



# 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!*

January 10, 2021  
10:00 a.m. Service  
Baptism of the Lord

## 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

*Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany* Maurice Duruflé

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### Song of Gathering

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**O splendor of God's glory bright, from light eternal bringing light;  
thou light of life, light's living spring, true day, all days illumining.**

### Call to Worship

In the beginning, God created the world, and God blessed it:

**"It is good."**

In the beginning, God created light, and God blessed it:

**"It is good."**

In the beginning, God created life, and God blessed it:

**"It is good."**

Since the beginning, God has not stopped creating,  
**calling us closer to all that is good.**

\*Hymn 10 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* WINCHESTER NEW

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**God whose spirit moved over the waters, you have washed us in your mercy, claimed us as your own, bound us in community, and called us to lives of baptismal grace. Forgive us, O God, for we have not lived as if we were your baptized people. We stumble over opportunities for forgiveness. We prioritize our own selfish interests. We are slow to disrupt the status quo, even when it means ignoring our neighbors' suffering. Forgive us, O God, and by your forgiveness, lead us back to your waters of transformation.**

### \*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

### \*Assurance of Pardon

*\*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.

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

**\*Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

Glo-ry - to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Part I of Handel's *Messiah* is often heard in Advent and Christmas, but in Handel's time the oratorio was performed in the Spring in a theater. The text of the aria *Every valley* is taken from Isaiah 11.

The text *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* was written by F. Bland Tucker in 1979 and altered in 1982. It was first published in the Episcopal *Hymnal 1982*. The tune is one of thirty-one harmonized tunes in the 1635 edition of the Scottish Psalter. The tune is believed to have come from a county in northeast Scotland.

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](http://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**

Psalm 51:6-17

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

**Solo**

*Every valley shall be exalted* George Frideric Handel

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight, and the rough places plain

**Second Lesson**

Luke 3:1-22

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

**Sermon**

*Selected to Serve*

Dr. Ryan Baer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*Hymn**

*Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

CAITHNESS

**\*Reaffirmation of Baptism**

**\*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**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### “SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS”

**Sundays at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom**

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

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.

### BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Josephine Paine Bible Study will begin **January 14** and meet 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Thursdays via Zoom (*ID: 706 543 4338, PW 185185*). The scripture passage for each class will be the same text addressed by the upcoming Sunday’s sermon. These passages are all from the Gospel of Luke and follow the “Narrative Lectionary.” Carol Strickland will lead the study which is open to all. The January 14 lesson will be on Luke 4:14-30.

### 2020-21 WEEKDAY SCHOOL

First Pres Weekday School registration for Fall 2021 begins for in-house students on **Tuesday, January 12**. On **Friday, January 15 at noon**, community registration begins. Our Weekday School is a half day church preschool serving 3 months through 5 years. Questions? Call our director, Elaine Johnson, at (706) 206-8180 or e-mail [elaine@firstpresathens.org](mailto:elaine@firstpresathens.org).

### CHAIR YOGA

**Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom**

**Zoom ID: 558-324-3907 (PW: 3636)**

Join Mel Berzack for a Yoga practice via Zoom on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. You will need a practical chair (preferably no arm rests or side restrictions) and (if you have one) a mat for a small amount of standing poses. The practice will be around one hour-long. All are welcome.

### LIMITED IN-PERSON WORSHIP

If you would like to join us next Sunday for limited in-person worship, please click on the Eventbrite link on the church website. 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.

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## Be a part of the 2021 MLK Day of Service in Athens! Monday, January 18

What a great way to start off 2021 by joining other members of First Presbyterian and the Athens Community by honoring Martin Luther King and helping to make Athens a more beautiful and welcoming place to live!

This year, as in years past, Mission & Outreach Commission has identified several worthy projects that we as a church might work on together. In a nod to COVID-19, we have identified 2 outdoor projects at Cleveland Road Elementary Outdoor Workday and Mae Willie Horton Community Garden (both 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.), and one indoor location at Books For Keeps (9:00 - 11:00 a.m., 12:00-2:00 p.m., or 3:00-5:00 p.m.). Protocols will be followed to ensure everyone’s safety. You can sign up for any of these projects at [uga.givepulse.com/group/118913-Athens-MLK-Day-of-Service](https://uga.givepulse.com/group/118913-Athens-MLK-Day-of-Service).

While any of the 20 or so 2021 MLK Jr. Day of Service Projects are worthy of your volunteer efforts, we hope to see you at one of the locations selected this year by Mission & Outreach Commission. As a reminder, sign-up is required and there are limited number of slots, so sign up soon!

Rob Haire, *Chair*

Mission & Outreach Commission

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday, January 10 - Baptism of the Lord**

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching  
Limited in-person worship (please go to firstpresathens.org to register)
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group Ice Skating at Classic Center (*please RSVP at www.fpcathenspit.com*)

### **Tuesday, January 12**

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting via Zoom

### **Wednesday, January 13**

- 9:30 a.m. Circle Seven via Zoom

### **Thursday, January 14**

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom Begins (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting via Zoom

### **Sunday, January 17 - Elder Ordination and Installation Service**

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching  
Limited in-person worship (please go to firstpresathens.org to register)
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)
- 2:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Martin Luther King Ecumenical Observance via Zoom

## LOOKING AHEAD

**January 18** - Martin Luther King Day of Service, Church Office Closed

**January 23** - Session Retreat

**January 24** - Youth Group Family Game Night via Zoom

**January 28** - Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom

**January 31** - Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom

**February 3** - Our Daily Bread

**February 7** - Red Cross Blood Drive

# On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry 10

WINCHESTER NEW LM

Charles Coffin, 1736  
 Trans. John Chandler, 1837; alt.

*Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690  
 Harm. William Henry Monk, 1847; alt.

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -  
 2. Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; Make  
 3. We hail You as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our  
 4. All praise to You, e - ter - nal Son, Whose

noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in, And let us all our  
 ref - uge, and our great re - ward; O let Your face up -  
 ad - vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 on us shine And fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

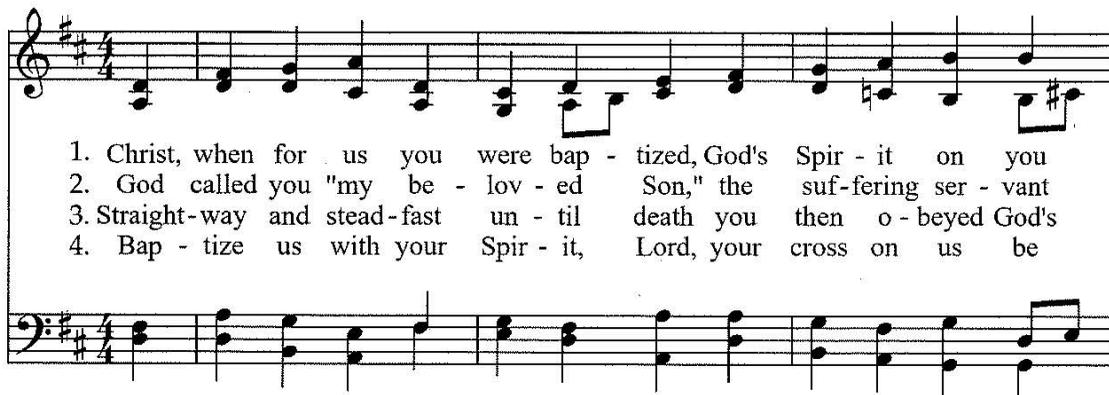
# Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

CAITHNESS CM

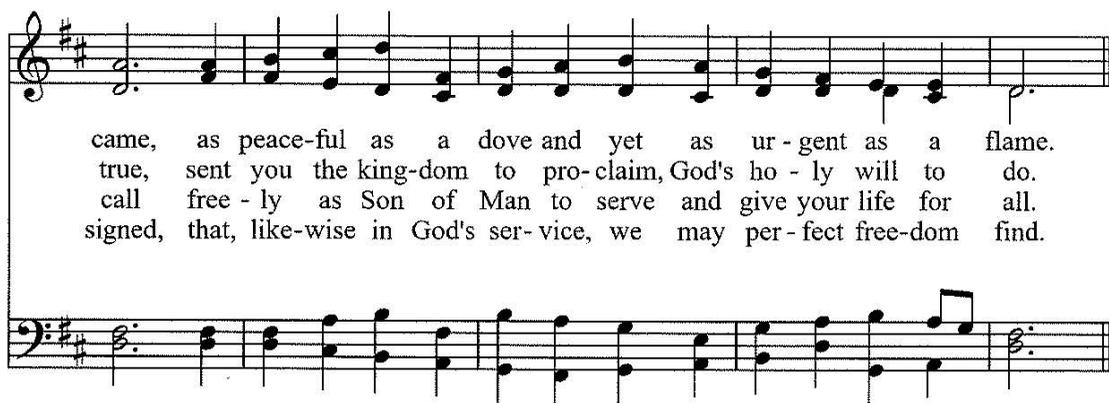
F. Bland Tucker, 1979; alt. 1982

Scottish Psalter, 1635

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906



1. Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you  
2. God called you "my be - lov - ed Son," the suf - fer - ing ser - vant  
3. Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed God's  
4. Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord, your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove and yet as ur - gent as a flame.  
true, sent you the king - dom to pro - claim, God's ho - ly will to do.  
call free - ly as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.  
signed, that, like - wise in God's ser - vice, we may per - fect free - dom find.

# 326 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10

George Croly, 1854

Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2. Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;  
 3. Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh;  
 4. Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love,

Wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,  
 One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as Thou art,  
 I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling,  
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;  
 The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

And make me love Thee as I ought to love.  
 O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!  
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
 My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame.