



# 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 2, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Fifth 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

*Land of Rest*

George Shearing

### Words of Welcome

### 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

God, who rules the universe calls us;

**Christ, who took up his cross, calls us;**

Holy Spirit, who frees us body and soul, calls us.

**Let us faithfully answer by worshipping the triune God.**

**\*Hymn 262**    *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*    NATIONAL HYMN

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we desire what is not your will.**

**We fear failure and cling to unquestioned habits. We are truly sorry and repent of what we have done and what we have not done. Satisfy the longings of our souls by taking us up into your Spirit, rekindling our desire to follow Jesus. Show us the path or your prophetic way. Open our eyes to new ventures. Help us love our neighbors as ourselves. Teach us to trust you to support the ministries you inspire amongst us. Forgive us and renew us, in the name of life abundant, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### \*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

### \*Assurance of Pardon

*\*Those who are able please 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).*

*God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand was generated by 19th-century centennial celebrations: the words by the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in his hymn of praise and prayer for peace.*

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.”

Lay Reader:  
Kent Burel

*Let Us Break Bread Together*, an African American spiritual, possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending communion services in colonial Anglican churches. It’s combination of hope (“rising sun”) and supplication (“Lord, have mercy”) speaks to many worshipers.

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 estimate of giving through your bank, or donate online using this QR code or at [firstpresathens.org/giving](http://firstpresathens.org/giving). Thank you for your generosity.

## \*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

### Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 454, stanza 1

**Blessed Jesus, at your word we are gathered all to hear you;  
let our hearts and souls be stirred  
now to seek and love and fear you;  
by your teachings true and holy,  
drawn from earth to love you solely.**

### First Lesson

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20, page 526

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

### Second Lesson

2 Kings 2:1-14, page 328

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

### Sermon

*Parting on Jordan’s Banks* The Rev. Margaret Davis

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

### \*Hymn 513

*Let Us Break Bread Together* LET US BREAK BREAD

### \*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

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save* Richard Shephard

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
who bids the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep;  
O, hear us when we cry to thee, for those in peril on the sea.  
O Christ, whose voice the waters heard and hushed their raging at thy word,  
who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amidst its rage did sleep;  
O, hear us when we cry to thee, for those in peril on the sea.  
O Trinity of love and power, thy children shield in danger’s hour;  
who bids the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep;  
thus, evermore shall rise to thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

**\*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.

*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* was inspired by the vista from Pike's Peak and a visit to Chicago's Columbian World Exposition. The tune (named Materna, because it was composed for "O Mother, Dear Jerusalem") was paired with this text in 1912. The combination has been popular during World War I.

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

## Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

### Communion of the People

### Prayer after Communion

#### 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.**

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

**\*Hymn 564**      *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*      MATERNA

### \*Charge and Benediction

**\*Congregational Response**      Hymn 507, stanza 5  
**Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.**

**Postlude**      *The Rejoicing*      George Frideric Handel  
(from *Fireworks Music*)

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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.

**Nursery Play for children 4 years old and younger** is available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. during our summer worship schedule. Please note that due to renovation of our Children's Playroom area, Nursery Play will be moved to the Children's Ministry Suite in Room 126 for the summer. You can access this room by using the Atrium stairs and walking through the courtyard to the CM Suite OR you can use the back stairwell located to the left of the sanctuary down to the church lobby and into the CM Suite.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LOVE NOTES FOR KIM

Blank cards are in your bulletin for those wishing to write encouraging notes to Kim and her family, which will be delivered to them. Baskets to collect the cards are in the Narthex and in the Atrium. For updates on Kim, please check her CaringBridge website at [caringbridge.org/visit/kimness](http://caringbridge.org/visit/kimness). Please keep Kim and her family in your prayers.

### MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

The Men's Bible Class will meet today at 11:00 a.m., then will take a Summer break until we go back to our regular two-service schedule on September 10. They meet in the Bride's Room in the Tinsley Stern building.

### FOOD SUNDAY, JULY 9

You may bring donations of **saltine crackers, hamburger helper, and 1lbs plain white rice** to church on **Sunday, July 9**. You may also bring food to the church office until **Friday, July 7**.

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 June - our neighbors in need are grateful!

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

### *Lay Reader*

Kent Burel

### USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon III (head),  
Jim Dove, John Simpson

### GREETER

Faye Marshall

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

### FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Joseph Avery and Kathleen Henson Wilfong by their children.

### JULY FLOWER TEAM

Jennifer Poole (chair), Susan Barrett,  
Cathy Crawford, Anne Lane,  
Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Ethelyn Simpson

### 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 10:00 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](http://firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

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## Summer Choir

Join us for Summer Choir! We will meet in the choir room at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays to rehearse music for that morning's service, and sing at 10:00 a.m. worship service. Our Chancel Choir will be the foundation of this group. For more information, contact John Coble at [jcoble@firstpresathens.org](mailto:jcoble@firstpresathens.org).

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## Matthew 25 Lunch & Book Study

**July 16 and 30, 11:30-1:30 p.m., Moses Waddel Room**

The Matthew 25 Commission invites you to a two-part discussion of *A More Just Future*, by Dolly Chugh. This facilitated discussion will explore themes of confronting our nation's past and building a better future through the lens of Matthew 25. Lunch and childcare will be provided; RSVP ([tinyurl.com/FPCM25BookStudy](http://tinyurl.com/FPCM25BookStudy)) for both will be needed by Tuesdays prior.

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## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, July 2 - Communion Sunday,

9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202  
10:00 a.m. Service, Rev. Margaret Davis preaching  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Refreshments, Atrium  
11:00 a.m. Men's Bible Class, Bride's Room

### Tuesday, July 4 - Independence Day, Church Office Closed

### Sunday, July 9 - Food Sunday

9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202  
10:00 a.m. Service, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Refreshments, Atrium  
1:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

# 262 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN 10.10.10.10

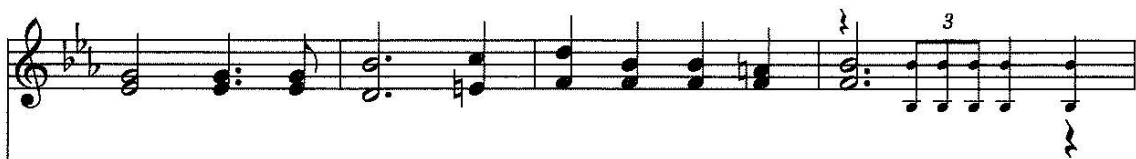
Daniel Crane Roberts, 1876; alt.

George William Warren, 1892



*Trumpets may  
be played  
with each stanza*

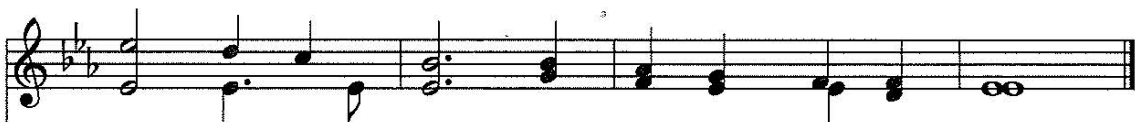
1. God of the a - ges, whose al - might - y hand
2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the past;
3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
4. Re - fresh Thy peo - ple on their toil - some way,



Leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;  
Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



Of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,  
Be Thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;  
Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,



Our grate - ful songs be - fore Thy throne a - rise.  
Thy word our law, Thy paths our cho - sen way.  
Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
And glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er Thine.



## Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD 10.10 with refrain

African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual

Arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)  
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)

The first system of the song features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)  
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

*Refrain*  
When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,

The third system begins with the word 'Refrain' in italics. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me.)

The fourth system concludes the song. The melody and accompaniment continue. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

3. Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)

\ knees

Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,

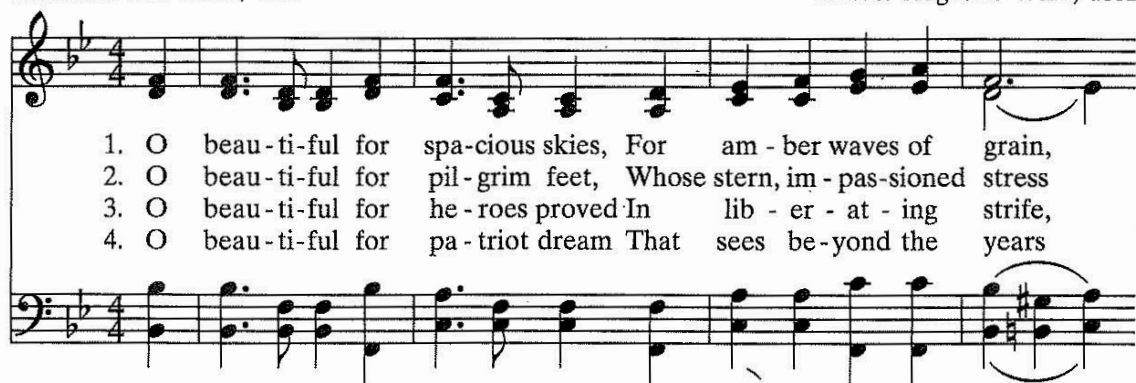
O Lord, have mer-cy on me. (on me.)

## O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

MATERNA CMD

Katharine Lee Bates, 1893

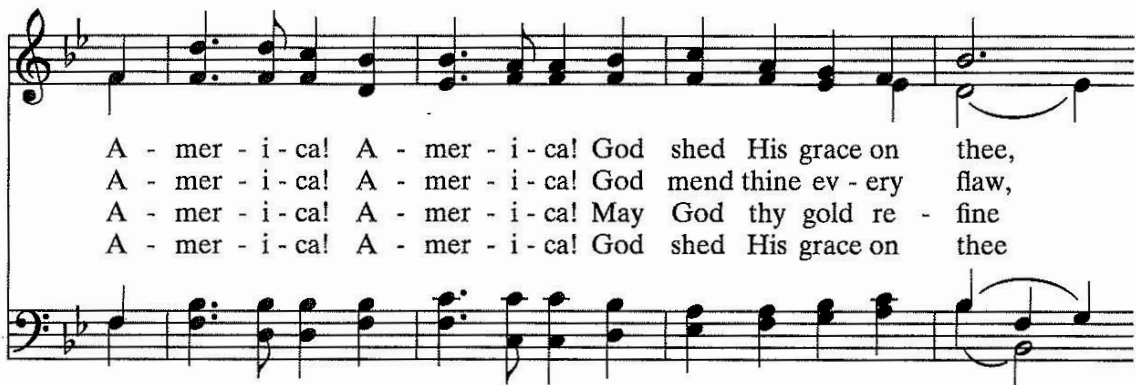
Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882



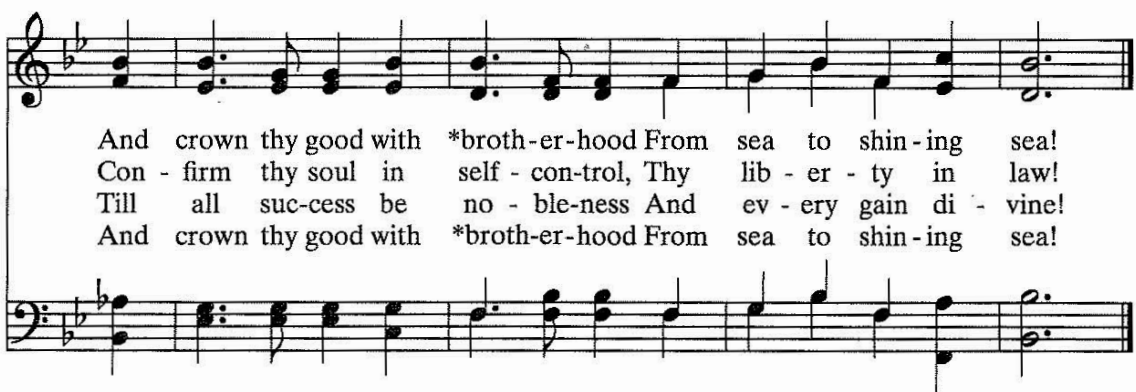
1. O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, For am-ber waves of grain,  
 2. O beau-ti-ful for pil-grim feet, Whose stern, im-pas-sioned stress  
 3. O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved In lib-er-at-ing strife,  
 4. O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream That sees be-yond the years



For pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties A-bove the fruit-ed plain!  
 A thor-ough-fare for free-dom beat A-cross the wil-der-ness!  
 Who more than self their coun-try loved, And mer-cy more than life!  
 Thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, Un-dimmed by hu-man tears!



A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed His grace on thee,  
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw,  
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine  
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed His grace on thee



And crown thy good with \*broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea!  
 Con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, Thy lib-er-ty in law!  
 Till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness And ev-ery gain di-vine!  
 And crown thy good with \*broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea!

\*Or "servanthood."

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator     Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session

### 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

### CLASS OF 2025

Lindsay Griffeth  
Angela Hunt  
Dan Nadenicek  
Karen Phillips  
Ethelyn Simpson  
Jeffrey Trapnell  
Pat Tritt  
John Turner  
Pat Waldrip

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* ([ryan@firstpresathens.org](mailto:ryan@firstpresathens.org))  
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor* ([lbonner@firstpresathens.org](mailto:lbonner@firstpresathens.org))  
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* ([margaret@firstpresathens.org](mailto:margaret@firstpresathens.org))  
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* ([jcoble@firstpresathens.org](mailto:jcoble@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* ([kness@firstpresathens.org](mailto:kness@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* ([natalie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:natalie@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* ([elaine@firstpresathens.org](mailto:elaine@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Office Administrator* ([lbell@firstpresathens.org](mailto:lbell@firstpresathens.org))  
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Director of Communications* ([paulo@firstpresathens.org](mailto:paulo@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Accounting Assistant* ([frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org))  
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* ([jadams@firstpresathens.org](mailto:jadams@firstpresathens.org))  
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* ([wds@firstpresathens.org](mailto:wds@firstpresathens.org))  
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*  
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* ([charlotteposs@gmail.com](mailto:charlotteposs@gmail.com))  
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*  
Mr. Wayne Brock, *Sexton*