



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!

February 27, 2022

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Presbyterian Student Center – Campus Ministry Sunday

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.

Greeting

Psalms 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

Prelude on Slane

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Presbyterian Student Center

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

Come, let us worship God,
singing joyful songs of praise!

**For the glory of the Lord shines upon us,
and calls us forth with thanksgiving.**

Let us turn to the mountaintop,
and let us give God the glory.

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn insert

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain UNSER HERRSCHER

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy Lord, we confess that we do not always seek the light of your way. We are satisfied to dwell in darkness, holding fast to the comforts of material fortune. We ignore the needs of others, and selfishly look the other way when our neighbors are oppressed. In your merciful way, help us to establish your equity in the world. Move us to protect creation and ensure equality, that all of our siblings may have a share of your abundance and the safety of your peace, and that the light of your face may shine upon all creation.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

**Those who are able may stand.*

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).

Some version of the Transfiguration (found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke) is usually read on the last Sunday after Epiphany. In *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*, that foretaste of Christ's glorification helps to prepare Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of "God's beloved Son."

The anthem is an arrangement of a hymn with a text, originally in German, dating from the 17th century, and a tune that is a Silesian folk melody from the 19th century.

All Who Love and Serve Your City, written in 1966 in response to the Watts' riots in Los Angeles, is one of few written about city life. The second stanza quotes John 9:4, the third stanza refers to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem (found in Matthew and Luke), and the final line cites the name given to Israel's future holy city (Ezekiel 48:35).

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.

- *Congregational Response

Hymn 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.
- *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 27:1-4

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**
- 11:00 a.m. Anthem

Fairest Lord Jesus

Russell Schulz-Widmar

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down.
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.
Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.

- Second Lesson

John 9:1-41

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

The Man Born Blind

The Rev. Will Norman

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

- *Hymn 413

All Who Love and Serve Your City

CHARLESTOWN
- *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.)

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 *Fairest Lord Jesus* Charles Ore
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

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 339 *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response TALLIS' CANON
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* Grayston Ives

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/give.
Thank you for your
generosity.



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 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.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.

Children, ages 4 years old – 5th Grade, are invited to Children’s Church downstairs in the Children’s Ministry Suite during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. To pick up your child after the service, please go to the church courtyard entrance of the Children’s Ministry Suite.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Join us for a traditional service including the imposition of ashes at 12:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. The 7:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

ASHES TO GO, MARCH 2

First Presbyterian Church and Presbyterian Student Center ministers will be available between 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. for the imposition of ashes and prayers at the intersection of Broad St. and College Ave.

FOOD SUNDAY, MARCH 6

You may bring donations of **canned soup, salty and sweet snacks** to church next **Sunday, March 6**. You may also bring food to the church office until **Friday, March 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. Please put supplies on loading dock at far end of building. Thanks for your donations in February – our neighbors in need are grateful!

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Will Norman, *Executive Campus Minister, PSC*
The Rev. Haley Lerner, *Campus Minister, PSC*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Mr. Jay Bangle, *Liturgist*
Mr. Jack Brock, *PSC Student Board President*
Ms. Anna Murphy, *PSC Student Minister for Worship*

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson, Jim Dove
11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Wayne F. Middendorf by the Middendorf family.

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is on Facebook and YouTube.

Available in the Narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 27 – PSC Campus Ministry Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services
9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
9:45 a.m. Last Confirmation Class, The PIT
3:30 p.m. Faith Formation Task Force Meeting, Staff Conference Room
5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group, Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 28

2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

Tuesday, March 1

9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136*)
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Parlor
7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, March 2 – Ash Wednesday

12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Services, Sanctuary
1:00 p.m. Ashes to Go, Intersection of Broad St. and College Ave.

Thursday, March 3

2:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room
5:00 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Children’s Ministry Suite

Sunday, March 6 – First Sunday in Lent, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
11:00 a.m. Children’s Church, Children’s Ministry Suite

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants – 5th Grade

**For the safety of our children, we will continue COVID precautions of mask wearing, social distancing and utilizing our outdoor spaces as much as possible.*

Nursery, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children will enjoy playtime, story time, and snack time with their church friends in the Nursery Playroom and outside on the playground.

Godly Play, 9:45 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Children are invited to Godly Play during the Sunday School hour. Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children “discover” who God is rather than being “told” who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offers children a safe space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

Children's Church, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Children are invited to Children's Church during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. During Children's Church, children will continue to worship together and experience the many ways we worship God with our families in the sanctuary – by listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God, and giving to God.

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

Middle School Coordinator: Erin Osborne

The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

Sunday School 9:45 – 10:40 a.m.

During the Sunday School hour, middle school and high school youth are invited to join Erin for an informal time of fellowship, games and conversation in the PIT.

Youth Group

It has been so wonderful to be back in person for youth group after many zoom gatherings! We have an active, thoughtful group of 6th–12th graders participating each week and friends are always welcome! Typically, middle school meets from 5:00–6:00 p.m. with high school to follow from 6:00–7:30 p.m. Together, we are exploring what it means to be a Christian teen in today's changing world through games, Bible study, and reflection. Each week is always a little different – please visit our youth website (www.fpcathenspit.com) for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON ONLY

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies.

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann (cberg@ccrc.uga.edu), Carla Buss (cbuss@uga.edu), Larry Jones (lfjones@uga.edu)

Parents in the PIT • The Pit

This class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come down to the PIT for a time of fellowship and support.

Coordinator: Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org)

HYBRID (*in person and over Zoom*)

Del Dunn Christian Issues • Room 308

An in–depth study and discussion of scripture – with a chapter-by–chapter reading and discussion of Acts of the Apostles. Zoom and in–person.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 875 216 0708, PW: 634175

New Voices • Room 310

Discussion guided by *Women In the Bible*, by Jaime Clark–Soles, with emphasis on women in the lineage of Jesus Christ.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)

Zoom ID: 870 1906 3194, PW: 305215

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jjtscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Women's Bible Class • Staff Conference Room

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

Contact: Denise Horton (denisehorton@gmail.com)

Zoom ID: 813 2290 3374, PW: 459718

ON HOLD (*stay tuned...*)

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

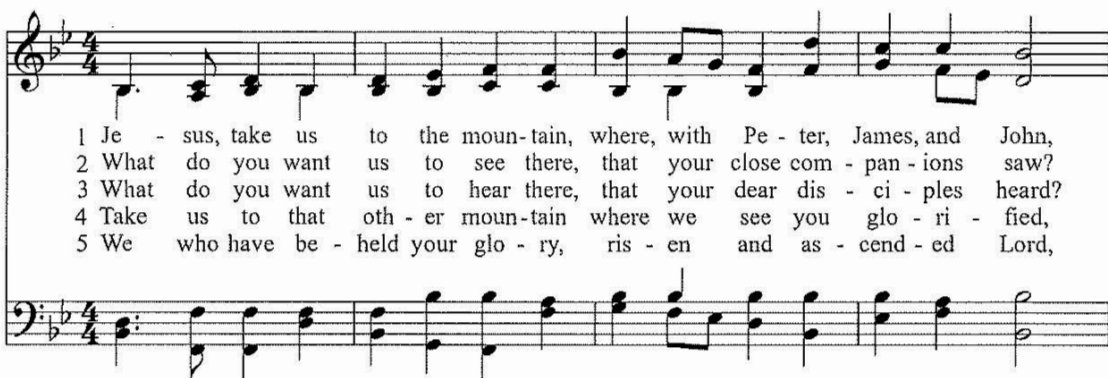
The “oldest” Sunday School class at First Pres will continue to focus on a Bible Study format. ***The class will resume on a date to be announced.***

Led by: Jerris Hayes (jhayefirstpres@gmail.com), Richard Lane (rlane@uga.edu)

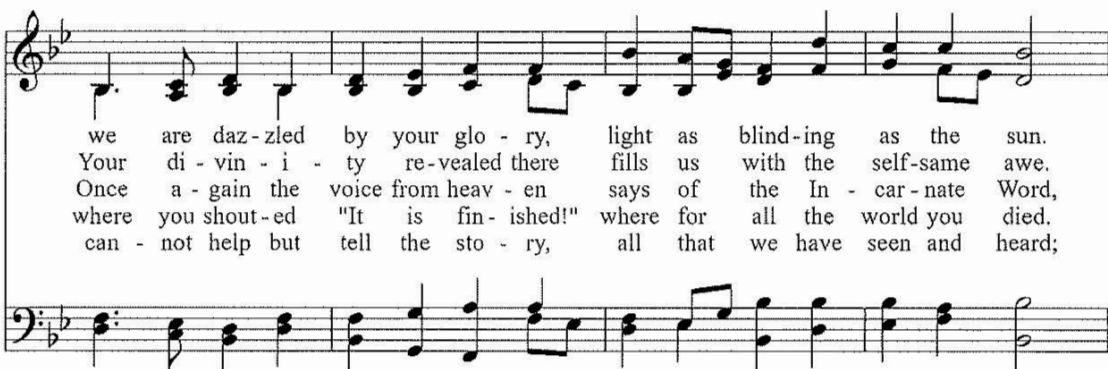
Hymn

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

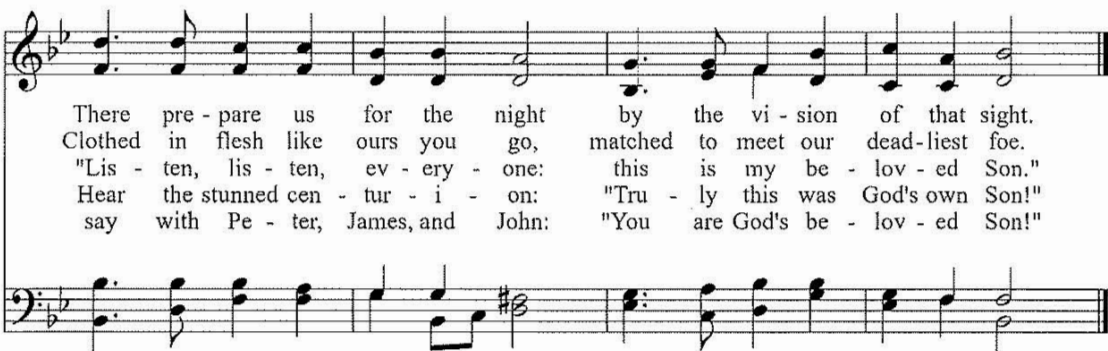
UNSER HERRSCHER



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter, James, and John,
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com - pan - ions saw?
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis - ci - ples heard?
4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you glo - ri - fied,
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as - cend - ed Lord,



we are daz-zled by your glo - ry, light as blind-ing as the sun.
Your di - vin - i - ty re-vealed there fills us with the self-same awe,
Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car - nate Word,
where you shout-ed "It is fin-ished!" where for all the world you died,
can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that we have seen and heard;



There pre - pare us for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go, matched to meet our dead-liest foe.
"Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."
Hear the stunned cen - tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"
say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

All Who Love and Serve Your City 413

CHARLESTOWN 8.7.8.7

Erik Routley, 1966

The United States Sacred Harmony, 1799
Harm. Carlton R. Young, 1964

1. All who love and serve your cit - y, All who bear its dai - ly stress,
2. In your day of wealth and plen - ty, Wast - ed work and wast - ed play,
3. For all days are days of judg - ment, And the Lord is wait - ing still,
4. Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y Be the cit - y of de - spair?

All who cry for peace and jus - tice, All who curse and all who bless:
Call to mind the word of Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
Draw - ing near a world that spurns Him, Of - fering peace from Cal-vary's hill.
Come to - day, our judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

The musical score is written in 3/4 time. The first system features a vocal melody on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The second system continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The third system shows the vocal melody and piano accompaniment for the final verse. The score includes lyrics for four verses and a concluding line.

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Ancient Irish poem

Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905

Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad

Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.