



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 21, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
First Sunday in Lent

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

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Alec Wyton

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

AUS DER TIEFE RUFFE ICH

**Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.**

Call to Worship

We have entered the season of Lent, a time to examine our hearts and our lives

and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.

Let us lift up our souls to our merciful God

and humble ourselves in God's service.

God has marked us as beloved dust

and called us together to worship.

***Hymn 81** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

In the season of Lent, O God, we say lofty words about renewing our spiritual disciplines, journeying with you to the cross, or denying ourselves material wants for the good of the soul. Forgive us, O God, if our actions are in vain: if we are concerned with the good of the soul rather than the good of your people; if we have twisted this season of penitence into a reason for judgment of others; if we are so preoccupied with the sins of the world that we cannot recognize and confess the sins of our own lives. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again.

*Silent Prayer

**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.

Like many of the author's hymns, *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

*Congregational Response

Healey Willan

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (two sharps) and common time. The lyrics are integrated into the melody. The first staff starts with a quarter note followed by eighth notes. The second staff begins with a half note. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes.

*Assurance of Pardon

*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 15

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

Solo

Create a Pure Heart in Me

Susan Matsui

Create a pure heart in me, O Lord. Grant me a new and steadfast spirit.
Do not drive me away from thy presence, or take thy Spirit from me.
Revive in me the joy of deliverance, grant me a steady soul to uphold me.
Open thou my lips, everlasting Lord, that my mouth may sing thy praises.
Thou takest no delight in sacrifice, nor hast thou any wish for whole offering.
My sacrifice, Lord, is a broken soul, my offering, a contrite heart.

Second Lesson

Luke 10:25-37

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

Sermon

Neighbors

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 413

All Who Love and Serve Your City

CHARLESTOWN

*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 paraphrase of Psalm 51. The contemporary American composer has a very diverse background, influenced by living nearly twenty years in Japan, as well as by medieval music, and her formative years in an Episcopal church.

The 20th-century text *All Who Love and Serve Your City* greatly enriches the neglected genre of urban hymns. The second stanza quotes John 9:4, the third stanza refers to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, and the final line cites the name given to Israel's future holy city (Ezekiel 48:35).

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 Improvisation on *CHARLESTOWN*

John Coble

*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 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again

RANDOLPH

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Postlude

Fugue in G Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

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 memory of Allison Bishop Hays by Janet and Bob Bishop and Will and John Hays.

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 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 \$55.00 (price includes 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 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)

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 21, First Sunday in Lent

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| 9:00 a.m. | Adult Sunday School (<i>please check firstpresathens.org for more information</i>) |
| 10:00 a.m. | Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
Limited in-person worship (<i>please go to firstpresathens.org to register</i>) |
| 11:30 a.m. | “Sunday Conversations” with Dr. Ryan Baer (<i>Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW: 185185</i>) |
| 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 |

Monday, February 22

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| 2:00 p.m. | Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom |
| 5:00 p.m. | Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen |
| 5:30 p.m. | Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall |

Tuesday, February 23

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| 12:00 p.m. | Family Promise of Athens La Table’ Virtual |
| 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 24

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| 4:30 p.m. | Shakespeare: “Much Ado About Nothing” via Zoom (<i>e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class</i>) |
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Thursday, February 25

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| 10:00 a.m. | Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom (<i>Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW: 185185</i>) |
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Saturday, February 27

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| 9:30 a.m. | Winter Stated Meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery |
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Sunday, February 28

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| 9:00 a.m. | Adult Sunday School (<i>please check firstpresathens.org for more information</i>) |
| 10:00 a.m. | Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
Limited in-person worship (<i>please go to firstpresathens.org to register</i>) |
| 11:30 a.m. | “Sunday Conversations” with Dr. Ryan Baer (<i>Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW: 185185</i>) |
| 7:00 p.m. | Youth Group Family Game Night: Chopped |

Lent and Holy Week Services & Activities

Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall, Mondays through Thursdays throughout Lent, 1:00-4:00 p.m., starting on February 22.

No reservations needed, masks required. Please check-in with church staff to let them know that you are here to walk the Labyrinth.

Palm Sunday, March 28

Limited in-person worship at 10:00 a.m. with livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube

Downtown Prayer Walk

You are invited to pick up a palm branch and map beside the church office door, available Palm Sunday through Holy Week. Walk the suggested route, stopping at 14 points to offer prayer. A "virtual walk" will be available on our website

Maundy Thursday Service via Zoom, April 1, 7:00 p.m., (Zoom ID: 706-543-4338)

We will gather over Zoom for the Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to have available for hand or foot washing a tub of hot water and towel (soap, washcloth, and lotion, optional).

Good Friday, April 2

Presbyterian Community Virtual Service. Pre-recorded and shared with Athens Area Presbyterian Churches, the service will be available online at 9:00 a.m.

Easter, April 4, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Limited in-person worship at 10:00 a.m. with livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube

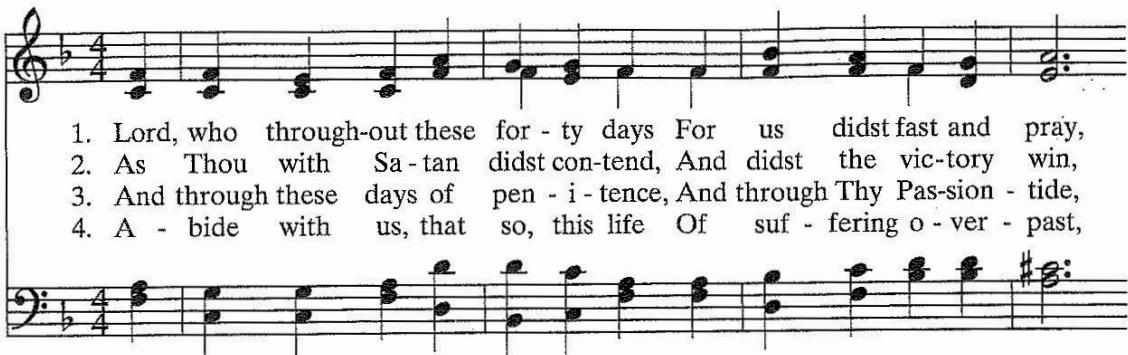
Luke 4:1-13 

81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

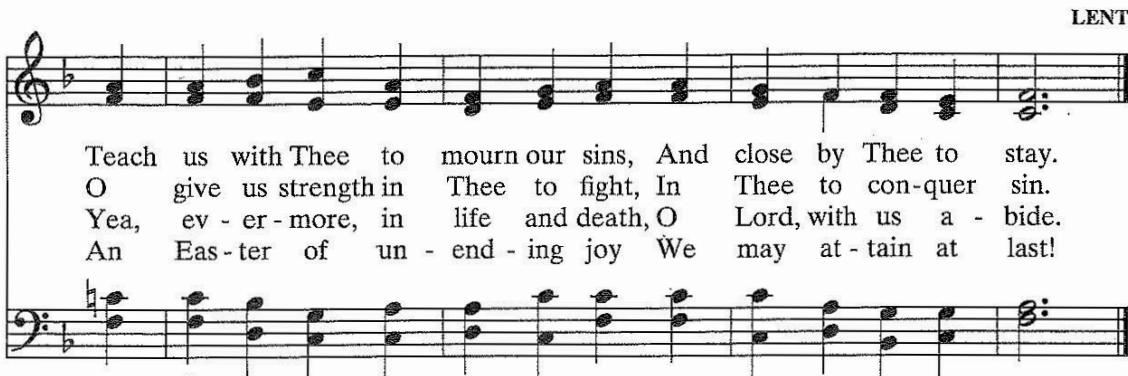
ST. FLAVIAN CM

Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Day's Psalter, 1562



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days For us didst fast and pray,
2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, And didst the vic-tory win,
3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy Pas-sion - tide,
4. A - bide with us, that so, this life Of suf - fering o - ver - past,



LENT

Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.
O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con-quer sin.
Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

All Who Love and Serve Your City

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CHARLESTOWN 8.7.8.7

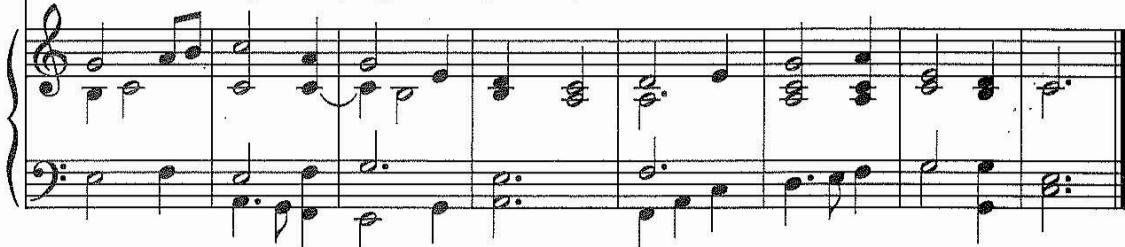
Erik Routley, 1966

The United States Sacred Harmony, 1799
Harm. Carlton R. Young, 1964

1. All who love and serve your cit - y, All who bear its dai - ly stress,
2. In your day of wealth and plen - ty, Wast - ed work and wast - ed play,
3. For all days are days of judg - ment, And the Lord is wait - ing still,
4. Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y Be the cit - y of de - spair?



All who cry for peace and jus - tice, All who curse and all who bless:
 Call to mind the word of Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
 Draw - ing near a world that spurns Him, Of - fering peace from Calvary's hill.
 Come to - day, our judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"



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Be Thou My Vision

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Ancient Irish poem

Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad

Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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* (charlotteposse@gmail.com)
 Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*