



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!

August 1, 2021
10:00 a.m. Service
Tenth 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

Union Seminary

James Biery

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 year 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

When the people of God were hungry,

God rained manna upon them, and they ate until they were full.

When the people of God are hungry,

God calls us to taste the goodness of God's gifts, and to share our bread with one another.

Let us worship the One who is the Bread of Life,

and watch for a glimpse of the heavenly banquet.

*Hymn 229

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

You are the Bread of Life, O God, and you promise that we will never hunger again, but we do hunger, O Lord, and often for the wrong things. You feed us with grace, but we hunger for achievements. You offer us peace, but we hunger for control. You bless us with plenty to share, but we are quick to hoard the gifts we call ours. Forgive us, O Bread of Life, and by your forgiveness teach us to hunger for things that you do: to hunger for justice, to long for equality, to work for the common good until none of your children have to hunger for bread.

**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.

Because Psalm 117 contains only two verses, Isaac Watts' paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most later hymnals created or borrowed additional stanzas, like the one included here, to enlarge the hymn.

***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 67

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

Second Lesson

Acts 15:1-29

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

Sermon

Jerusalem Council

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn**

O God, Show Mercy to Us

THAXTED

***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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
 two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them;
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.
 As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
 then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
 Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.
 All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
 that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

O God, Show Mercy to Us, a paraphrase of Psalm 67, combines many themes: a communal prayer for blessing, a prayer for all people to acknowledge God, and thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. In Jewish practice it was recited at the end of every Sabbath, a reminder of God's universal sovereignty.

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.

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.



***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**

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...

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

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.

The Great Amen

A - men, a - men, a - men.

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16
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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* AR HYD Y NOS

***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

Toccata on Thaxted

David M. Cherwien

*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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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*
Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, *Liturgist*
Jim Dove, *Lay Reader*

USHERS

Randy Dudley, John Simpson

GREETERS

Susan and Tom Landrum

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGERS

Rebecca Carlton, Stephen Kreyenbuhl

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God, in celebration of the marriage of Caroline Marie LaBoon and Evan Roy Underwood, and in honor of Glenda and Jimbo LaBoon's 62nd wedding anniversary by Jimbo, Denise, and Emily LaBoon.

The two rosebuds are in honor of the birth of James Hanks Padgett and Walker Jude Padgett on July 21, 2021. Parents are Thad and Beth Padgett. Grandparents are Lee and Becky Padgett.

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

NAME BADGES

As more members and friends return to in person worship, we are 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.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON MATTHEW 25

Join us this Sunday for our last community conversation via Zoom (ID 706-543-4338) using the study materials in the Summer@First program guide (available for download on our Web site). The Summer Study is the foundation for more opportunities to learn and grow together beginning in the fall when we are back together again in person.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Summer should be a carefree, relaxing time. But sometimes personal problems can get in the way of that. If you know someone who is struggling to enjoy the summer, First Presbyterian Stephen Ministers can help! Contact our Stephen Leaders for more information:

Margaret Davis: margaret@firstpresathens.org,
706-206-9896

Bob Frisch: rpfrisch@aol.com,
914-262-1078

Dawn Frisch: dawnmfrisch@aol.com,
914-255-3447

Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com,
706-540-4251

Food Sunday drop-off, August 6

You may bring donations of **school supplies** (packs of college-ruled paper, # 2 pencils, ballpoint pens, crayons, markers, colored pencils, highlighters, glue sticks, erasers, composition notebooks, pocket folders, spiral notebooks, 3-ring binders, box of tissues, hand sanitizer) to church 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. this **Friday, August 6**. Please bring supplies in plastic bags and put them in the open trunk.

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 supplies on loading dock at far end of building. Thanks for your donations in July – our neighbors in need are grateful.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 1 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 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*)

Tuesday, August 3

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136*)
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, August 4

- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare Group: "Two Noble Kinsmen" via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)
- 5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Chancel Choir Room

Sunday, August 8

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check firstpresathens.org for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

LASST UNS ERFREUEN LM with alleluias

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623; alt.

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Isaac Watts, 1719

Unison

1. From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
 2. In ev - ery land be - gin the song, To ev - ery land the strains be -
 3. E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at - tends Thy

*Harmony**Unison*

rise: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - er's
 long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
 word: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thy praise shall sound from

Harmony

name be sung Through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
 voic - es raise And fill the world with joy - ful praise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 shore to shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

O God, Show Mercy to Us

(Psalm 67)
THAXTED

The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909

Gustav Holst, 1918



1. O God, show mer - cy to us, and bless us with your grace; and
2. For you will judge the peo - ples in truth and righ - teous - ness, and



cause to shine up - on us the bright - ness of your face, so that your way most
on the earth all na - tions will your just rule con - fess. Let all the peo - ples



ho - ly on earth may soon be known, and un - to ev - ery peo - ple your
praise you; let all the na - tions sing. Then earth in rich a - bun - dance to



sav - ing grace be shown. Let all the peo - ples praise you; let
us its fruit will bring. The Lord our God will bless us; our

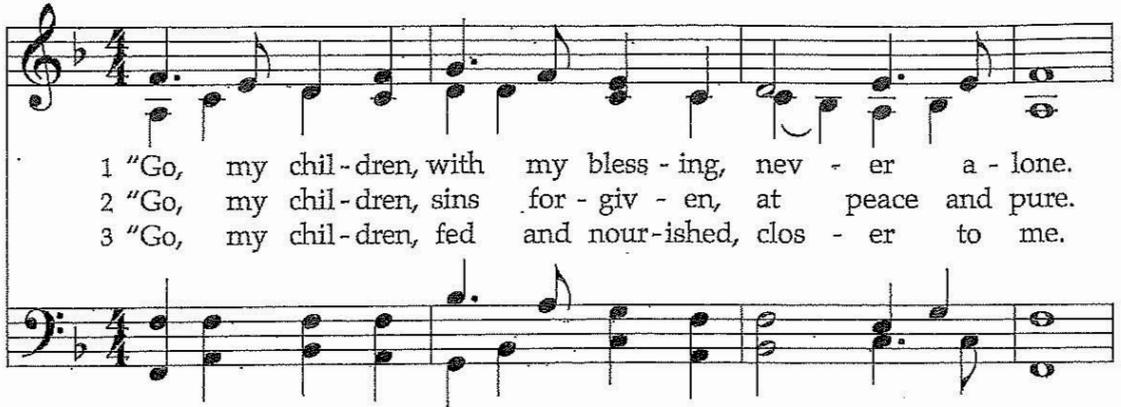


all the na - tions sing; in ev - ery land let
God will bless - ing send, and all the earth will



prais - es and songs of glad - ness ring.
wor - ship to its re - most - est end.

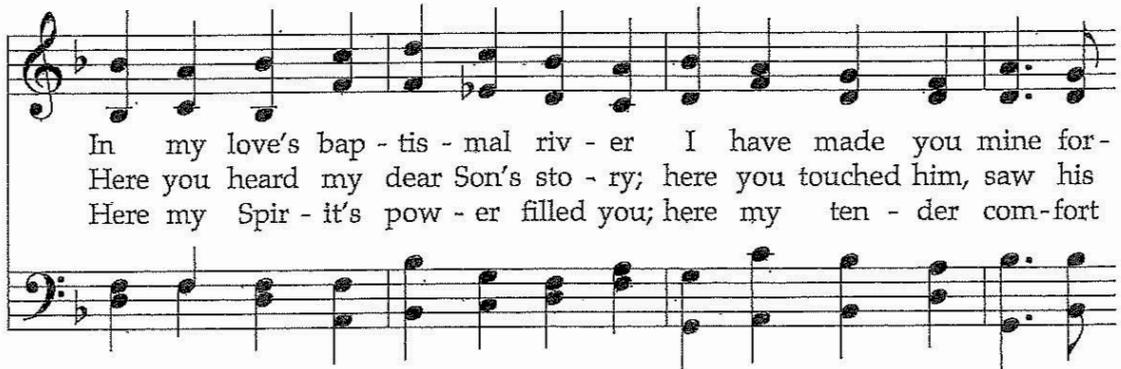
547 Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort



ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.