



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 11, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Seventh 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

Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God Dietrich Buxtehude

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

DUKE STREET

**Let every voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

Call to Worship

We worship God with song and dance,
singing God's praise and shouting for joy.
We worship God with silence and sighs,
grieving for loss and longing for comfort.
We worship God with prayers and hands,
praying for healing and working for peace.
Let us create a sabbath space
and worship the God who gives us life.

*Hymn 464

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

We know that you call your people to lives of service and works of justice.
Forgive us, O Lord, when we keep our lives just loud enough to drown out your call. Forgive us, O Lord, when we keep our days just busy enough to convince ourselves that we have a righteous excuse.

We know that you work for the healing of all that is broken in the world.
Heal us, O Lord, of our blindness by your grace. Forgive us, O Lord, and free us to try again.

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.

The well-known melody of *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* was created to provide a choral setting for J.C.F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

**Those who are able may stand.*

***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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Psalm 22:25-31

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

Anthem *Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire* Plainsong chant

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art, who dost thy seven-fold gifts impart.
Thy blessed unction from above is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light the dullness of our mortal sight.
Teach us to know the Father, Son, and thee, of both, to be but one,
that through the ages all along this may be our endless song:
Praise to thine eternal merit, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Second Lesson Acts 8:26-40

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

Sermon *Philip and the Ethiopian* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 326** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* MORECAMBE

***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 text of the anthem, originally written in Latin in the 9th century, has had a long and active use, both for Pentecost and for ordinations. Though created for an older hymn, the plainchant tune has set this text from the earliest days.

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart is a reflection on Galatians 5:25 written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for *Abide with Me* but it more often appears with this text.

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.

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

Morecambe

Pamela Decker

*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 495

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

*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

Engelberg

Craig Phillips

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.



We Know that Christ Is Raised, an exuberant baptismal hymn, unfolds the implications of our incorporation into Christ's new life, making us "a new creation." The text was written to fit this tune.

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

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*

The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*

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

Jim Dove, *Lay Reader*

USHERS

John Simpson, Jimbo LaBoon III

GREETERS

Kitty Donnan, Faye Marshall

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGERS

Rebecca Carlton, Stephen Kreyenbuhl

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the volunteers of Family Promise of Athens.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Julia Louise Klopp on July 4, 2021. His parents are Reid and Grace Stephens Klopp. Grandparents are Mary and Lawton Stephens.

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

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.

NAME BADGES

As more and more members and friends return to in person worship, we'll be excited to get reacquainted with one another. You can help by wearing a name tag each Sunday. Supplies will be in the Narthex and Atrium.

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 11

- 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. Fellowship, Atrium
- 7:00 p.m. Community Conversations on Matthew 25 via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

Monday, July 12

- 9:00 a.m. Youth Mission Day (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.), The Pit
- 10:00 a.m. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Thanksgiving for the Life of Carol Lunde

Tuesday, July 13

- 12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Children's Ministry Suite
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Wednesday, July 14

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

Sunday, July 18

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check 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*)

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 (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.

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

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 **today, 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	_____
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.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

464

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

326 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10

George Croly, 1854

Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2. Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
3. Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh;
4. Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love,

Wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as Thou art,
I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.
To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
The bap - tism of the heav - en - de - scend - ed Dove,

And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!
Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame.

John Brownlow Geyer, 1969

Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Em-braced by
 2. We share by wa - ter in His sav-ing death. Re - born we
 3. The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. The Spir - it's
 4. A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows As Christ's new

death He broke its fear - ful hold; And our de - spair He turned to
 share with Him an Eas - ter life As liv - ing mem - bers of a
 pow - er shakes the church of God. Bap - tized we live with God the
 bod - y takes on flesh and blood. The u - ni - verse, re - stored and

blaz - ing joy.
 liv - ing Christ. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Three in One.
 whole, will sing:

Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.