



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 9, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Sixth 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

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

Psalm 118:24

Prelude

Préambule

Louis Vierne

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

The Caring Hands Fund

Denise Horton

Song of Gathering

DIX

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

Call to Worship

We gather to worship as people of Easter,
people who know life is stronger than death.
We gather to worship as children of God,
children loved and claimed by the risen Lord.
We gather to worship as the body of Christ,
the church called out for service in the world.
Easter people, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

***Hymn 417** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* REGENT SQUARE

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O God, whose love knows no bounds, forgive us when we fail to reflect your loving kindness. When we turn away from the goodness of your love, call us back with the tender voice of a caring friend. When we stumble over the gift of your grace, lift us up with the strong arms of a loving parent. When we are certain that we are alone in the chaos of this world, shower us with peace. Forgive us, risen Christ, of all the ways we fall short, and teach us to be agents of resurrection in the world.

*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.

The prelude is played by Ahui, a doctoral piano major and also organ student at the University of Georgia Hugh Hodgson School of Music.

Although the ancient text *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

CELTIC ALLELUIA



*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 68:32-35

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

Solo

Prayer of Julian of Norwich

Carson P. Cooman

God, of your goodness, give yourself to me.
For you are enough for me:
only in you do I have everything! Amen.

Second Lesson

Acts 1:12-14

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

Sermon

Together

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Stephen Leader Commissioning

The Rev. Margaret Davis

*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, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The solo is a setting of a prayer by Julian of Norwich (1343-1416), an English mystic. It is from her *Revelations of Divine Love*, the first book written in English by a known female author. It is set to music by a contemporary American composer.

The stanzas of *Be Thou My Vision* in our hymnal are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer from the 10th century or earlier. The text is set to an Irish folk melody.

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.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Be Thou My Vision*

Paul Manz

*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 using this QR code or at firstpresathens.org/home/giving. Thank you for your generosity.



*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 282** *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.

Hymn 535

If thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee is from a Germany text based on Psalm 55. The text and tune were written in thanksgiving for finding employment after weeks of being left almost penniless following a robbery.

Postlude *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

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. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

John Tsao, *Soloist*

Ahui, *Guest organist*

Lay Reader

Dan Nadenicek

USHERS

John Simpson, Jimbo LaBoon III

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Rebecca Carlton, Bryan Owens, Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the reaffirmation of vows of Jessie Savini and J. Nicholas Gabe.

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).

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 (please select "Presby Homes/Mother's Day"). Alternatively, you can click on the button on our website homepage and visit www.phgainsc.org/donate/caring-hands-offering/church1/ 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!

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

Thank you for your donations! One car load was delivered to Books for Keeps recently, and we have a second one ready to go! If you have used books to donate, please bring them to the bins in the Atrium or church office by **Friday, June 4**. 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.

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.

We need your help with the Good Shepherd Summer Club!

First Pres children and their families are invited to join our new Good Shepherd Summer Club! We will work together this summer as good neighbors sharing God’s light and love around Athens. We have a handful of Mini Mission Projects planned for our Good Shepherd Summer Club and we are going to need a little extra help from our First Pres Family with a few of these projects.

Our first Mini Mission Project begins this month! The Good Shepherd Summer Club is going to put together 100 Summer Surprise Bags for children of the Bethel Neighborhood located right behind our church. A variety of summer goodies have already been ordered to fill the Summer Surprise Bags, but we need your help with collecting 100 Chick-fil-A \$10 Gift Cards.

Please bring Chick-fil-A gift cards to church and place them in our Chick-fil-A Donation Box located by the front desk (Monday-Friday) and in the Atrium (Sunday mornings). You may also make a monetary donation to the church and we will purchase the cards for you. Please mail your check to the church office, or go to our website firstpresathens.org/home/giving (please select “General Fund” under “Select a Fund,” and in the optional memo write “Chick-fil-A gift cards”). Please bring or mail in donations by **Friday, June 4**.

To learn more about our Good Shepherd Summer Club and upcoming Mini Mission Projects, click on our Good Shepherd Summer Club button located on the front page of the church’s website. Email Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org if you have any questions.

Thank you, First Pres, for being a good neighbor and for helping the Good Shepherd Summer Club share God’s light and love around Athens this summer!

- Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children’s Ministry*

THIS WEEK

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*)

Monday, May 10

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 11

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
10:00 a.m. Endowment Committee Meeting via Zoom
11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 3636*)
6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, Courtyard (Fellowship Hall in case of rain)

Wednesday, May 12

- 9:30 a.m. Circle Seven via Zoom
4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: "All's Well That Ends Well" via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Thursday, May 13

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)
6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, May 16

- 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*)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 23 - Pentecost Offering, Wear Red!

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

417

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

7th century, Latin

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1861, 1972

Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da - tion, Christ the head and
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
 3. Here be - stow on all Your ser - vants What they ask of
 4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 Hosts, to - day; With Your wont - ed lov - ing-kind - ness
 You to gain, What they gain from You for - ev - er
 to the Son, Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,

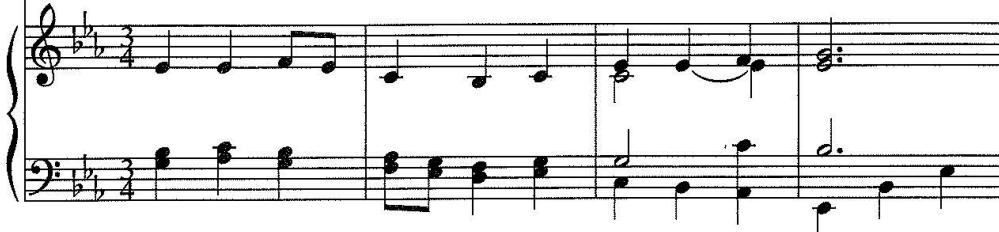
Bind - ing all the church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
 Hear Your peo - ple as they pray, And Your full - est
 With the bless - ed to re - tain, And here - af - ter
 Ev - er three and ev - er one; One in might and

help for - ev - er, And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.
 one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run.

Ancient Irish poem

Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.Irish ballad
Harm. David Evans, 1927

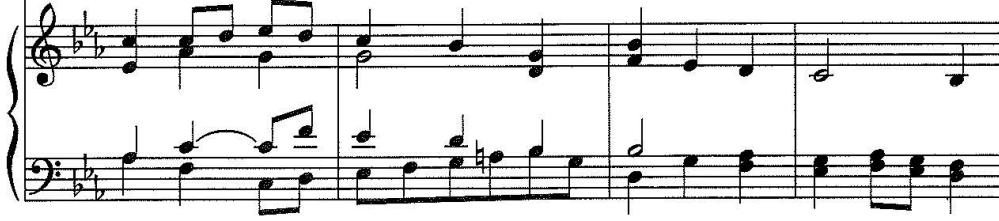
1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;



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.



If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee 282

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTTE 9.8.9.8.8.

Georg Neumark, 1657

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863; alt. 1987

Georg Neumark, 1657

1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee, With hope - ful
 2. On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure In cheer - ful
 3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, But do thine

heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what-e'er be - tide thee,
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what-e'er thy Keep-er's plea - sure
 own part faith - ful - ly; Trust the rich prom - is - es of grace,

To bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -
 And all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our in - most
 So shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love Builds on the rock that nought can move.
 wants are clear To One who holds us al - ways dear.
 sook at need The soul se - cured by trust in - deed.