



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!

April 18, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Third Sunday of Easter

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

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

Marilyn Keiser

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

HYMN TO JOY

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

Call to Worship

When the disciples were certain that Jesus was dead,
he stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."
Let us watch for the risen Christ this day,
bursting in with new life and new hope.
Easter people, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

*Hymn 121

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*Prayer of Confession

What love you have given us, O God, that we should be called your children. What love you have given us, O Christ, that we should share a table with you. Forgive us when we act as if we were your only children: when we do not recognize your image in the faces of strangers, enemies, or friends; when we do not share our own tables, forgetting that we need each other. Forgive us, O Christ, maker of peace, and teach us to follow in your way.

*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 Eastertide stanzas of *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* are derived from a longer Latin text that was one of the earliest hymns written especially for a season of the church year. They are set to a tune with Christmas associations, a means of linking the two great festivals of the Christian year.

***Congregational Response**

HYMN TO JOY

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.**

***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 34:4-10

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

Solo

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

Welsh melody

Christ has risen while earth slumbers; Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!
Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for the disciples huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.
Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

Second Lesson

Luke 24:36-43

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

Sermon

What's for Supper?

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 119**

The Strife Is O'er

VICTORY

***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,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, (cont.)**

The text of the solo begins with rather conventional Easter imagery, then moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The text is set to a Welsh melody, *Suo Gân*, which simply means "lullaby."

The Strife Is O'er is translated from a Latin text that may well be older than its earliest printing in the 17th century. It is set to an adaptation of a portion of the Gloria Patri section from a 16h-century Magnificat.

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.

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

Suo Gân

James Biery

*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 118

The Day of Resurrection!

LANCASHIRE

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

HYMN TO JOY

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!**

Postlude

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

Johann Sebastian Bach

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. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

John Tsao, *Soloist*

USHERS

John Simpson, Jimbo LaBoon III

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of the birthday of David H. Donnan by Kitty Donnan.

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).

Blessing of the 5th Graders

Sunday, April 25th, 7:00 p.m.

Fifth Graders and Parents, you are invited to this year's Blessing of the 5th Graders! We will safely gather together via Zoom on Sunday, April 25th at 7p.m. A special gift from Mrs. Natalie Bishop and Children's Ministry will be delivered to each graduating 5th Grader the week prior to our Zoom gathering. We will begin our time together with with a special Godly Play blessing and then Mrs. Kim Ness will officially welcome these rising 6th Graders to Youth Group. We look forward to celebrating this big milestone for all of these sweet children!

Ashton Blount
Wright Cook
Harper Havick
Wallace Michalek
Andrew Miller

Lachlan Morris
Teninait Ness
Charlie Phillips
Will Rooker
Declan Wilder

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“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

Led by Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org)

LIMITED IN-PERSON WORSHIP

If you would like to join us next Sunday for a 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.

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!

CHAIR YOGA

Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

Zoom ID: 558-324-3907 (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*). The scripture passage for each class will be the same text addressed by the upcoming Sunday’s sermon. Next meeting will be this Thursday, **April 22** to study Luke 24:44-53. Open to all.

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.

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.

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, April 18

- 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)
- 11:00 a.m. Youth Group in-person Service Project
- 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

Monday, April 19

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

Tuesday, April 20

- 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

Wednesday, April 21

- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: "The Merry Wives of Windsor" via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Thursday, April 22

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

Sunday, April 25 - Youth Sunday, High School Senior Recognition

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube
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*)
- 7:00 p.m. Blessing of the 5th Graders via Zoom

LOOKING AHEAD

May 2 - Scottish Reformation Sunday, Youth Group "The Amazing Race: Highland Games"

Stephen Ministry

Are you experiencing pandemic fatigue? You are not alone. Our Stephen Ministers can help. Please contact a Stephen Leader:

Dawn Frisch: dawnmfrisch@aol.com, 914-255-3447

Bob Frisch: rpfrisch@aol.com, 914-262-1078

Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com, 706-540-4251

Carol Strickland: cstrickland@firstpresathens.org, 706-765-7671

121 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

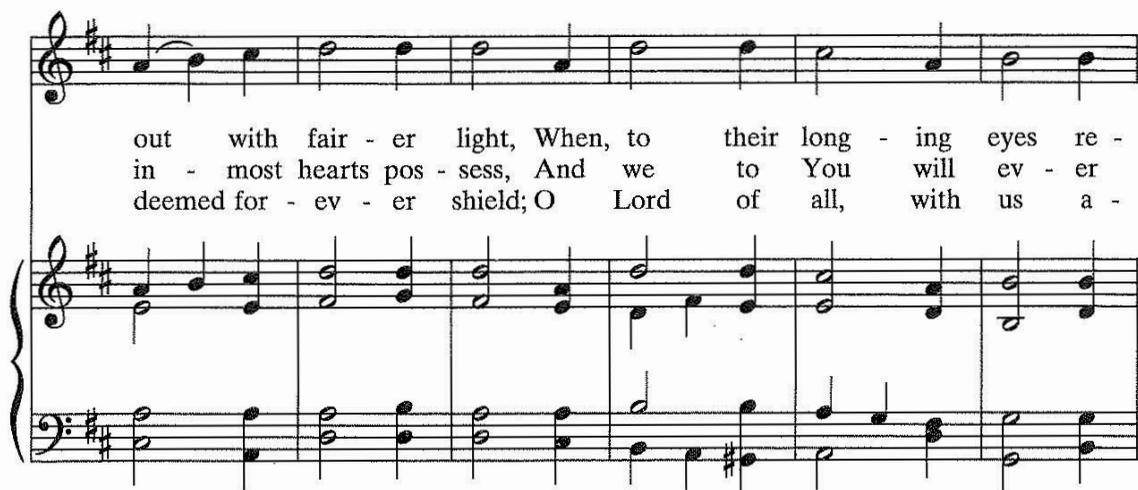
PUER NOBIS NASCITUR LM

Latin hymn, 5th century
Trans. John Mason Neale, 1852; alt.

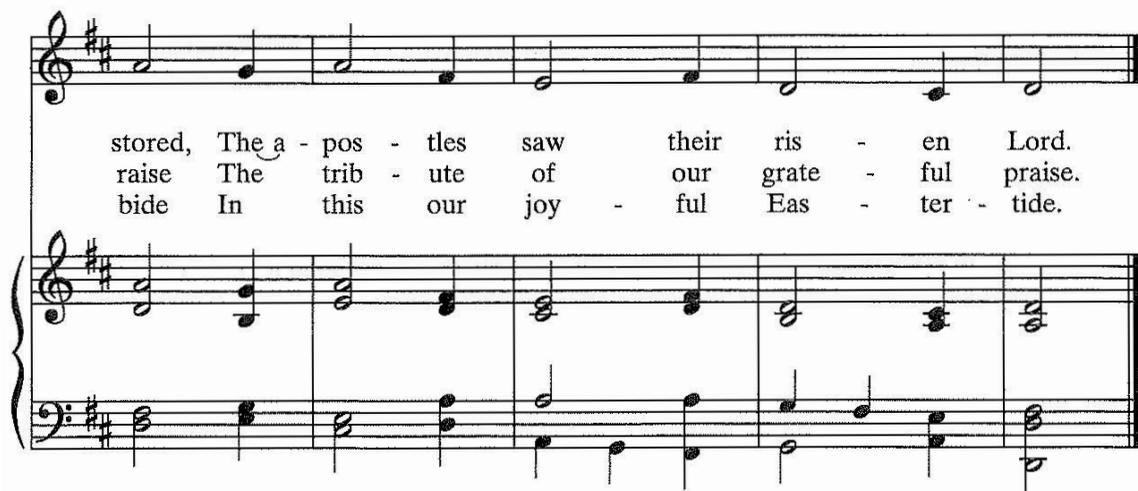
Trier ms., 15th century
Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910



1. That Eas - ter day with joy was bright, The sun shone
2. O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, Do all our
3. From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, Your own re -



out with fair - er light, When, to their long - ing eyes re -
in - most hearts pos - sess, And we to You will ev - er
deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with us a -



stored, The a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
raise The trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
bide In this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

The Strife Is O'er

119

VICTORY 8.8.8 with alleluias

Latin, c. 1695
Trans. Francis Pott, 1861

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1591
Adapt. William Henry Monk, 1861

Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, The vic - to -
2. The powers of death have done their worst, But Christ their
3. The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es
4. Lord, by Your wounds on Cal - va - ry From death's dread

ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph
le - gions hath dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly
glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry to our
sting Your ser - vants free, That we may live e -

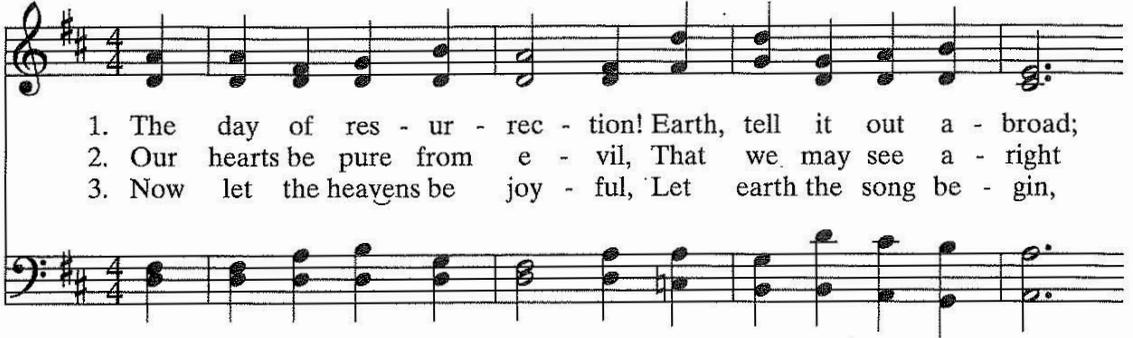
has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Day of Resurrection!

LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6 D

John of Damascus (c. 675-749)
Trans. John Mason Neale, 1862

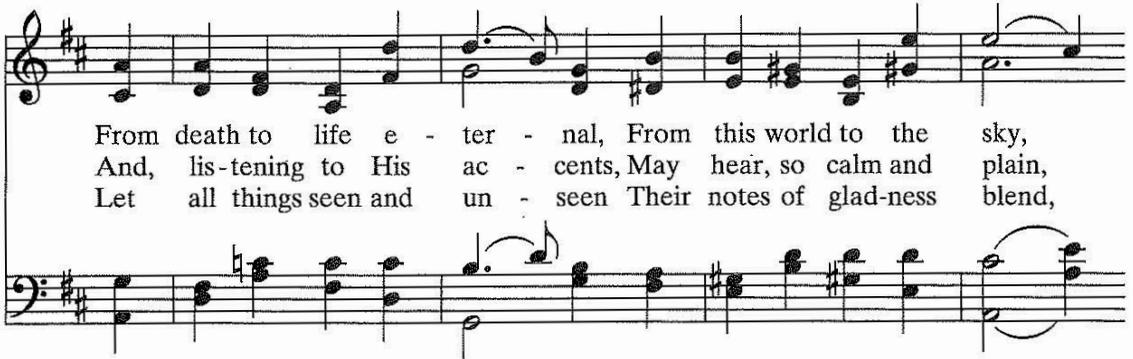
Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835



1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, That we may see a - right
3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, Let earth the song be - gin,



The Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The Pass - o - ver of God.
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light;
Let the round world keep tri - umph, And all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, From this world to the sky,
And, lis - tening to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen Their notes of glad - ness blend,



Our Christ hath brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
For Christ the Lord is ris - en, Our joy that hath no end.