



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!

March 7, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Third 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 *Prelude on ST. COLUMBA* Healey Willan

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering AUS DER TIEFE RUF E 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 worship in 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 listen for the commandments of God
and align our lives with God's vision for peace.
God has marked us as beloved dust
and called us together to worship.

*Hymn 457 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* TOULON

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession
O Christ who chased the money changers from the temple, chase the greed from our lives and our hearts. As you overturned the tables, O Lord, overturn the systems in our world that contribute to cycles of poverty and oppression. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we contribute to the world's brokenness. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again.

*Silent Prayer

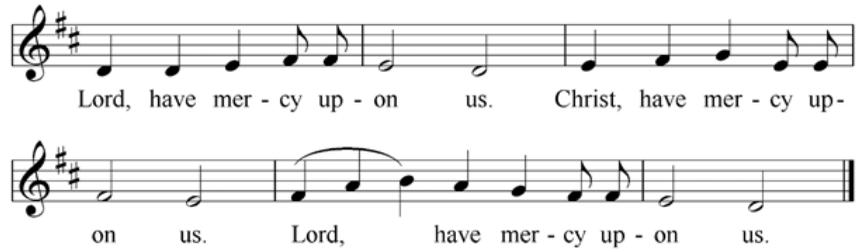
**Those who are able may stand.*

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.

The original French text of *I Greet thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking or a Catholic hymn. The text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

***Congregational Response**

Healey Willan



***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 119:167-176

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

Second Lesson

Luke 15:1-32

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

Sermon

Lost and Found

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BEACH SPRING

***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

The Penitent's Vision

K. Lee Scott

Jesus, name, all names above, Jesus, best and dearest,
Jesus, fount of perfect love, holiest, tenderest, nearest,
Jesus, source of grace completest, Jesus, purest, Jesus, sweetest,
Jesus, well of power divine, make me, keep me, seal me thine!
Thou didst call the prodigal; thou didst pardon Mary:
thou whose words can never fall, love can never vary:
Lord, to heal my lost condition, give (for thou canst give) contrition;
thou canst pardon all my ill; bid my spirit, "Peace, be still!"
Jesus, open me the gate that the robber entered,
who in that most lost estate wholly on thee ventured.
Thou, whose wounds are ever pleading, and thy Passion interceding,
from my sins, oh, let me rise to a home in Paradise!

In the 19th century, hymnal editors often failed to identify authors, and women, in particular, were not given credit for their work. Dorothy Thrupp left all hymns unsigned in her collection *Hymns for the Young* (1836). It is possible she is the author of *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*. The words are based on the idea of Jesus as Shepherd with a few ideas from Psalm 23. It was intended for children rather than adults.

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.

***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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is has been one of the favorite paraphrases of Psalm 23 in the English speaking world. That popularity increased when it was paired with the flowing Irish melody ST. COLUMBA.

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

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

- ***Hymn 171** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* ST. COLUMBA
- ***Charge and Benediction**
- ***Congregational Response** RANDOLPH
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
- Postlude** *Improvisation on ST. COLUMBA* John Coble

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 Bertha Brandenburg and Norman Handley by Dot Handley.

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).

We share in the celebration of Bruce Lancaster's retirement this month from 42 years of ministry, and give thanks for his ministry here with us from 2016-19.

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, **March 11** to study Luke 16:19-31.

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)

Family Promise of Athens Volunteers Needed

April 4-11

The upcoming Family Promise Host Week for FPC is **April 4-11**. The families will be at the Milledge Avenue Baptist Church static site. There are multiple preventive measures in place to keep everyone safe and socially-distanced. If you are interested in volunteering, please click on the SignUpGenius link on our website or contact Susan Boatwright (boatwrightsusan@gmail.com) or Jean Bock (jbock@bellsouth.net).

New volunteers need to complete an online training/orientation. Resources can be found clicking on the Family Promise button on our website.

Lent and Holy Week Services & Activities

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

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, Holy Week

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 7 - Communion Sunday

- 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, March 8 - Thursday, March 11 - Walk the Labyrinth, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, March 8

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

Tuesday, March 9

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 3636*)
- 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, March 10

- 9:30 a.m. Circle Seven via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: "Much Ado About Nothing" via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Thursday, March 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, March 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

March 21 - Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting via Zoom

March 22 - Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom

March 28 - Palm Sunday

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).

Montreat Women's Connection Conference

In hopes that enough of us will be vaccinated by the end of summer to make a gathering possible, Montreat is planning its 2021 Women's Connection Conference. The dates are **August 13 - 15**, Friday through Sunday. Again this year we have reserved the Georgia Lodge for any of our members who would like to go to the conference.

The cost of the conference registration is \$237 before June 28 and \$262 after. The cost of lodging and meal arrangements have yet to be determined. We would like to get a preliminary count of those of you who plan to come this year, so please indicate your interest via the link on our FPC website.

More information about and registration for the Women's Connection Conference can be found at montreat.org/events/wc2021. Please email Carol McKay at carol_mckay@att.net if you would like to attend.

457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON 10.10.10

Attr. John Calvin

French Psalter, Strassburg, 1545

Trans. Elizabeth Lee Smith, 1868

Adapt. from Genevan 124

Genevan Psalter, 1551

1. I greet Thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,
2. Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
3. Thou art the life, by which a - lone we live,
4. Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,

My on - ly trust and Sav - ior of my heart,
Reign - ing om - nip - o - tent in ev - ery place:
And all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;
No harsh - ness hast Thou and no bit - ter - ness:

Who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;
So come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;
Sus - tain us by Thy faith and by Thy power,
O grant to us the grace we find in Thee,

I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.
And give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
That we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.

5. Our hope is in no other save in Thee;
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7. D

Thrupp's *Hymns for the Young*, 1836

The Sacred Harp, 1844

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der
2. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we
3. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy

care; in thy pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre-
be; thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to
will; bless-ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our bo-soms

pare: bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we
free: bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to
fill: bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us

are; bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed
thee; bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed
still; bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed

Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee.
Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

Henry Williams Baker, 1868

Ancient Irish melody

1. The King of love my Shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow My ran - somed
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul He lead - eth, And where the ver - dant
 love He sought me, And on His shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me; Thy rod and staff my

I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5. Thou spreadest a table in my sight;
 Thy unction grace bestoweth;
 And O what transport of delight
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever.

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*