



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 31, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service

Fourth 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

Air

Gerre Hancock

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

Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart

in the company of the congregation.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, ever mindful of the covenant.

The works of God's hands are faithful and just, established forever and ever.

Holy and awesome is God's name.

God's praise endures forever!

*Hymn 379

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

You have shown us, O God, what it means to follow you. Forgive us when we fail; open our hearts and minds to your teachings. You modeled compassion in the person of Jesus Christ, but we do not extend kindness to strangers or friends. You challenge systems of injustice through the movement of your spirit, but we keep choosing comfort over justice, the status quo over the kingdom of God. You create all things good, and your creation sings your praise, but we consider no creatures but ourselves and wound your earth by our sin. Forgive us, O God. Pour your compassion on us this day, and by your forgiveness, show us how to share it with one another.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

A special word of

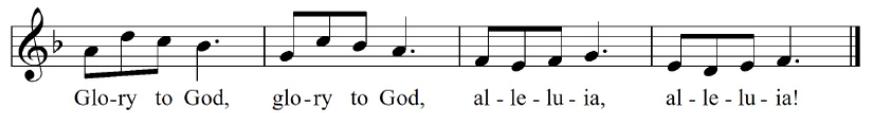
welcome: thank you for being with us for worship this morning. We are delighted and hope that you will join us again next Sunday.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less develops the imagery of Jesus' remark that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier



***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 92

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

Solo *Consecration* Frederick Chatfield

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Second Lesson Luke 6:1-16

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

Sermon *The Pharisees* Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn** *For the Fruit of All Creation* ARHYDYNOS

***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 text of the solo radiates from the repeated word “take,” resulting in a full survey of a person’s attributes and possessions and giving weight to the “all” at the end. It is set to music by a contemporary American composer who has served United Methodist, United Church of Christ, and Presbyterian churches.

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 *AR HYD YNOS* Frank Stoldt

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

***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 in D* Healy Willan

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.

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72. The tune is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

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

Michelle Clendenen-Shaw, John Simpson

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary by Ron and Svea Bogue.

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).

Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom Today, 11:30 a.m.

Please join us today for our Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom (*ID: 706 543 4338, PW 185185*) on Sunday. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 (sponsor code AFPC), or contact the church office (706-543-4338, frontdesk@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.

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.

“SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS”

Sunday Conversations will return on February 7

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 31

- 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. Carol Strickland preaching Limited in-person worship (*please go to firstpresathens.org to register*)
- 11:30 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185*)

Monday, February 1

- 10:00 a.m. Circle Two Meeting via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 2

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Circle Three-Four Meeting via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 7:00 p.m. Circle Six Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, February 3

- 10:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: “Twelfth Night” via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Thursday, February 4

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting via Zoom

Friday, February 5

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

Sunday, February 7 - Communion Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall (until 1:00 p.m.)
- 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*)

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK LM with refrain

Edward Mote, c. 1834

William Batchelder Bradbury, 1863

1. My hope is built on noth-ing less Than Je - sus' blood and
 2. When dark-ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un -
 3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood Sup - port me in the
 4. When He shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

righteous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, But whol-ly
 chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm-y gale, My an - chor
 whelm-ing flood; When all a-round my soul gives way, He then is
 Him be found, Dressed in His right - eous - ness a - lone, Fault - less to

Refrain

lean on Je - sus' name.
 holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; All
 all my hope and stay.
 stand be - fore the throne.

oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

Alternate tune: MELITA, 562

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

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 -

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!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

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

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

CLASS OF 2023

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

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*