



# 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!*

May 2, 2021  
10:00 a.m. Service  
Scottish Reformation Sunday

## 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.*

### Bagpipe Prelude

### Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

\***Processional**      *Highland Cathedral*      Traditional piping tune

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### Call to Worship

We gather to praise and worship God,

**the one who created us for love.**

We gather to worship the true vine,

**the one in whose love we abide.**

Easter people, Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

\***Hymn 420**      *God of Grace and God of Glory*      CWM RHONDDA

\***Prayer for Elected and Appointed Officials**

\***Call to Confession**

\***Prayer of Confession**

**O Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one another by your spirit. Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you.**

\***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*\*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.

*God of Grace and God of Glory* was used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930. It was written by Riverside's widely known and influential pastor, Harry Emerson Fosdick. The hymn is a traditional opening hymn for "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" services.

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
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.**

The solo is a text by Margaret V. Old (1932-2001), set to a traditional Scottish tune, the Sky Boat Song.

*O for a Closer Walk with God* was written by English poet William Cowper, and it is set to a tune from the *Scottish Psalter*, 1635. Cowper and John Newton wrote a collection called the *Olney Hymns*, which included Newton's famous *Amazing Grace*. Cowper wrote poems about everyday life and also wrote a number of anti-slavery poems.

The Scots Confession was written in 1560 when the Scottish Parliament declared Scotland a Protestant nation and asked the clergy to frame a confession of faith. Beginning with a pledge of unconditional commitment to the triune God, this confession sets forth three marks of the true and faithful church in terms of preaching, the sacraments, and church discipline.

You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your pledge through your bank, or donate online using this qr code or at [firstpresathens.org/home/giving](http://firstpresathens.org/home/giving). Thank you for your generosity.



**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson**

Psalm 47

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

**Solo**

*Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind* Scottish folk melody

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove:*

*teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Savior's love.*

You spoke to us long, long ago, gave us the written word;

we read it still, needing its truth, through it God's voice is heard. *Refrain*

Without your help we fail our Lord, we cannot live his way;

we need your power, we need your strength, following Christ each day. *Refrain*

**Second Lesson**

Acts 1:1-11

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

**Sermon**

*Witnesses*

Dr. Ryan Baer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*Hymn 396**

*O for a Closer Walk with God*

CAITHNESS

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*The Scots Confession*

**We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.**

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

*Skye Boat Song*

Scottish folk melody

**\*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.

**Sanctus**

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.

**Memorial Acclamation**

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,  
Christ will come a - gain.

**The Great Amen**

A - men, a - men, a - men.

The author of *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* regarded it as a communion hymn, a theme that seems eclipsed by the attention to Christ's exaltation, but a reminder that such hymns are not always quiet and meek.

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

**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**

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

**\*Hymn 144** *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* HYFRYDOL

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Recessional** *Scotland the Brave* Traditional piping tune

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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*  
Henry Frantz (Great Highland Bagpipes),  
*Guest musician*

### Lay Reader

Charlie Young-

### USHERS

John Simpson, Jimbo LaBoon III

### AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Rebecca Carlton, Bryan Owens

### FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Virginia and Rudy White by Larry and Louise White and Bob and Laura White.

### 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).

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## Stephen Ministry

Do you know someone who has been struggling with life changes due to illness, loss of a loved one, divorce, single parenthood or any of countless other life changes? Our Stephen Ministers can help. The Stephen Ministry program is administered by Stephen Leaders. The Rev. Margaret Davis recently completed Stephen Leader training and we are glad to commission her for this ministry next Sunday, May 9. If you, or someone you know, would like to know more about having a Stephen Minister, please contact Margaret or another Stephen Leader:

Margaret Davis: [margaret@firstpresathens.org](mailto:margaret@firstpresathens.org), 706-206-9896

Bob Frisch: [rpfrisch@aol.com](mailto:rpfrisch@aol.com), 914-262-1078

Dawn Frisch: [dawnmfrisch@aol.com](mailto:dawnmfrisch@aol.com), 914-255-3447

Lisa Oelke: [lisakoelke@gmail.com](mailto:lisakoelke@gmail.com), 706-540-4251

Carol Strickland: [cstrickland@firstpresathens.org](mailto:cstrickland@firstpresathens.org), 706-765-7671

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## Food Sunday Drop-off

You may bring donations of **sweet peas, pork 'n beans, and toilet paper** to church 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on **Friday, May 7**. Please bring food in plastic bags and put them in the open trunk. Alternatively, you may take your donations directly to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank between 9:00 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday at 640 Barber Street, Athens, 30601 (don't confuse this with the Northeast Georgia Food Bank on Newton Bridge Rd). Please put food on loading dock at far end of building. Thanks for your donations in April - our neighbors in need are grateful.

## 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 have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19 or risk for severe complications from the virus, 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](http://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 last meeting of the semester of the Josephine Paine Bible Study will be 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 13 via Zoom (ID 706 543 4338). We will study Acts 1:1-26. 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.

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## Caring Hands Offering

This month, a special Caring Hands offering will be collected to benefit the Caring Hands Fund of Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. Presbyterian Homes is a ministry that serves our most vulnerable population – our seniors. This annual offering is the largest source of funds for benevolent care for Presbyterian Homes’ six communities in Georgia. Your contribution directly supports the care of residents who have outlived their financial resources. Our congregation joins Presbyterian churches statewide to support this vital ministry.

Please mail your check to the church office, or go to our website [firstpresathens.org/home/giving](http://firstpresathens.org/home/giving) (please select “Presby Homes/Mother’s Day”). Alternatively, you can click on the button on our website homepage and visit [www.phgainc.org/donate/caring-hands-offering/](http://www.phgainc.org/donate/caring-hands-offering/) to make a direct donation.

Become a part of the Caring Hands community – over 2,500 members strong – who have made a positive impact on the quality of life for our senior residents since 1949.

Thank you for your generous support!

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday, May 2 – Communion Sunday, Scottish Reformation 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. Final Family Game Night for youth “The Amazing Race: Highland Games”

### **Monday, May 3**

- 10:00 a.m. Circle Two via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

### **Tuesday, May 4**

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Courtyard
- 11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 3636*)
- 2:00 p.m. Circle Three-Four via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Circle Six via Zoom

### **Wednesday, May 5**

- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: “All’s Well That Ends Well” via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

### **Friday, May 7**

- 9:30 a.m. Food Sunday drop-off (9:30-11:00 a.m.), Church Office parking lot

### **Sunday, May 9 – Stephen Leader Commissioning, Caring Hands Offering**

- 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*)
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Dear friends in Christ,

On April 15, the Session received and approved a recommendation from the FPC COVID Task Force to make some adjustments to our public health emergency protocols effective immediately.

- The maximum size for indoor gatherings in the church has been raised from 50 to 100 people. For now, the reservation system for in-person attendance at worship services will continue.
- Temperature checks have been discontinued.
- The request to refrain from participating in liturgical responses has been lifted.
- In-person meetings for both internal and external groups may resume upon receiving scheduling clearance via the church office.

While we are all overjoyed that we have reached the point in the public health emergency that we can make these changes, some public health protocols will remain in place for now.

- In compliance with the most recent Athens-Clarke County Unified Government emergency order, all persons must wear masks while inside the building and continue to practice appropriate distancing measures.
- Worshipers are still asked to refrain from singing, and vocal ensembles remain temporarily suspended.
- Our 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship time will remain in effect through the remainder of the spring and summer. We are targeting Sunday, August 22, for the resumption of the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. worship services.

The elders, pastors, and staff continue to give thanks for your prayers and your patience as we draw closer to the end of the pandemic. As the writer of Ephesians exhorts us, let us continue to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:1-3).

Peace be with you and yours,  
Dr. Ryan Baer, Senior Pastor.

# 420 God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

John Hughes, 1907

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple  
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as -  
 3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to  
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that

pour Thy power; Crown Thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 Thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces,

Bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 Pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.  
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.  
 Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.  
 That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

5. Save us from weak resignation  
 To the evils we deplore;  
 Let the gift of Thy salvation  
 Be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
 Serving Thee whom we adore,  
 Serving Thee whom we adore.

# O for a Closer Walk with God

396

William Cowper, 1772

CAITHNESS CM

Scottish Psalter, 1635  
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; alt.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the remaining two lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

1. O for a clos-er walk with God, A calm and heav-en-ly frame,  
2. Re - turn, O ho - ly Dove, re - turn, Sweet mes-sen - ger of rest!  
3. The dear-est i - dol I have known, What-e'er that i - dol be,  
4. So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and se - rene my frame;

A light to shine up - on the road That leads me to the Lamb!  
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn And drove Thee from my breast.  
Help me to tear it from Thy throne, And wor - ship on - ly Thee.  
So pur - er light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb.

# Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

William Chatterton Dix, 1866

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter,  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in  
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Thou on earth our  
 4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Thee the Lord of

His the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,  
 sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;  
 food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful  
 lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry,

His the vic - to - ry a - lone! Hark! the songs of peace - ful  
 Faith be - lieves nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -  
 Flee to Thee from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of  
 Earth Thy foot - stool, heaven Thy throne. Thou with - in the veil hast

Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus out of  
 ceived Him, When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -  
 sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, Where the songs of  
 en - tered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest; Thou on earth both

ev - ery na - tion Hath re - deemed us by His blood.  
 get His prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 Priest and Vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

## 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](mailto:ryan@firstpresathens.org))  
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor* ([cstrickland@firstpresathens.org](mailto:cstrickland@firstpresathens.org))  
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* ([margaret@firstpresathens.org](mailto:margaret@firstpresathens.org))  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* ([jcoble@firstpresathens.org](mailto:jcoble@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* ([kness@firstpresathens.org](mailto:kness@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* ([natalie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:natalie@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* ([elaine@firstpresathens.org](mailto:elaine@firstpresathens.org))  
Mr. Roger Burbage, *Church Administrator* ([rburbage@firstpresathens.org](mailto:rburbage@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & Membership* ([lbell@firstpresathens.org](mailto:lbell@firstpresathens.org))  
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist* ([paulo@firstpresathens.org](mailto:paulo@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant* ([frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *Accountant* ([angie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:angie@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* ([wds@firstpresathens.org](mailto:wds@firstpresathens.org))  
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*  
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* ([charlotteposs@gmail.com](mailto:charlotteposs@gmail.com))  
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*