



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!

June 27, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Fifth Sunday after 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

Trumpet Tune in F

David N. Johnson

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Weekday School Teacher Recognition

Song of Gathering

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

As we gather on this holy day,

we pray for the posture of servants of God:

for openness, so we may be surprised by God's grace;

for humility, so we may be changed by Christ's compassion;

for discernment, so we may hear Christ calling us;

for courage, so we may take the steps to answer.

Let us worship the Living God,

the One who is our reason for praise.

*Hymn 481

Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show

LLANFAIR

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

You shower us with blessings, with chances to know your grace. Still, O Lord, we twist your promises and pray for blessings we can own. You call us to leave our selfish ways and follow your call to compassion. Still, O Lord, we choose shallow belief over transformative faith. You have told us that your love is enough, that the waters of mercy will not run dry. Still, O Lord, we choose fear instead of trust, hiding behind the illusion that we can survive on our own. Forgive us, Holy One, and by your forgiveness, offer us a chance to try again.

**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.

Today we recognize Jennifer Cummings for her 11 years of service to the Weekday School.

Originally cast as two eight-line stanzas, *Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show* is a 19th-century paraphrase of Psalm 150. It was slightly shortened when it was set to the present tune with recurring Alleluias. The Welsh tune is older than the text and bears a name meaning "the church of St. Mary."

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

Glo-ry - to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, 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 anthem is a choral classic written for a festival in 1923 and it's been a favorite of choirs ever since. The English composer, Martin Shaw, has over 300 published works. He was a contemporary of Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst. His was also uncle to actor Sebastian Shaw, who played Darth Vader in *Return of the Jedi* (1983).

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem, written by a Presbyterian hymnal editor and scholar, employs names and sensory images (light, fragrance, wind) to sketch the events of Christ's life. The tune name commemorates the village in Sussex where the arranger (Ralph Vaughan Williams) first heard the traditional 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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 150

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

Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God all ye lands,

O sing praises to the honor of his name,

make his praise to be glorious.

Second Lesson

Acts 5:17-42

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

Sermon

The Wisdom of Gamaliel

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 308**

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

KINGSFOLD

***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.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Adagio

Antonio Vivaldi

trans. J. S. Bach

*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

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 145

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

MARION

*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

Postlude

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

David M. Cherwien

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.



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A special word of welcome to our guests: thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Please fill out the Fellowship Pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

Nurseries for children 3 years old and younger, available from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door. Our fully vaccinated nursery staff is excited to welcome our youngest members.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

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

Jean Martin-Williams, *Liturgist*

Carol McKay, *Lay Reader*

USHERS

John Simpson, Jimbo LaBoon III

GREETER

Dan Nadenicek

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGERS

Rebecca Carlton, Stephen Kreyenbuhl

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Rachel Short by Stan Short and Laura Hartley.

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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTREAT WOMEN'S CONNECTION CONFERENCE

We have reserved the Georgia Lodge for any of our members who would like to go to the conference. (August 13-15) Wouldn't this be a wonderful way to emerge from sequestering during the pandemic—a relaxing, stimulating, rewarding weekend with other women at beautiful Montreat?

The deadline to sign up to stay at the Georgia Lodge was extended to **July 15**. The cost for two nights is \$65. Conference Registration costs \$237 before June 28 and \$262. Please e-mail Carol McKay at carol@mckay@att.net if you have any questions.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON MATTHEW 25

This summer, we invite the congregation to learn more about Matthew 25 through weekly reading and reflection via Zoom (ID 706-543-4338). On Sunday nights, we'll host a community conversation using the study materials in the Summer@First program guide mailed earlier this spring (and available for download on our Web site). The Summer Study will be the foundation for more opportunities to learn and grow together beginning in the fall when we are back together again in person.

Food Sunday, July 2 and 4

You may bring donations of **peanut butter, plain white rice (1 or 2 lb bags), and salty and/or sweet snacks** to church 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on **Friday, July 2**. Please bring food in plastic bags and put them in the open trunk. You can also leave your donations in the Atrium on **Sunday, July 4**.

Alternatively, you may take your donations directly to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank 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 June - our neighbors in need are grateful.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 27

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 9:30 a.m. Nursery open for infants to age 3
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshments on the Porch
- 7:00 p.m. Community Conversations on Matthew 25 via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

Monday, June 28

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

Tuesday, June 29

- 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

Wednesday, June 30

- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare Group: "Two Noble Kinsmen" via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Sunday, July 4

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Margaret Davis preaching
- 7:00 p.m. Community Conversations on Matthew 25 via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

LOOKING AHEAD

July 10 - A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Thanksgiving for the Life of Clyde Noble

July 12 - A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Thanksgiving for the Life of Carol Lunde

Good Shepherd Summer Club

Our June Mini Mission Project is Backpack Blessings! Throughout the month of June we will be collecting school supplies to be donated to Clarke County families in need. Please bring your donations to the church office (Monday-Friday) and in the Atrium (Sunday mornings) by Friday, July 2. If you have any questions, please e-mail Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org.

Needed school supplies:

- ballpoint pens
- #2 pencils
- highlighters
- crayons
- colored pencils
- markers
- glue sticks
- college ruled notebook paper
- 2 pocket folders
- composition notebooks
- spiral notebooks
- three ring binders

Recommendations for Elders

The Nominations and Elections Committee encourages your participation in the process for nominating Elders. Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian Gospel, both within the church and in the world at large.

Please e-mail your nominees to Jennifer Walden Abbott, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, at jabbott@uga.edu, by July 11. You can also fill out the form in the website (www.firstpresathens.org).

Current Elders: (Not eligible for recommendation)

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
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

I prayerfully recommend the following for Elder:

Name _____	Reasons _____

Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee are Jennifer Walden Abbott (Chair), Beverly Phares (Vice-Chair), Robbie Bryan, Greta Covington, Julie Knowlton, and Joe Neighbors.

Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show 481

LLANFAIR 7.7.7.7 with alleluias

Robert Williams, 1817
Harm. David Evans, 1927

Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; alt.

1. Praise the Lord, God's glo - ries show,
2. Earth to heaven and heaven to earth, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Praise the Lord, great mer - cies trace,

Saints with - in God's courts be - low,
Tell the won - ders, sing God's worth, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise this prov - i - dence and grace,

An - gels round the throne a - bove,
Age to age and shore to shore, Al - le - lu - ia!
All that God for us has done,

All that see and share God's love.
Praise God, praise for - ev - er - more! Al - le - lu - ia!
All God sends us through the Son.

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

308

KINGSFOLD CMD

Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1899

English Country Songs, 1893
Arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, Of shep-herds watch-ing there,
2. O sing a song of Naz-a-reth, Of sun-ny days of joy,
3. O sing a song of Gal-i-lee, Of lake and woods and hill,
4. O sing a song of Cal-va-ry, Its glo-ry and dis-may;

And of the news that came to them From an-gels in the air:
O sing of fra-grant flow-ers' breath, And of the sin-less Boy:
Of Him who walked up-on the sea And bade its waves be still:
Of Him who hung up-on the tree, And took our sins a-way:

The light that shone on Beth-le-hem Fills all the world to-day;
For now the flowers of Naz-a-reth In ev-ery heart may grow;
For though, like waves on Gal-i-lee, Dark seas of trou-ble roll,
For He who died on Cal-va-ry Is ris-en from the grave,

Of Je-sus' birth and peace on earth The an-gels sing al-way.
Now spreads the fame of His dear name On all the winds that blow.
When faith has heard the Mas-ter's word, Falls peace up-on the soul.
And Christ, our Lord, by heav-en a-dored, Is might-y now to save.

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

145

MARION SM with refrain

Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1865

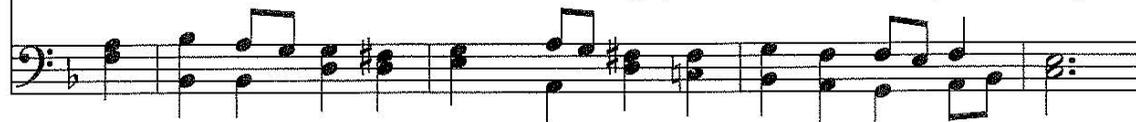
Arthur Henry Messiter, 1883



1. Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
2. Yes, on through life's long path, Still chant-ing as ye go;
3. At last the march shall end; The wea - ried ones shall rest;
4. Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!



Your fes - tal ban-ner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King.
From youth to age, by night and day, In glad-ness and in woe.
The pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
Your fes - tal ban-ner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King.



Refrain



Re - joice! re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!



Re - joice! re - joice!

Alternate tune: VINEYARD HAVEN, 146