning. We are delighted and hope that you will join us again next Sunday.

In spite of the limited rhyme scheme, (the "ee" vowel), irregular accent and uneven numbers of syllables in various lines, *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*, based on John's vision of God as found in Revelation, is a very popular hymn. The tune was written specifically for this text.

*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 5:8-10

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

Solo *Let the Bright Seraphim* George Frideric Handel
Let the bright seraphim in burning row, their loud uplifted angel trumpets
blow. Let the cherubic host, in tuneful choirs, touch their immortal harps
with golden wires.

Second Lesson Isaiah 6:1-8

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

Sermon *God Calls Isaiah* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 419** *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* REPTON

***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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Prelude on REPTON* John Ferguson

***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**

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord is a reflection on Christian vocation written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune. The poet crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune REPTON is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

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.

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.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

- *Hymn 280** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*
AMAZING GRACE
- *Charge and Benediction**
- *Congregational Response** RANDOLPH
**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** *Coro from Water Music* George Frideric Handel

The author of *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* wrote the hymn to accompany his sermon preached on January 1, 1773. Much of its popularity comes from the now-familiar tune, as association that began in 1835.

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*
Kendall Marie Kookogey, *Soloist*

USHERS

Jimbo Laboon, Beverly Phares, John Simpson

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).

Commitment Sunday Next Sunday, November 22

During worship we will dedicate our financial commitments for 2021. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge as we share our stories of generosity with Athens and the world!

Casa de Amistad Christmas Boxes

Rather than buying food for our Hispanic neighbors in bulk and sorting it into boxes for distribution, we will be providing families a Christmas card with a \$40 gift certificate, allowing them to select what they need. Our goal is to raise at least \$4,000 by **December 13**. To contribute by check, please identify your gift as being for “Casa Food Boxes.” noted on the bottom, or go to firstpresathens.org/home/giving/ (please select “Hispanic Ministry (CASA)” under “Select a Fund”).

Salvation Army Angel Tree

To provide Christmas gifts for a child (or children) from birth to age 14 from the online Angel Tree, please follow the link and directions on our home page, firstpresathens.org. This link takes you to the children (angels) which have been set aside for First Presbyterian Church. Drop off unwrapped gifts to FPC or Salvation Army by December 15. Questions? Contact Eunice or Pat Tritt at 706-543-0801.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIMITED IN-PERSON WORSHIP

If you would like to join us for a limited in-person worship, please click on the Eventbrite link on the church website beginning tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. Alternatively, you can contact the church office at (706) 543-4338 and we will add you to the list.

Please make sure to read the additional instructions that are posted on the website. If you are over 65 or have underlying health conditions, we encourage you to stay home and join us via Facebook or YouTube.

“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)

PRAYER EXERCISES

Wednesday at noon

Join Carol Strickland via Zoom for our last “Prayer Exercise” on November 18. The session will last 20-30 minutes.

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

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

THORNWELL SPECIAL OFFERING NOVEMBER 22

Your gift will help prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ. Begun as an orphanage in Clinton, SC, Thornwell now has multi-faceted programs to help children including foster care, residential care, family services, and child development services. Please send a check to the office with “Thornwell” noted on the bottom, or go to firstpresathens.org/home/giving/ (please select “Thornwell” under “Select a Fund”).

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, NOVEMBER 22, 4:00 P.M.

All are invited to join our Athens friends and neighbors via Zoom (*ID: 943 5058 3240, Passcode: Unity*) for this worship experience for all faith groups (Christians, Jews, Muslims, et al.). The sponsor, Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens, includes representatives of more than 50 congregations in the Athens area. In a time when there is so much division, let's unite in thanksgiving.

Senior Adult Christmas Tea: 2020 Version

The pandemic has forced us to adapt many traditions, including our lovely Christmas Tea. We'll miss the December tea party with the festive table decorations, beautiful singing from the Mellows, and inspiring holiday devotional. Mostly, we'll miss the fellowship! Since we can't have folks come to church, the Congregational Care Commission is making arrangements to deliver Christmas cookies to our senior homebound members. If you would like to bake or deliver, please contact Carol Strickland at cstrickland@firstpresathens.org.

Holiday Meals on Wheels Delivery

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! The protocols have changed to keep the volunteers and recipients safe. **All must wear masks.**

To volunteer, please 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”).

Live Nativity

December 8, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join Weekday School families and friends for our 9th Annual Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 8!** This year it will be a **drive by** on the front church steps to promote social distancing at this time. Come enjoy the babe, the camel, donkey, other animals, and of course Mary and Joseph, wisemen and shepherds. Anyone interested in participating as a character (no lines) or in set up or cleanup, please contact Elaine Johnson at (706) 206-8180.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 15 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday, Limited in-person worship *(please check firstpresathens.org for more information)*

- 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)*
- 6:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Family Game Night: CHOPPED edition *(Zoom ID: 725-346-682)*

Tuesday, November 17

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, November 18

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

Sunday, November 22 - Commitment Sunday, Thornwell Special Offering,

Limited in-person worship *(please go to firstpresathens.org to register)*

- 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)*
- 4:00 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship *(Zoom ID: 943 5058 3240, PW: Unity)*

LOOKING AHEAD

November 29 - Children's Ministry Advent Goodie Bag and Youth Advent Box Pickup (3-6 p.m.)

November 30 - Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall reopens

December 2 - A Very Merry Children's Ministry Zoom (7:00 p.m.)

December 8 - Live Nativity



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.

138 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA 11.12.12.10

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)
As in *Hymns Written and Adapted*, 1827; alt.

John Bacchus Dykes, 1861
Desc. David McKinley Williams, 1948

Descant

4. Ho - - - - - ly,

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ho - - - - - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful - ness Thy glo - ry may not see,
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - - - - - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

419

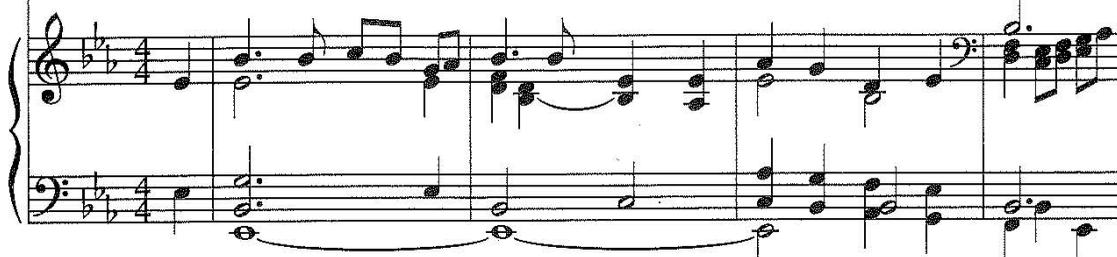
REPTON 8.6.8.8.6.6

Fred Pratt Green, 1981

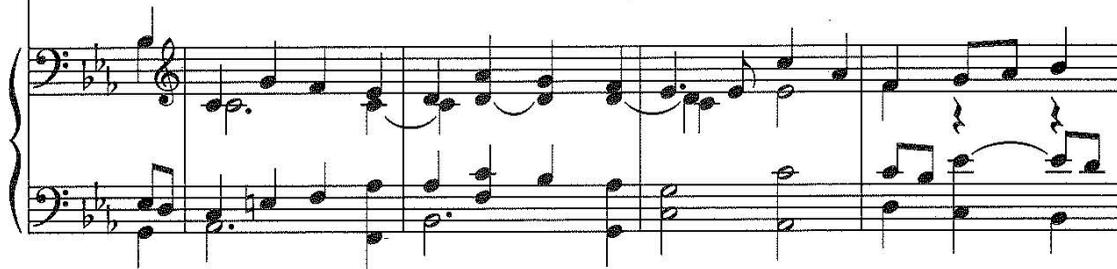
C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888



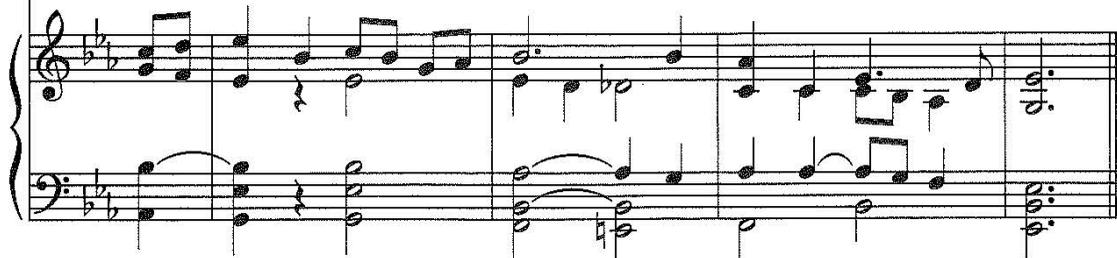
1. How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, When once we heed Your call:
2. But if, for - get - ful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear,
3. We mark Your saints, how they be - came In hin - dranc - es more sure,
4. In what You give us, Lord, to do, To - geth - er or a - lone,



To live ac - cord - ing to Your word, And dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
If world - ly pres - sures fray the mind And love it - self can - not un - wind
Whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame The cas - ual way we wear Your name,
In old rou - tines or ven - tures new, May we not cease to look to You—



That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.
Its tan - gled skein of care: Our in - ward life re - pair.
And by our faults ob - scure Your power to cleanse and cure.
The cross You hung up - on— All You en - deav - ored done.



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 280

AMAZING GRACE CM

Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1779
 Stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

Virginia Harmony, 1831
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.

5. When we've been there ten thousand
 years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's praise
 Than when we'd first begun.

Choctaw
 Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 Hatak ilbusha pia ha
 Is pi yukpalashke

Kiowa
 Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy he tso'w'haw
 Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy hee.
 Bay dawtsahy taw, gaw aym ow thah t'aw,
 Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy h'ee.

Cherokee
 Ooh nay thla nah, hee oo way gee'.
 E gah gwoo yah hay ee.
 Naw gwoo joe sah, we you low say,
 E gah gwoo yah ho nah.

Creek
 Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 Ah non ah cha pa kas
 Cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 Um e ha ta la yus.

Navaho
 Nizhóníígo jooba' diits' a'
 Yisdáshítinigíí,
 Lah yóóiyá, k'ad shénáhoosdzin,
 Doo eesh'íí da ní't'éeé.