



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!

February 7, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service

Fifth 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

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

HOLY MANNA

All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.

Come from wilderness and wandering.

Here, in truth, we will be fed.

You that year for days of fulness, all around us is our food.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Call to Worship

Let us worship and sing praises to God,

for the Lord is gracious and worthy of praise!

God gathers the outcasts and heals the brokenhearted.

God gives the stars their names and makes grass grow on the hills.

Let us hope in God's steadfast love

and worship God together!

*Hymn 482 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O God you bring healing to our lives and comfort to our hearts. Forgive us, O Lord, when we contribute to the things that break your heart. You would have us share our gifts with the world, but we keep our resources close and our minds closed. You would have us live in faithful community, but we isolate ourselves and eye our neighbors with mistrust. You would have us see all people as our siblings, but we try to separate ourselves from anyone whose existence challenges our comfort. Forgive us, O God, by your grace, and free us to be agents of your healing.

*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.

The 17th-century German hymn *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103. It did not receive an effective English translation until the 19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***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.

O Christ the Healer, a prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of such widespread need, worshipping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

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.

The offertory is a communion hymn using Handel's setting of the same tune from his *Brookes Passion*. The text celebrates the joy of communion, rather than recalling the passion of Jesus.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Psalm 119:105-107

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

Second Lesson Luke 7:1-17

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

Sermon

Surprised by Grace

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn**

O Christ the Healer

O WALY WALY

***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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness

George Frideric Handel

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness;
 come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy thy praises render
 unto him whose grace unbounded hath this wondrous banquet founded;
 high over all the heavens he reigneth, yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.
 Sun, who all my life dost brighten; Light, who does my soul enlighten;
 Joy, the best that any knoweth; Fount, whence all my being floweth;
 at thy feet I cry, my Maker, let me be a fit partaker
 of this blessed food from heaven, for our good, thy glory, given.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The musical setting of the communion liturgy is based on the American folk hymn LAND OF REST, arranged by American composer Richard Proulx.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,



Christ will come a - gain.



The Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16
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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 280** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* **AMAZING GRACE**

***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

Holy Manna

Charles Callahan

The postlude is from *Be Glad & Rejoice*, commissioned for the bicentennial celebration of First Presbyterian Church.

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*
 John Tsao, *Soloist*

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon III, Beverly Phares, 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 memory of Bob and Sue Marion by Jack and Sally Vandiver.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Griffith Bowen Overbaugh on February 2, 2021 in Bloomington, Indiana. Her parents are Geneva Stonecipher and Chris Overbaugh.

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).

A Bicentennial History • 1820-2020 is now available

If you preordered the book, you are invited to drive-by the Weekday School entrance in the Dougherty Street parking lot to pick up your copy **today between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.** Alternatively, you can schedule an appointment to pick up your copy at the church office or have it delivered or mailed to your residence. If you would like to order, each copy is available for \$45.00 through February 15. After that date, the cost will be \$55.00 per book (prices include sales tax).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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. Carol Strickland will lead the study which is open to all. Next meeting will be this Thursday, **February 11** to study Luke 9:28-45.

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.

“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)

Attention Youth and Children Families – Lenten Bags and Boxes of Love Drive By this Sunday, February 7

Please drive by this Sunday, February 7 between 4:00–6:00 p.m. to pick up your Family's Lenten Bags and Boxes of Love. Our Family Lenten goodie bags and boxes are filled with a variety of gifts and Lenten resources including the Holy Days@ First Devotional and Lenten Resource Booklet. We hope that these gifts and worship resources will help you feel God's love during this Season of Lent.

Holy Days@ First Devotional and Lenten Resource Booklet

Be on the lookout for your Holy Days@ First Devotional and Lenten Resource Booklet. All Church Members will receive their very own copy of this booklet and will also be able to access it on the main page of the church website.

Ash Wednesday **February 17**

Worship (in-person limited and livestream), 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for a traditional service including the imposition of ashes. The service will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. If you would like to join us in-person, the Eventbrite link will go live on church website on Wednesday, February 10 at 9:00 a.m. Alternatively, you can contact the church office at (706) 543-4338 and we will add you to the list.

Drive-by Imposition of Ashes, 5:00–6:00 p.m.

You are invited to drive by the front of the church between 5:00–6:00 p.m. for a drive-by imposition of ashes and blessing.

THIS WEEK

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*)
- 4:00 p.m. Lenten Love Drive-by for Youth and Children Ministry (until 6:00 p.m.)

Monday, February 8

- 5:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 9

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, February 10

- 9:30 a.m. Circle Seven Meeting via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: "Twelfth Night" via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Thursday, February 11

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

Sunday, February 14

- 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*)

LOOKING AHEAD

February 15 - Presidents' Day, Church Office Closed

February 17 - Ash Wednesday, Limited in-person worship and Livestream at noon
Drive-by Imposition of Ashes, 5:00 p.m.

February 21 - First Things for Newcomers

February 22 - Lay Callers Meeting via Zoom

First Things for Newcomers February 21, 1:00 p.m.

Are you, or someone you know, interested in finding out more about FPC membership? "First Things," a class to introduce you to the mission and ministry of our church, will be held 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. via Zoom on Sunday afternoon, February 21. Dr. Ryan Baer will facilitate the class where you will meet our program staff as well as other newcomers and have a chance to ask questions about our church. Those who wish to join the church will meet with our governing board (Session) the following Sunday afternoon, also via Zoom. Please notify the church office (706-543-4338) if you would like to sign up for "First Things," or email Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org.

482 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8

Joachim Neander, 1680
Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Stralsund *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, 1665
Harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863
Desc. Craig Sellar Lang, 1953

Descant

3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

1. Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2. Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
 3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

a tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy
 reign - eth, Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so
 dore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

prais - es be - fore Him! Let the a - men Sound from His

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, Now to His
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen How thy de -
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the a - men Sound from His

peo-ple a - gain; Glad-ly for aye we a - dore Him.
 tem - ple draw near; Join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been Grant-ed in what He or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

Hymn

O Christ, the Healer

○ WALY WALY

1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for
 2 From ev - ry ail - ment flesh en-dures our bod-ies clam - or to be
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de-sires, how weak our knowl - edge of our-
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis -
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may

friends. How can we fail to be re -
 freed; yet in our hearts we would con -
 selves! Re - lease in us those heal - ing
 ease; our com - mon life de - clares our
 find the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing

stored, when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.
 truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1967, alt.

Music: English folk melody

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 tsow'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'
Yisdáshítinígíí,
Lah yóóiyá, k'ad shénáhoosdzin,
Doo eesh'íí da n't'éé.

Text: Phonetic transcription Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw: Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;
Navaho: phonetic transcription by Albert Tsosie.

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*