



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 23, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Pentecost

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

Feria Pentecostes

Camille Saint-Saëns

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Pentecost Offering

Kitty Meyran

Introit

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire

Plainsong chant

Call to Worship

Do you hear it,

the sound of rushing wind beginning to fill this house?

Do you see it,

the glowing pillars of fire reflecting in every pair of eyes?

Do you feel it,

God moving in this place, calling us to worship?

The spirit has come! The church is born!

Let us worship God with thanksgiving!

*Hymn 128

On Pentecost They Gathered

MUNICH

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O God, as your Spirit filled the church on the first Pentecost day, so fill this house of worship with your presence, and fill us with your passion. You are doing a new thing, actively moving in the world. Forgive us when we act as if your stories have all been written. You hear the prayers of every language and call us to hear each other. Forgive us when we act as if your Spirit only spoke our native tongue. Wash us in your grace, O God, and illumine us with your fire. Send us out to follow your spirit and teach us to hear the prayers of all your people.

**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 introit is a hymn written in Latin in the 9th century. It has had long and active use both for Pentecost and for ordination. Though created for another hymn text, the plainsong chant tune has been used with this text from earliest days.

The Minute for Mission will be delivered by Kitty Meyran, Executive Director of Athens YWCO.

On Pentecost They Gathered is a narrative and interpretive text written to fill what the author perceived as an unfortunate gap in hymns concerning the Holy Spirit and Pentecost.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Numbers 11:24-30

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

Solo *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* arr. H.T. Burleigh

Every time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray.

Up on the mountain my Lord spoke, out of his mouth came fire and smoke.

Jordan River chilly and cold, chilled the body but not the soul. *Refrain*

All around me look so fine ask my Lord if all was mine.

Ain't but one train runs this track, it runs to heaven and runs right back. *Refrain.*

Second Lesson Acts 2:1-21

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

Sermon *Pentecost* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 126** *Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove* ST. AGNES

***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 solo is a spiritual arranged by Henry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949). Burleigh was an American classical composer, arranger, and professional singer. He made African American music available to classically trained artists by introducing spirituals and arranging them in a more classical form.

In contrast to many hymns to the Holy Spirit, *Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove* is notable for being in the plural, a valuable reminder that the Holy Spirit has been bestowed on the whole church, not just a few individuals.

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 *Chorale Prelude: Down Ampney* Richard Popplewell

***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 313** *Come Down, O Love Divine* DOWN AMPNEY

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 535

**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.**

Postlude *Come, Holy Ghost* Johann Sebastian Bach

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.



Come Down, O Love Divine is a laude spirituale, a vernacular Italian sacred song from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The tune is named for the composer's birthplace.

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*
Pat and Petch Bryan, *Kite Bearers*
Carol McKay, *Lay Reader*

USHERS

John Simpson, Jimbo LaBoon III

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Campbell Abbott's graduation from college by his family.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Marshall Wade Manning on May 4, 2021. His parents are Chelsey and Philip Manning.

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).

Pentecost Offering Today

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. By donating to the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

This year, your Mission and Outreach Commission has selected the YWCO Girls Club in Athens to receive the local portion of the Pentecost Offering (40%). Since 1976, the YWCO has provided the Girls Club to the Athens community each summer. However, in 2020, due to COVID the YWCO was unable to hold the summer Girls Club. Your donation will help ensure that the Girls Club can start back up again for these deserving children. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Please mail your check to the church office. Or you may go to our website firstpresathens.org/home/giving, then select "General Fund" under "Select a Fund," and in the optional memo write "Pentecost Offering." Thank you for your generosity!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS”

Today at 11:30 a.m.

Join Dr. Ryan Baer for the final “Sunday Conversations” of the spring 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)

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.

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.

BOOKS FOR KEEPS BOOK DRIVE

Thank you for your donations! 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.

FOOD SUNDAY

You may bring donations of **peanut butter, saltine crackers, and canned pasta** to church 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on **Friday, June 4**. 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 May – our neighbors in need are grateful.

FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Family Promise families will return to FPC for two consecutive weeks starting on **June 13**. The families have been at the Milledge Avenue Baptist Church static site since December but will move into the “Pit” area of First Pres June 13–27.

There are multiple preventive safety measures in place that include volunteers being stationed and sleeping in a separate area of the church, and using a separate entrance. 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).

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’ five 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.phgainc.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!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 23 – Pentecost Offering, Wear Red!

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 9:00 a.m. Wayne F Middendorf Men's Bible Class, Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Porch Fellowship, Front Porch
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

Monday, May 24

- 2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, May 25

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 3636*)
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Sunday, May 30

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 4:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting via Zoom

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the stated meeting on May 13, upon the recommendation of our FPC COVID-19 Task Force, the Session adopted the following changes to our church protocols:

- Just before our meeting was called to order, we received the joyful news that the Centers for Disease Control has declared that fully vaccinated persons can now safely gather indoors without masks. However, the CDC also directs all persons to follow the advice and directions of local officials. On April 30, Governor Kemp issued an executive order in which he recommended that all residents and visitors to Georgia to continue wearing masks and practicing social distancing through May 30. On May 4, the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government extended the local declaration of emergency and mask ordinance through June 13. While opinions about masks vary widely, we do not claim a bona fide religious objection to wearing a mask, so we will continue to request that all persons wear masks while inside the building so long as the local mask ordinance remains in effect.
- Capacity for in-person activities has been raised from 100 to 200 (approximately 50% of sanctuary capacity), and the advance reservation requirement for in-person worship is discontinued. The ushers will count as worshippers arrive, and if the 200 limit is reached, ushers will direct latecomers to overflow seating in Atrium and/or Fellowship Hall Breakout Room.
- Post-worship coffee and refreshments will resume on the front porch of the atrium, weather permitting.
- Contactless passing of the peace, offering plates, and communion will continue for now.
- Indoor vocal ensembles and indoor congregational singing will remain suspended for now, pending more information and advice from the Centers for Disease Control and the American Choral Directors' Association. We know that singing is a vital part of our communal worship life, and we hope to resume it again as soon as it is reasonably safe to do so.
- Nursery care will reopen June 6 for infants through age 3, with appropriate safety protocols in place. As always, children of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to be in worship.

The situation remains fluid, and 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.

On Pentecost They Gathered

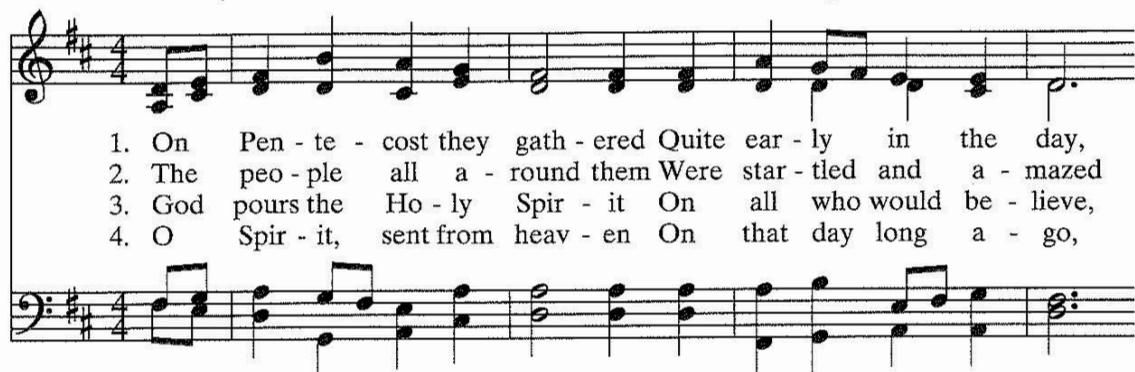
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MUNICH 7.6.7.6 D

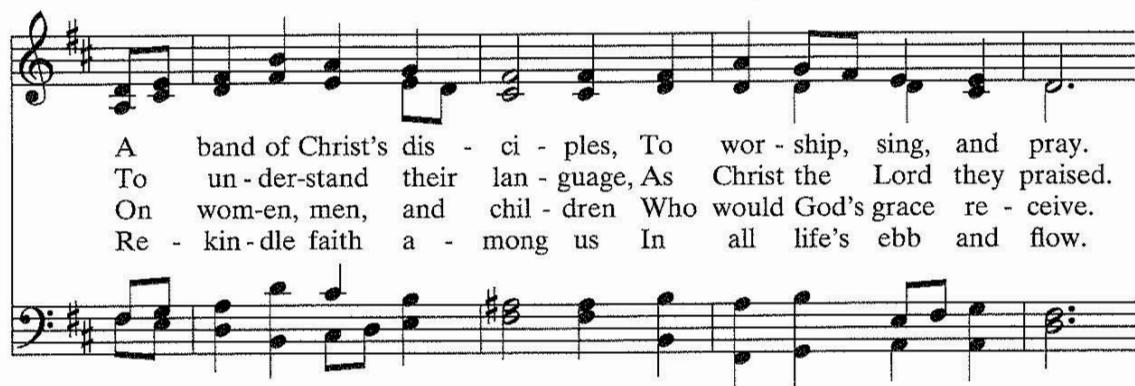
Neuvermehrtes Meiningsches Gesangbuch, 1693

Adapt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

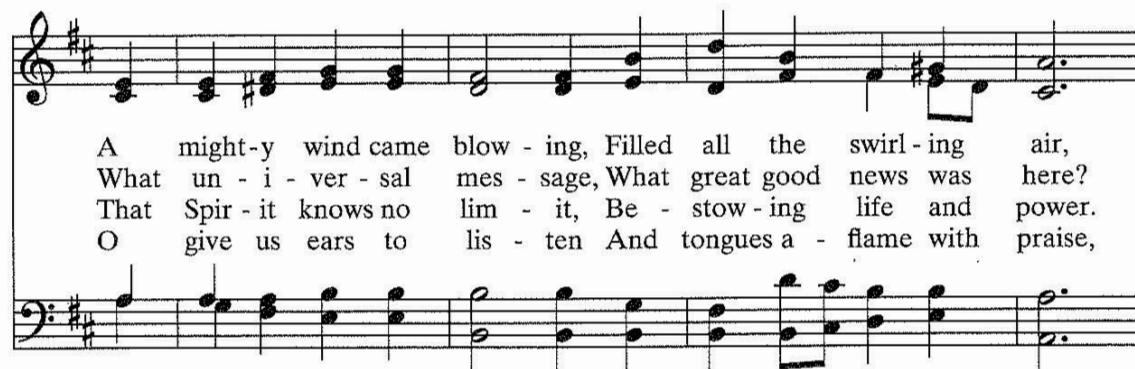
Jane Parker Huber, 1981



1. On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered Quite ear - ly in the day,
 2. The peo - ple all a - round them Were star - tled and a - mazed
 3. God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it On all who would be - lieve,
 4. O Spir - it, sent from heav - en On that day long a - go,



A band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, To wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 To un - der - stand their lan - guage, As Christ the Lord they praised.
 On wom - en, men, and chil - dren Who would God's grace re - ceive.
 Re - kin - dle faith a - mong us In all life's ebb and flow.



A might - y wind came blow - ing, Filled all the swirl - ing air,
 What un - i - ver - sal mes - sage, What great good news was here?
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, Be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us ears to lis - ten And tongues a - flame with praise,



And tongues of fire a - glow - ing In - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en To van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, Re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 So folk of ev - ery na - tion Glad songs of joy shall raise.

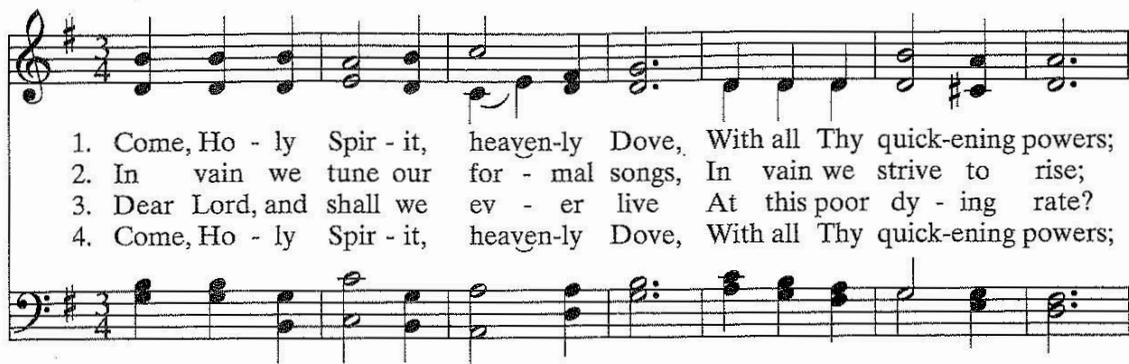
Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

126

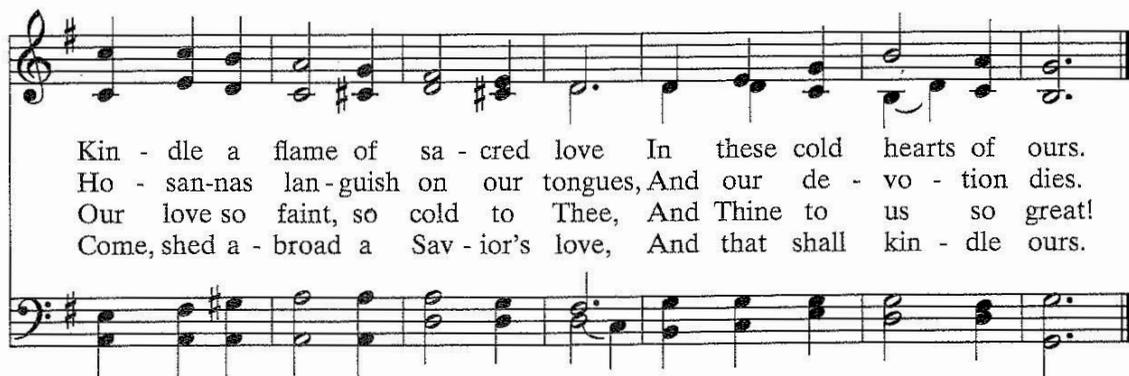
Isaac Watts, 1707

ST. AGNES CM

John Bacchus Dykes, 1866



1. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven-ly Dove, With all Thy quick-ening powers;
2. In vain we tune our for - mal songs, In vain we strive to rise;
3. Dear Lord, and shall we ev - er live At this poor dy - ing rate?
4. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven-ly Dove, With all Thy quick-ening powers;



Kin - dle a flame of sa - cred love In these cold hearts of ours.
Ho - san-nas lan-guish on our tongues, And our de - vo - tion dies.
Our love so faint, so cold to Thee, And Thine to us so great!
Come, shed a - broad a Sav - ior's love, And that shall kin - dle ours.

313

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY 6.6.11 D

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)

Trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867; alt.

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek out this soul of mine
 2. O let it free - ly burn, Till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3. And so the yearn - ing strong With which the soul will long

And vis - it it with Your own ar - dor glow - ing;
 To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 Shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, With - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let Your glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, Till Love cre - ates a place

And kin - dle it, Your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.