



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 21, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Fifth 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

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE 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 seek God with our whole hearts

and treasure God's word in our spirits.

God has marked us as beloved dust

and called us together to worship.

*Hymn 482

Praise Ye, the Lord, the Almighty LOBE DEN HERREN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Through the season of Lent, O God, we have prayed for clean hearts and right spirits. Forgive us, O Lord, if we have prayed with our words but failed to pray with our actions. Forgive what we have done that has contributed to the suffering of another, and forgive what we have failed to do that could have lightened a neighbor's burden. 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.*

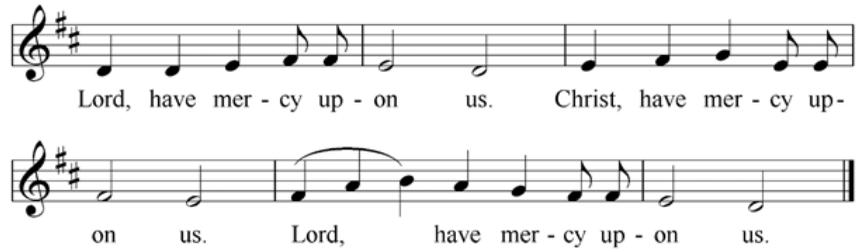
A special word of

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

***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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Sutton Elizabeth Griffeth, into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

***Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Sutton by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

***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.**

Hymn

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12

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

Solo *Awake Us, Lord, and Hasten*

J. S. Bach

Awake us, Lord, and hasten, thy Holy Spirit give.
The old one in us chasten, that our new one may live,
on earth may we know thee only,
our thoughts give to thee wholly,
and all thy goodness own.

Second Lesson Luke 18:31-19:10

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

Sermon

Zaccheus

Dr. Ryan Baer

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.

The solo is an arrangement of a chorale from Bach's Cantata 22. Johann Sebastian Bach was born on this day, March 21, 1685. Bach is considered one of the greatest and most prolific composers of all time, especially in the area of church music. He composed five cycles of cantatas covering the church year, sacred songs, and major works in Latin, not to mention his many sacred works for organ.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 454 *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* LIEBSTER JESU

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 *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* J. S. Bach

*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 357 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* MARYTON

*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 *Toccat and Fugue in D minor* J. S. Bach

Originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* assumes a congregation that assembles regularly. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

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 postlude, Bach's *Toccat and Fugue in D minor*, is possibly the most well-known piece of organ music of all time.

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, 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 Marian Carr and Andrew S.C. McKay by Carol McKay.

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).

Easter Lily Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by Monday, March 29. Each dedication is \$10. You may go to the website and fill out the form, mail your completed form and check to the church office, or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications. Each dedication will be listed in the April 4 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR DAILY BREAD

Volunteers (ages 18-70) needed to prepare lunch for those in need on the 1st Wednesday of the month. We also have a team (ages 18-70) to fix and distribute breakfast on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Safety protocols will be used. Contact Patty Whiten at 678-371-1757 to help with breakfast, and Fran Lane (706-543-1074) to help with lunch.

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)

A BICENTENNIAL HISTORY • 1820-2020 IS NOW AVAILABLE

If you would like to order a book, each copy is \$55 (price includes sales tax). You may pay online at our website or by check. Please call the church office to schedule an appointment to pick up your copy.

CHAIR YOGA

Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

Zoom ID: 558-324-3907 (New PW: 6136)

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. Next meeting will be Thursday, **March 25** to study Luke 19:28-40, 22:1-23:56. Open to all.

BOOKS FOR KEEPS BOOK DRIVE

Since 2009, Books for Keeps has given more than half a million books to children from low-income families in grades Pre-K through 12. FPC has become a large supporter of Books for Keeps with our annual book drive (due to COVID-19, we had to cancel in 2020).

You can help make sure no child in our community goes a summer without great books to read. Please bring your used books to the bins in the Atrium or church office. Books of all kinds will be accepted, then sold by Books for Keeps with proceeds used to buy new children’s books. To learn more about the organization, go to booksforkeeps.org. Thank you!

Family Promise of Athens Volunteers Needed

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).

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. 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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 21

- 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*)
- 4:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Planning Meeting with High School Seniors

Monday, March 22 - Thursday, March 25 - Walk the Labyrinth, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, March 22

- 9:00 a.m. Reservations open for Easter service
- 2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)
- 5:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 23

- 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 24

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

Thursday, March 25

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

Sunday, March 28 - Palm 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*)
- 5:00 p.m. Youth group in-person Prayer Walk

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, as well as communion elements.

Good Friday, April 2

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

Easter, April 4, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Limited in-person worship at **8:45 and 11:00 a.m.** with livestreaming on Facebook and YouTube. Reservations open on March 22.

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.

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

Michael A. Seward, 1981

Gaelic melody
arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 blood of Christ, our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing the
 pro - mise, faith-ful-ly now God's prais-es we sing.

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

454

LIEBSTER JESU 7.8.7.8.8.8

Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt. 1972

Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1664

Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750); alt.

1. Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your word We are gath - ered
 2. All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
 3. Glo - rious Lord, Your - self im - part! Light of light, from

all to hear You; Let our hearts and souls be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed, Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
 God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our ears and heart,

Now to seek and love and fear You; By Your teach - ings
 With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; You a - lone to
 Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing; Hear the cry that

true and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
 God can win us, You must work all good with - in us.
 we are rais - ing; Hear, and bless our prayers and prais - ing.

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

357

Washington Gladden, 1879

MARYTON LM

Henry Percy Smith, 1874

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with Thee In low - ly
2. Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,
3. Teach me Thy pa - tience; still with Thee In clos - er,
4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

paths of ser - vice free; Tell me Thy se - cret;
win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - ening way; In peace that on - ly

help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
Thou canst give, With Thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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*