



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 21, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Eleventh 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

O Waly Waly

Emma Lou Diemer

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**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

God is our rock and our refuge,
a strong and mighty fortress.
Beloved, people of light, come; the Lord is our hope.
Let us worship God!

*Hymn 470

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**O God of mercy, we confess that we live self-centered lives.
We tolerate injustice and cruelty, complacent in our corner of
the world. We neglect the needs of others. In your righteousness,
deliver us and rescue us. Turn us to your way and lead us in your
light, that we might serve you and care for all of creation.**

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

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

O Day of Radian Gladness is a composite from several poets. The first two stanzas are by the nephew of William Wordsworth, the third by Charles P. Price for the Standing Commission on Church Music of the Episcopal Church, and the fourth by a committee for The Hymnal 1982.

**Those who are able may stand.*

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.”

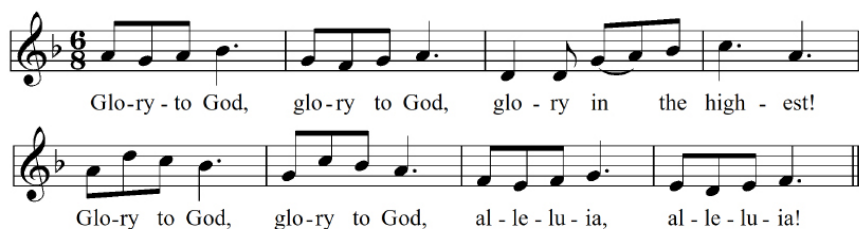
The anthem was written for the 1923 Annual Festival of the Rochester Diocesan Church Choirs Association. The composer was a contemporary of Holst and Vaughan Williams. He was also uncle of British actor Sebastian Shaw who played Darth Vader in the 1983 film *Return of the Jedi*.

O Christ the Healer, a prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit, considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of societies and nations. In the midst of widespread need, worshipping communities are called to continue Christ’s healing work in the world.

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

Jacques Berthier



*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

Psalms 41, pages 503

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

Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honor of his name,
make his praise to be glorious.

Second Lesson

Mark 2:2-9, page 913

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

Sermon

When Pictures Become Windows

The Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn insert

O Christ, the Healer

O Christ, the Healer

*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 *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* Johann Sebastian Bach

*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

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 356** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

*Charge and Benediction

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

Postlude *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Emma Lou Diemer



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.

Originally written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer," Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance.

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 4 years old and younger, available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 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

The Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, *President, Columbia Theological Seminary*

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

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

Lay Reader

Kent Burel

USHERS

John Simpson (head), Keith Oelke,

Mary Peace

GREETER

Beverly Phares

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of William Harold Short, by Jackie Williams and Sally and Bill Short.

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

Welcome Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo

This weekend, The Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo is supplying our pulpit at both the stated meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery yesterday and at our Sunday morning worship service. Dr. Aloyo began his tenure as the 11th President of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur on August 1. Originally from Puerto Rico, Dr. Aloyo comes to Georgia after many years of service in New Jersey as both Associate Dean at Princeton Theological Seminary and as the organizing pastor of La Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras. FPC and Columbia Seminary have a relationship that stretches back over two centuries; the seminary was organized in the manse of the church in Lexington in 1828, before moving to Columbia, South Carolina in 1830. In the late 1920s, the seminary relocated to its present campus in Decatur where it continues to train church leaders from all over the nation and the world.

Welcome Back Biscuit Brunch Today, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Please join us today after the 10:00 a.m. worship service for our Welcome Back Biscuit Brunch. We'll have coffee, fruit, and a variety of Bojangles biscuits. Come connect with friends old and new and celebrate the start of the Fall season. Donations welcome.

Red Cross Blood Drive Sunday, August 28, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code AFPC) or contact the church office. If you cannot give blood but would like to help check-in donors, please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer (jbneighb@bellsouth.net).

Project Safe Work Day Sunday, August 28, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Help tidy the Project Safe Thrift Store in Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7. The store will be closed to shoppers during our work time. Project Safe works to end domestic violence. Please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com to volunteer.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 21

- 10:00 a.m. Service, The Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Welcome Back Biscuit Brunch, Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. WDS Parents Meeting, Sanctuary
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Youth & Parent Potluck Kick off Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 22

- 2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group, Home of Cathy Crawford

Tuesday, August 23

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Minister Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, August 24

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Chancel Choir Room

Sunday, August 28 - Two Worship Services Resume

- 8:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

LOOKING AHEAD

September 11 - Stephen Ministry Recognition and Reception

September 18 - First Things New Member Class

September 21 - Wed@First begins (*Wednesdays through November 16*)

September 23 - Picnic with Redcoat Band

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN 7.6.7.6 D

Stanzas 1-2, Christopher Wordsworth, 1862; alt.

Stanza 3, Charles P. Price, 1980

Stanza 4, *The Hymnal* 1982

Memmingen ms., 17th century

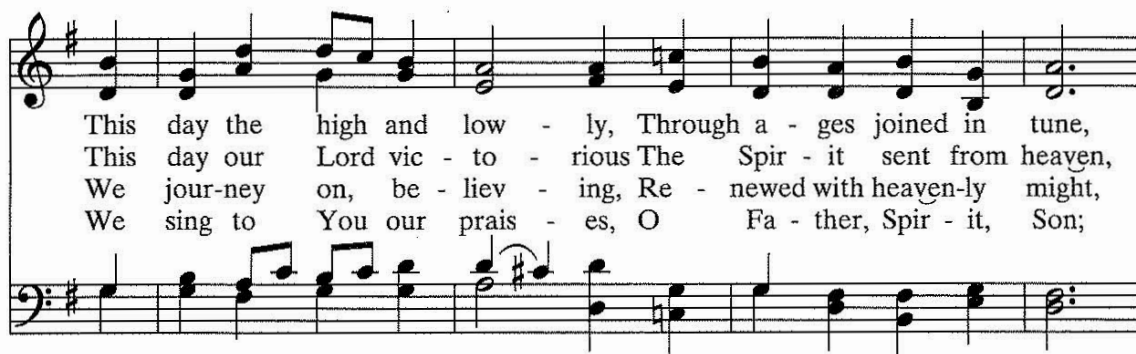
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904



1. O day of ra-diant glad-ness, O day of joy and light,
 2. This day at the cre-a-tion The light first had its birth;
 3. This day God's peo-ple, meet-ing, The Ho-ly Scrip-ture hear;
 4. That light our hope sus-tain-ing, We walk the pil-grim way,



O balm of care and sad-ness, Most beau-ti-ful, most bright;
 This day for our sal-va-tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
 Christ's liv-ing pres-ence greet-ing, Through bread and wine made near.
 At length our rest at-tain-ing, Our end-less Sab-bath day.



This day the high and low-ly, Through a-ges joined in tune,
 This day our Lord vic-to-rious The Spir-it sent from heaven,
 We jour-ney on, be-liev-ing, Re-newed with heaven-ly might,
 We sing to You our prais-es, O Fa-ther, Spir-it, Son;



Sing "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly" To the great God tri-une.
 And thus this day most glo-rious A tri-ple light was given.
 From grace more grace re-ceiv-ing On this blest day of light.
 The church its voice up-raises To You, blest Three in One.



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for
 2 From ev - ry ail - ment flesh en-dures our bod-ies clam - or to be
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de-sires, how weak our knowl - edge of our-
 4 In con-flicts that de-destroy our health we rec-og - nize the world's dis-
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com-mu - ni - ty may



friends. How can we fail to be re -
 freed; yet in our hearts we would con -
 selves! Re - lease in us those heal - ing
 ease; our com - mon life de - clares our
 find the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing



stored, when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.
 truths un - con-scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1967, alt.

Music: English folk melody

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 356

Robert Robinson, c. 1758

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Tune: NETTLETON, opposite.

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* (lbell@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. 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*