



# 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!*

July 4, 2021  
10:00 a.m. Service  
Sixth 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

*I'll Praise My Maker*

Robert J. Powell

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### Song of Gathering

HOLY MANNA

**All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.**

**Come from wilderness and wandering.**

**Here, in truth, we will be fed.**

**You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.**

**Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

### Call to Worship

Why do we come to worship God?

**We come seeking a blessing from our Lord.**

What is this blessing that we seek?

**We seek an encounter with our God, who washes us in mercy, calls us to service, and fills us with love.**

Let us worship God together.

### \*Hymn 253

*I'll Praise My Maker*

OLD 113TH

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**You are love, O God, and you have loved us from the beginning.**

**Forgive us when we do not share your love with the world: when we choose selfishness over compassion; what feels comfortable rather than what is right; when we strive for success instead of faithfulness; when we value independence over community.**

**Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way.**

### \*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.

In accordance with the latest CDC guidance, for your own health and safety and for the health and safety of our community, for now we request that those who have not yet been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and refrain from communal singing while in the building.

*I'll Praise My Maker*, a paraphrase of Psalm 146, was a great favorite of John Wesley: it appeared in his first hymn collection, published in Charleston, South Carolina in 1737, and was on his lips when he died.

**\*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.**

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson**

Psalm 146

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

**Anthem**

*I Vow to Thee, My Country*

Gustav Holst  
arr. James Kirkby

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;  
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,  
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.  
And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,  
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;  
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
and her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.

**Second Lesson**

Acts 6:1-7

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

**Sermon**

*A Seat at the Table*

The Rev. Margaret Davis

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*Hymn 513**

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

LET US BREAK BREAD

**\*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.**

The anthem is an arrangement of a hymn with tune adapted by Gustav Holst from *Jupiter* from his suite *The Planets*. Cecil Spring-Rice wrote the text in 1921 just after the First World War. The last verse is a reference to heaven, with the final line based on Proverbs 3:17.

*Let Us Break Bread Together* is an African American spiritual which may reflect the circumstances of slaves attending communion services in colonial Anglican churches, including "Lord, have mercy" ("Kyrie eleison").

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

*Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)*

Craig Phillips

Hymn 592

### \*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.**

### \*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.

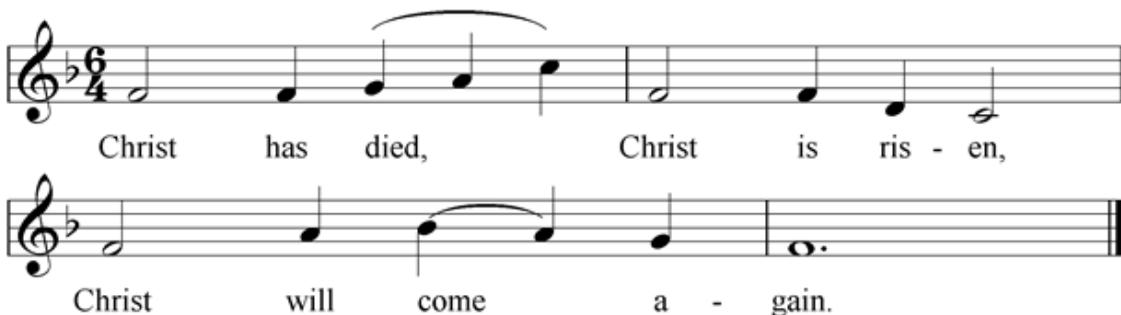
**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

### 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.

*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.*



The musical setting of the communion liturgy is based on the American folk hymn LAND OF REST, arranged by American composer Richard Proulx.



## 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](mailto: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.

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## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, July 4

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org) for more information*)
- 9:30 a.m. Nursery open for infants to age 3
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Margaret Davis preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 7:00 p.m. Community Conversations on Matthew 25 via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

### Monday, July 5 - Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, July 6

- 12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Thanksgiving for the Life of John Adams, Sanctuary

### Wednesday, July 7

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

### Saturday, July 10

- 3:00 p.m. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Thanksgiving for the Life of Clyde Noble, Batts & Bridges Funeral Home (3035 Atlanta Hwy, Athens GA 30606)

### Sunday, July 11

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org) for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 7:00 p.m. Community Conversations on Matthew 25 via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

## LOOKING AHEAD

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

## Good Shepherd Summer Club

This month's Mini Mission Project is called Backpack Blessings! We are going to extend this mini mission project and continue collecting school supplies to be donated to Clarke County families in need through the month of July.

Please bring your donations to the church office (Monday-Friday) or 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](http://firstpresathens.org/home/giving) (please select "General Fund" under "Select a Fund," and in the optional memo write "Backpack Blessings"). If you have any questions, please e-mail Natalie Bishop at [natalie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:natalie@firstpresathens.org).

Needed school supplies:

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

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## 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](mailto:jabbott@uga.edu), by July 11. You can also fill out the form in the website ([www.firstpresathens.org](http://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	_____
Name	_____	Reasons	_____
Name	_____	Reasons	_____
Name	_____	Reasons	_____
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.*

## I'll Praise My Maker

253

OLD 113TH 8.8.8.8.8

Isaac Watts

Adapt. John Wesley, 1736; alt. 1988

Attr. Matthäus Greiter (c. 1500-1552)

Harm. V. Earle Copes, 1964

1. I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; And when my voice  
 2. How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly On Is - rael's God,  
 3. The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; The Lord sup - ports  
 4. I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; And when my voice

is lost, in death, Praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.  
 who made the sky And earth and seas with all their train;  
 the faint - ing mind And sends the la - boring con - science peace.  
 is lost in death, Praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.

My days of praise shall ne'er be past While life and thought  
 Whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, Who saves the op - pressed  
 God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, The wid - owed and  
 My days of praise shall ne'er be past While life and thought

and be - ing last, Or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.  
 and feeds the poor, And none shall find God's prom - ise vain.  
 the par - ent - less, And grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.  
 and be - ing last, Or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

## 513

## Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD 10.10 with refrain African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual

Arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988

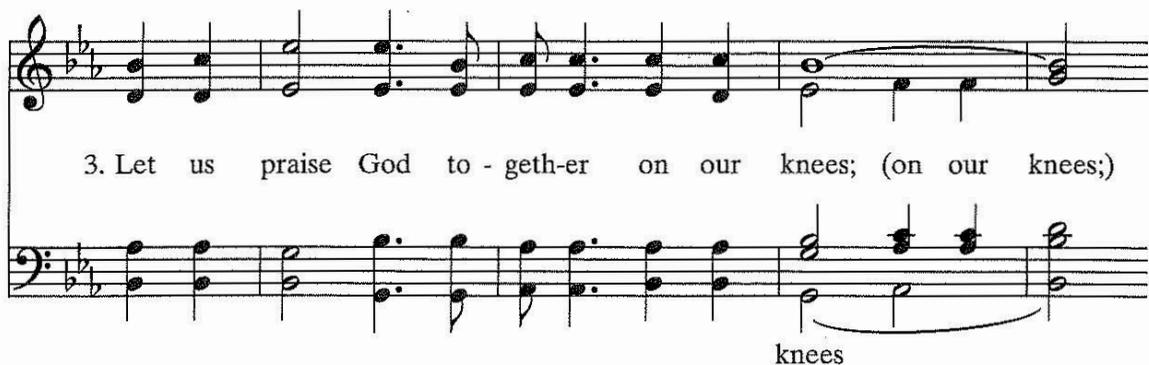
1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)  
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)  
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)

*Refrain*

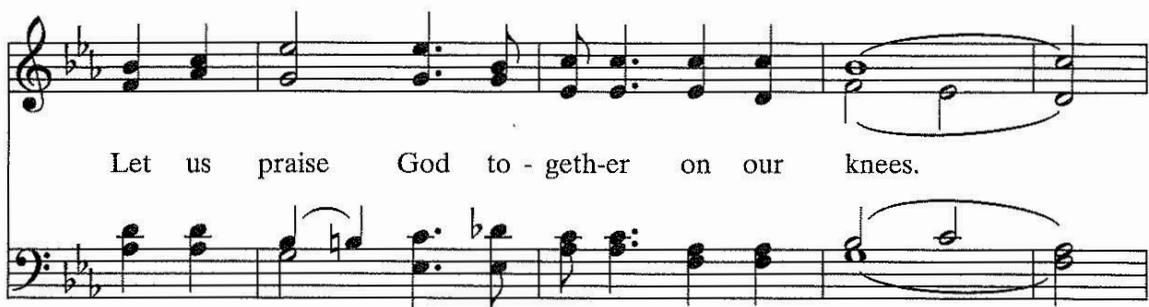
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me.)



3. Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)

knees



Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



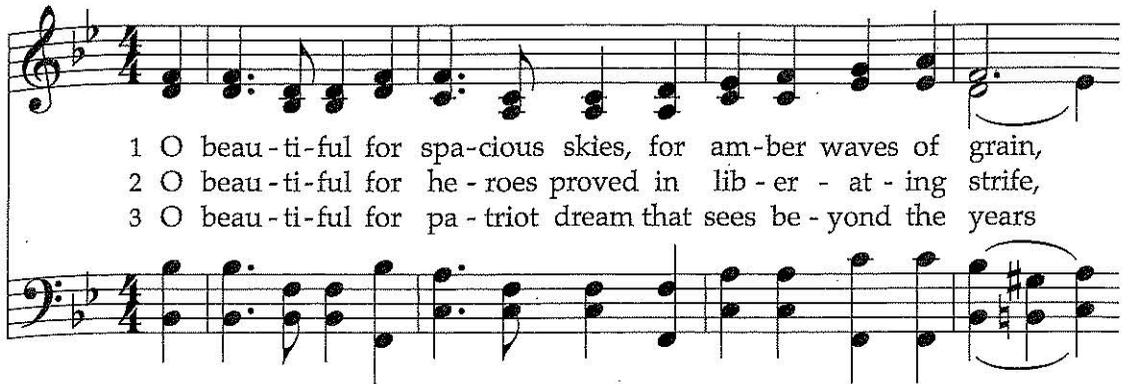
*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. (on me.)

# O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 338



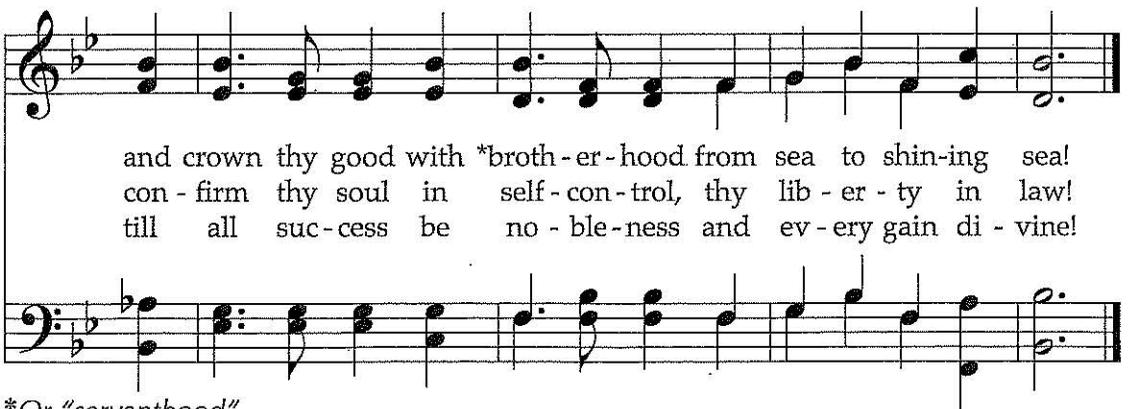
1 O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, for am-ber waves of grain,  
2 O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved in lib-er - at - ing strife,  
3 O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur-ple moun-tain maj-es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!  
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer - cy more than life!  
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un-dimmed by hu - man tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw;  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine



and crown thy good with \*broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!  
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law!  
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness and ev - ery gain di - vine!

\*Or "servanthood"

This text (inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and by a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition) and tune (named MATERNA because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") were joined in 1912. The combination proved immensely popular during World War I and afterwards.