



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 14, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Transfiguration of Our 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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Bill Ingram

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, let us go to the holy mountain
and worship Christ with the disciples!

We will see Christ transformed before us.

We will see our lives transformed before Christ.

Come, let us go to the holy mountain
and worship the Son of God.

*Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of transformation, you make new life where there was old, dazzling light where there were shadows, peace where there was violence, and friends where there were enemies. Forgive us, O God, when we stand in the way of your transformative love. Forgive us when we do not live as people who have been changed by your grace. Call us to the mountain once more, and send us out to be witnesses of your transformative grace.

*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.

The prelude is played by members of the Handbell Choir: Martha Elmore, Jill Hopkins, Diane Hudgins, Pam Prokasy, Cynthia Prosser, and Jeremy Praissman.

The opening line of *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* was inspired by the three divine attributes listed 1 Timothy 1, and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The Welsh melody is shaped by many three-note units.

***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 36:5-10

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

Solo

Christ, Upon the Mountain Stands

Robert Lehman

Christ, upon the mountain stands, vision of the Father's blessing;
blazing forth to all the lands, saints and angels now professing. Alleluia, alleluia!
Law and prophets have their place in the cloud of wondrous glory;
chosen witnesses of grace, there to see and tell the story. Alleluia, alleluia!
God, in majesty, descends, then proclaims to all before him:
This is my beloved Son! Nations, come now and adore him. Alleluia, alleluia!
Faithful hearts we lift on high, joyful strains, our voices raising
for this vision's mystery, songs of wonder, hymns of praising. Alleluia, alleluia!

Second Lesson

Luke 9:28-45

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

Sermon

Transfiguration

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn**

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

UNSER HERRSCHER

***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, (cont.)**

The solo is a Transfiguration text by Mark Schweizer, set to music by contemporary American composer, Robert Lehman.

Some version of the Transfiguration is often read on the last Sunday after Epiphany. In *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*, that foretaste of Christ's glorification helps to prepare Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of "God's beloved Son."

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.

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 *Fairest Lord Jesus* Charles Ore

***Doxology**

**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.**

Hymn 592

*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.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 306 *Fairest Lord Jesus* CRUSADERS' HYMN

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

**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.**

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Postlude *Rise, Shine, You People!* David Cherwien

*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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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 Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory
of God and in honor of Katherine Covington
Queen by Carolyn and David Hally.

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).

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, 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.

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

You are invited to drive by on the Hancock Avenue side of the church between 5:00-6:00 p.m. for the imposition of ashes and blessing while remaining in your car.

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 Thursday, **February 25** to study Luke 13:1-9, 31-35.

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)

Holy Days@ First Devotional and Lenten Resource Booklet

Be on the lookout for your Holy Days@ First Devotional and Lenten Resource Booklet. All member households will receive a copy of this booklet. It will also be available on the home page of the church website.

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.

A Bicentennial History • 1820-2020 is now available

If you preordered the book, 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 tomorrow, February 15. After tomorrow, the cost will be \$55.00 per book (prices include sales tax).

THIS WEEK

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*)

Monday, February 15 - Presidents' Day, Church Office Closed

- 5:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, February 16

- 5:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Circle Seven Meeting via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service (limited in-person and livestream), Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: "Twelfth Night" via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)
- 5:00 p.m. Drive-by Imposition of Ashes until 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 21, First Sunday in Lent

- 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*)
- 1:00 p.m. First Things for Newcomers via Zoom
- 4:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group in-person Fire Pits: Middle School
- 7:30 p.m. Youth Group in-person Fire Pits: High School

LOOKING AHEAD

February 22 - Lay Callers Meeting via Zoom

February 25 - Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom

February 28 - Youth Group Family Game Night: Chopped

March 3 - Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church Kitchen

March 5 - Food Sunday Drop-off, Church parking lot

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 263

ST. DENIO 11.11.11

Welsh folk melody

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Hymn

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

UNSER HERRSCHER

1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter, James, and John,
 2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com - pan - ions saw?
 3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis - ci - ples heard?
 4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you glo - ri - fied,
 5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as - cend - ed Lord,

we are daz-zled by your glo - ry, light as blind-ing as the sun.
 Your di - vin - i - ty re-vealed there fills us with the self-same awe.
 Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car - nate Word,
 where you shout-ed "It is fin-ished!" where for all the world you died.
 can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that we have seen and heard;

There pre - pare us for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
 Clothed in flesh like ours you go, matched to meet our dead-liest foe.
 "Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."
 Hear the stunned cen - tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"
 say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991

Music: Joachim Neander, 1680, harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863 alt.

Fairest Lord Jesus

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CRUSADERS' HYMN 5.6.8.5.5.8

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

Trans. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850; alt.

Silesian folk melody

In Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,

O Thou of God to earth come down, Thee will I cher - ish,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twin - kling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.