



# 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 17, 2021  
10:00 a.m. Service  
Second Sunday After Epiphany

## 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

*I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath* Robert J. Powell

### 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

Come and see the grace of God,  
**Christ our teacher and our friend.**  
Come and see the son of God,  
**Christ our healer and salvation.**  
God is moving in this place.  
**Come and see! Come and see.**

### \*Hymn 466

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**God of abundant mercy, you embodied love for us in the life of Jesus Christ. You ate with sinners and shared with outcasts. You loved with boldness and healed with grace. Forgive us, O God, when we do not trust your love: when we doubt whether we are worthy of your care. Forgive us, O God, when we try to cheapen love: when we limit it to shallow feelings instead of bold actions. Help us, O God, when we cannot feel your love, when we are isolated, afraid, and unable to see your presence. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way.**

### \*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.

*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 experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. The tune AZMON is the usual North American setting.

**\*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!

**\*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 146

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

**Solo** *O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench* William Billings

O carpenter, why leave the bench where wood yields to your art,  
and take instead, to try your skill, the stony human heart?  
O carpenter, why leave the tools to carry out your plans,  
and go instead to do God's work with empty, open hands?  
O carpenter, why leave the world of table, bed, and house,  
to face the empire's carpentry, to lift a Roman cross?  
O carpenter, why leave repairs with wood and clamp and glue,  
and rise from death to seek instead to make the whole world new?  
O carpenter, who else could do the work that you have done?  
What can we do but sing your praise, O Savior, Mary's son!

**Second Lesson** Luke 4:14-30

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

**Sermon** *Hometown Hero* Dr. Ryan Baer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*Hymn 332** *Live Into Hope* TRURO

**\*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 solo is a hymn from the new Presbyterian hymnal. The reflective text explores the distance between the humble craft of carpenter and the great importance of Christ's true work. The tune is by William Billings, regarded as the first American choral composer and a leading music educator. This tune is the middle of a longer tune written for a metrical version of Psalm 133.

*Live Into Hope*, based on Luke 4:16-20, is the author's first. It was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976. The text was written with this 18th-century tune in mind.

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.

## 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**                      *Improvisation on LEWIS-TOWN*                      John Coble

**\*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

## Presentation of Elders Ordained\* and Installed

Sarah Bryan	Jim Dove
*Judy Burch	Mark Hopkins
*Kent Burel	*Matt Jones
Rod Canfield	Robyn McDonald
*Melinda DeMaria	Keith Oelke

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

**\*Hymn 440**                      *In Christ There Is No East or West*                      MCKEE

## \*Charge and Benediction

**\*Congregational Response**                      PUER NOBIS NASCITUR  
**To God the Father, God the Son,  
and Holy Spirit, three in one,  
may every tongue and nation raise  
an endless song of thankful praise.**

**Postlude**                      *Postlude on AZMON*                      Charles Callahan

*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.*

*In Christ there Is No East or West enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by paring it with a traditional spiritual melody. The 1940 pairing marked the first use of African-American music in a mainline North American hymnal*

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

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*  
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*  
John Tsao, *Soloist*

### USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon III, 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 and in memory of Wayne Middendorf by the Middendorf family.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of William Stone Cowsert IV on December 18, 2020. His parents are Will and Katie Cowsert. Grandparents are Bill and Amy Cowsert.

### 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](http://firstpresathens.org)).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### “SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS”

**Sundays at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom**  
**Zoom ID: 706-543-4338 (PW: 185185)**

Join Dr. Ryan Baer for a special edition of “Sunday Conversations” this week as we visit with Trish Yeatts Butcher. Trish is a member of FPC, an FPC Weekday School parent, and a licensed attorney whose practice focuses on estate planning. If you’re a parent or guardian of a minor child, you don’t want to miss this important conversation. The event is free and open to all, but registration via church website is required.

### 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.

### 2020-21 WEEKDAY SCHOOL

First Pres Weekday School registration for Fall 2021 began last week. 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).

### 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.

### BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Josephine Paine Bible Study meets 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. Next meeting will be **January 28**.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, February 7, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code AFPC), or contact the church office.

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## Annual Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ecumenical Observance

**Today, January 17, 4:00 p.m.**

Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens and the Athens Area Human Relations Council invite all to this service, which will be held via Zoom. Guest speakers will be Dr. Ryan Baer, and the Rev. Dr. Daryl G. Bloodsaw, Senior Pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church West. To register for the service, please go to [www.humanrelationscouncil.org/ecumenical-service](http://www.humanrelationscouncil.org/ecumenical-service).

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## Be a part of the 2021 MLK Day of Service in Athens!

**Tomorrow, 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](http://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 17 - Elder Presentation and Recognition**

- 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

### **Monday, January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Church Office Closed**

- 9:00 a.m. Martin Luther King Day of Service

### **Wednesday, January 20**

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

### **Sunday, January 24**

- 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*)
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Family Game Night via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 725-346-682*)

## LOOKING AHEAD

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

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

**February 3** - Our Daily Bread

**February 5** - Food Sunday drop-off (9:30-11:00 a.m.), Church Office parking lot

**February 7** - Red Cross Blood Drive

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## **Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom January 31, 11:30 a.m.**

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom (*ID: 706 543 4338, PW 185185*) on Sunday, **January 31**. We will receive the Annual Report, Treasurer's Report, 2021 Budget, review the pastors' terms of call, and elect members at-large to serve on the Nominations and Elections Committee.

# O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

466

AZMON CM

Charles Wesley, 1738; alt.

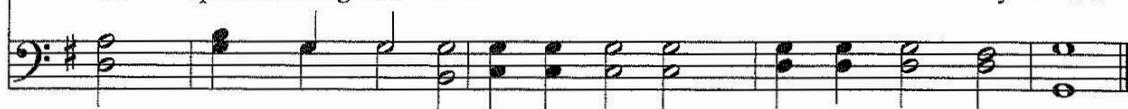
Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828  
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839



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.



# Live Into Hope

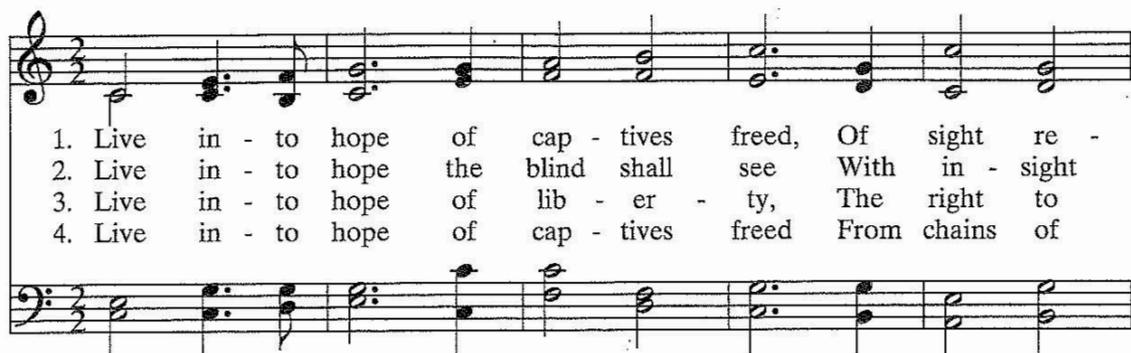
332

TRURO LM

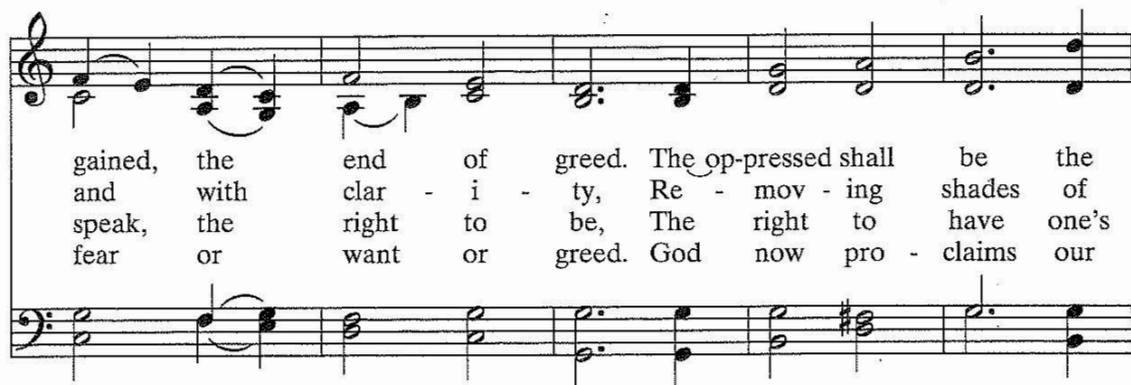
Thomas Williams, 1789

Jane Parker Huber, 1976

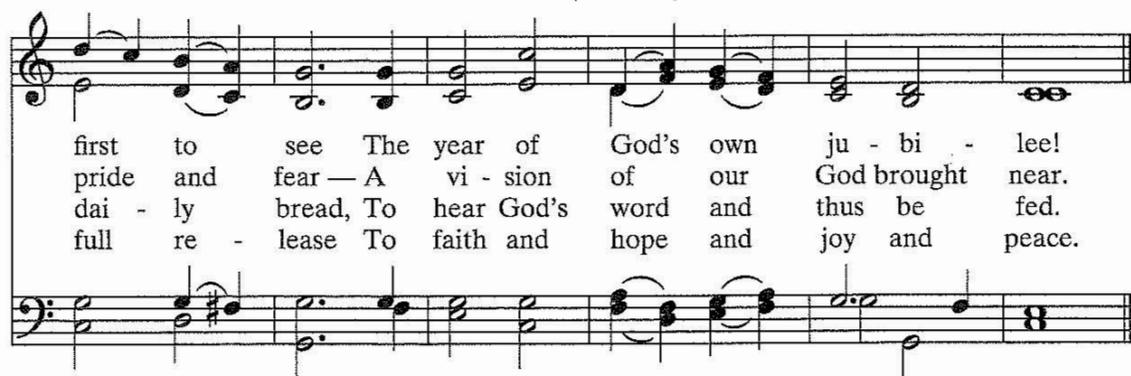
Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)



1. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, Of sight re -  
 2. Live in - to hope the blind shall see With in - sight  
 3. Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, The right to  
 4. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed From chains of



gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the  
 and with clar - i - ty, Re - mov - ing shades of  
 speak, the right to be, The right to have one's  
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our



first to see The year of God's own ju - bi - lee!  
 pride and fear — A vi - sion of our God brought near.  
 dai - ly bread, To hear God's word and thus be fed.  
 full re - lease To faith and hope and joy and peace.

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# In Christ There Is No East or West

MC KEE CM

African-American spiritual

*Jubilee Songs*, 1884

Adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.

C G C F B $\flat$  F C F Am Dm7 G7 C F C

1. In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north;  
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where Their high com-mu - nion find;  
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, What-e'er your race may be.  
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In Him meet south and north;

Am C Am C G7 C G7 C F C Am C G7 C

But one great fel - low - ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.  
 His ser - vice is the gold-en cord Close - bind - ing hu - man-kind.  
 All chil - dren of the liv - ing God Are sure - ly kin to me.  
 All Christ - ly souls are one in Him Through - out the whole wide earth.

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