



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 26, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Third 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.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

Winchester New

Bruce Neswick

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

DIX

**Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.**

Call to Worship

We gather to worship our God of wonder,
and we gather to meditate on God's works and mighty deeds.
Our God who is great and mighty,
**with arms stretched out,
welcomes us into the fold.**

***Hymn 251** *Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure* WINCHESTER NEW

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we confess that we too often give in to the yearnings of the flesh. We have impure thoughts. We idolize those who misuse power. We harbor jealousies and are quick to anger. We neglect to care for others and gratify our own desires. Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us of our sin. Lead us to ways of love, joy, and peace. Send your Spirit to give us patience, kindness, and generosity, and lead us to be gentle in our care for all of your people.

*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).

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure is a paraphrase of the latter part of Psalm 145. It celebrates God's providential care for all creation, especially for those in any need or trouble. The German tune was probably introduced to English hymnody by John Wesley.

At “The Peace,” worshipers are invited to greet each other by saying, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and responding, “And also with you.”

The anthem is a poem by Christina Rossetti, set to music by contemporary American composer, Roland E. Martin.

The sweetness celebrated in *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*, originally a 12th-century Latin poem, is not sentimental; it is more like an antidote to bitterness and a source of hope.

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 145:10-18, page 569
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem	<i>Consider</i>	Roland E. Martin
Consider the lilies of the field whose bloom is brief; we are as they; like them we fade away, as doth a leaf. Consider the sparrows of the air of small account: our God doth view whether they fall or mount, he guards them too. Consider the lilies that do neither spin nor toil, yet are most fair: what profits all this care and all this coil? Consider the birds that have no barn nor harvest weeks; God gives them food: much more our Father seeks to do us good.		

Second Lesson Ephesians 3:14-21, page 1067
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *God’s Powerful Love* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 310** *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* ST. AGNES

***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

Improvisation on Jerusalem

John Coble

*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 insert**

O Lord, You Are My God and King

JERUSALEM

*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

Fugue in G minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

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.



O Lord, You Are My God and King is an abbreviated paraphrase of Psalm 145, but it maintains the tone of praise that characterizes the last six psalms.

*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 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 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.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

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

The Rev. Ron Gilreath, *Liturgist*

Lay Reader

Kitty Donnan

USHERS

John Simpson (head), Carl Bergmann,

Randy Dudley, Mary Peace

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of John and Carey Walden's 55th wedding anniversary, by their family.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S RETREAT, LAST CALL!

We still have openings! Treat yourself (or a loved one) to a weekend of spiritual nourishment and the beauty of the NC mountains August 12-14 at the Montreat Women's Connection Conference. Register for the conference at Montreat.org. Signup for the workshops just began, so hurry! Register for housing at the Georgia Lodge with our group at firstpresathens.org. Contact Carol McKay (carol_mckay@att.net) or Nancy Hernandez (nfergie2@gmail.com) with questions.

SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS: FAITH AND FILM

In July, join Kent Burel in the Moses Waddel Room after the morning worship service for Sunday Conversations: Faith and Film.

- July 10: The Wizard of Oz
- July 17: About Schmidt
- July 24: The Way

FOOD SUNDAY, JULY 10

You may bring donations of **fruit juice (whole bottle or individual), hamburger helper, muffin mixes, pasta-roni (flavored pastas)** to church **Sunday, July 10** (*Emergency Food Bank will be closed for the July 4 holiday*). You may also bring food to the church office until **Friday, July 8**. Thanks for your donations in June - our neighbors in need are grateful!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR AUDIOVISUAL TEAM

We are recruiting members who would like to help our audiovisual team on Sunday mornings or with special services. If you are interested to learn how to run our livestream and/or soundboard, please contact Paulo Santos at paulo@firstpresathens.org or call the church office at 706-543-4338.

Matthew 25 Summer Book Study

In between your light summer reading, the Matthew 25 Commission invites you to dig a little deeper into what it means to be a Matthew 25 church with two book studies:

JUNE: *I'm Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, by Austin Channing Brown
Discussion and lunch on June 26 - 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

JULY: *Nickel and Dimed*, by Barbara Ehrenreich; Discussion and lunch on July 31 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Please RSVP on FPC website or go to bit.ly/3zzXUzj. For more information, contact Kim Ness (knness@firstpresathens.org).

Interested in Membership?

Join us for "First Things," an informative class about First Presbyterian Church, 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Sunday, July 10, 2022. Please call the church office (706-543-4338) or e-mail Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org by Wednesday, July 6, to make a reservation. Lunch will be provided. *Child care available upon request.*

Pentecost Offering

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. By donating to the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

This year, your Mission and Outreach Commission has selected the the Athens Nurses Clinic to receive a portion of Pentecost offering (40%). The Athens Nurses Clinic serves the Athens Homeless and indigent community with Medical and Dental care. Prior to Covid pandemic, the Nurses Clinic had nearly 4,000 patients and over 12,000 patient encounters. They provide a valuable service to the 'least of these' as our society views them. The remaining 60% is used to support children at risk, youth and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Please mail your check to the church office. Or you may go to our website firstpresathens.org/give, then select "Pentecost Offer" under "Select a Fund." Thank you for your generosity!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 26

10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

11:15 a.m. Matthew 25 Summer Book Study: *I'm Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, by Austin Channing Brown, Discussion and lunch, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, June 28

7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room

Wednesday, June 29

2:00 p.m. FPC Bridge Group, Room 301

Saturday, June 25

2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for David Clay, Sanctuary

Sunday, July 3 - Communion Sunday

10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

July 10 - Food Sunday, Godly Play and Good Shepherd Summer Club, First Things for Newcomers, Sunday Conversations: Faith and Film - *The Wizard of Oz*

Good Shepherd Summer Club June/July 2022 Mini Mission Project

We reached our 80, \$10 Chick-fil-A Gift Card Goal! Thank you, First Pres Church Family!

I have no doubt that big smiles will appear on the faces of our Bethel Buddies when they receive their \$10 Chick-fil-A Gift Cards and a handful of popsicles ready to be frozen for these hot summer days!

Next up is our Backpack Drive for the Big Kids!

Clarke County Schools will be providing most of the school supplies this upcoming school year, but bookbags will be an extra expense for families. Our goal is to raise enough money to purchase 20 bookbags for our Middle School and High School neighbors who live in the Bethel Neighborhood.

Please consider making a monetary donation that is comfortable for you to help us out with the purchasing of 20 bookbags. You can get a solid, large bookbag for around \$30. Please mail or bring a check to the church office, or make an online donation at firstpresathens.org/give (select "General Fund" under "Select a Fund," and in the optional memo be sure to type "bookbags"). Please bring or mail in donations by **Sunday, July 10**.

Thank you for supporting our First Pres Kiddos and helping our Good Shepherd Summer Club continue to share God's love with our neighbors this summer!

Introductory Meeting for Grief Support Group Sunday, July 17, 11:30 a.m

First Presbyterian Church is offering a Grief Support Group this summer for persons who have experienced the death of a loved one. The death of those precious to us changes our lives forever. This group is designed to provide emotional, spiritual, and practical support as the participants share their unique experiences of loss. The Rev. Ron Gilreath and Mrs. Robyn McDonald will serve as facilitators and follow the book *Understanding Your Grief*, by Alan D. Wolfelt. The group is open to all who are interested. Please contact the church office at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org to register.

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure

251

WINCHESTER NEW LM

Para. Joy F. Patterson, 1989

Musikalisches Handbuch, 1690
Harm. William Henry Monk, 1847; alt.



1. Your faith - ful - ness, O Lord, is sure In
 2. The eyes of all are fixed on You; By
 3. Lord, You are just in all Your ways, And
 4. My mouth shall speak Your praise, O Lord, My

all Your words, Your gra - cious deeds; You gen - tly lift all
 You their wants are all sup - plied; Your o - pen hand is
 kind in ev - ery - thing You do; For - ev - er near You
 soul shall bless Your ho - ly name; Let all things liv - ing

bur - dened souls And well pro - vide for all our needs.
 boun - ti - ful And ev - ery soul is sat - is - fied.
 stand to hear And help all those who call on You.
 join the song Of praise, from age to age the same.

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Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

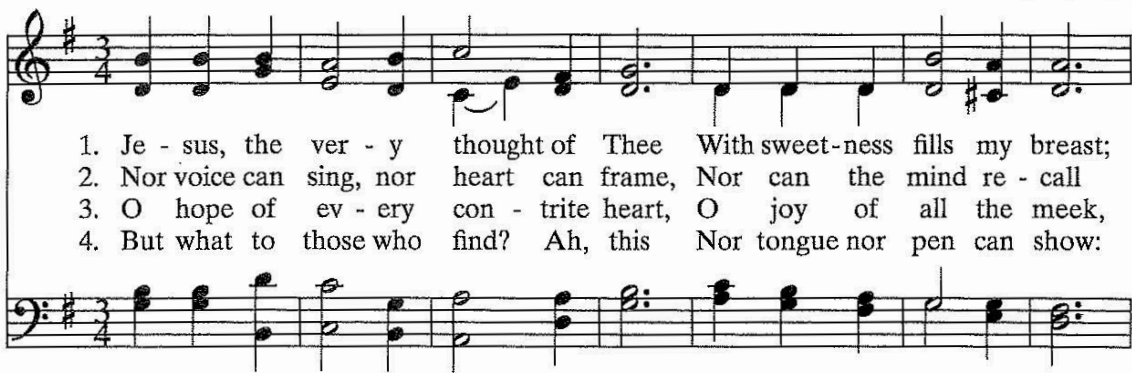
310

ST. AGNES CM

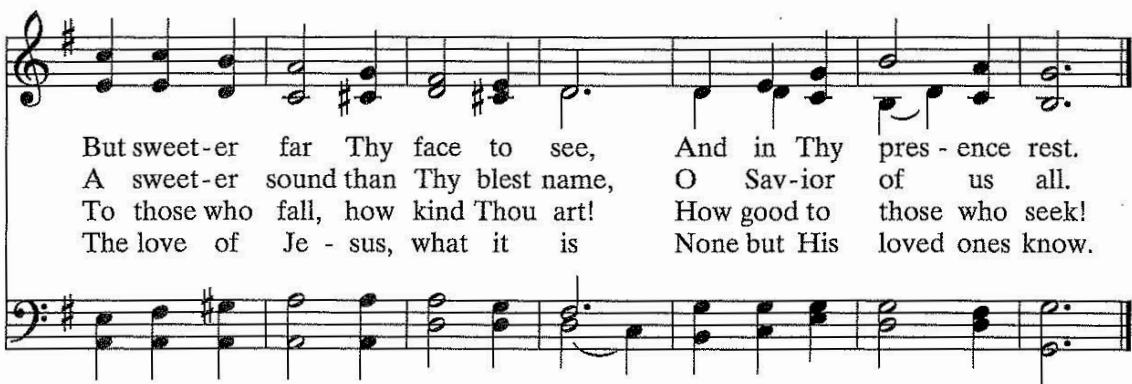
Attr. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091–1153)

Trans. Edward Caswall, 1849; alt. 1987

John Bacchus Dykes, 1866



1. Je - sus, the ver - y thought of Thee With sweet-ness fills my breast;
2. Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, Nor can the mind re - call
3. O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart, O joy of all the meek,
4. But what to those who find? Ah, this Nor tongue nor pen can show:



But sweet-er far Thy face to see, And in Thy pres - ence rest.
A sweet-er sound than Thy blest name, O Sav - ior of us all.
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!
The love of Je - sus, what it is None but His loved ones know.

5. Jesus, our only joy be Thou,
As Thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be Thou our glory now,
And through eternity.

O Lord, You Are My God and King

JERUSALEM



1. O Lord, you are my God and King, and I will ev - er bless your
2. How rich in grace are you, O Lord, full of com - pas - sion, mer - ci -
3. Your works will give you thanks O Lord; your saints your might - ty acts will



name; I will ex - tol you ev - ery day, and ev - er - more your praise pro -
ful, your an - ger al - ways slow to rise; your stead - fast love you show to
show, till all the peo - ples of the earth your king - dom, pow - er, glo - ry



claim. You, Lord are great - ly to be praised; your great - ness is be - yond our
all, for you are good in all your ways; your crea - tures know your con - stant
know. E - ter - nal is your king - dom, Lord, for - ev - er strong, for - ev - er



thought;	all	gen - er - a -	tions	shall	tell
care.	To	all your	works	your	love
sure;	while	gen - er - a -	tions	rise	and



forth the might - y won - ders you have wrought.
tends; all souls your ten - der mer - cies share.
die, your high do - min - ion will en - dure.

Text: *The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*, 1909, alt.

Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1916

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Kitty Donnan
Rob Haire
Larry Jones
Andy Jordan
Jimbo LaBoon III
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

CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Kemp Gaskill
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Logan
Bruce Middendorf
Randy Riner
Chuck Toney

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Ron Gilreath, *Acting Parish Associate* (rjgilreath@att.net)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* (kness@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* (natalie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Office Administrator* (lbelle@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant*
Mrs. Laura McHugh, *Interim Accountant*
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *Accounting Assistant* (angie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotteposs@gmail.com)
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*