



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 30, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Ninth 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

Adagio and Allegro

John Stanley

Words of Welcome

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 seek the kin-dom of God:

where the smallest seeds turn into great plants.

We seek the kin-dom of God:

as precious as pearls or treasure.

We seek the kin-dom of God:

where joy and abundance reign.

***Hymn 281** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Spirit, intercede...

when we fall short of your glory, when we do not deserve your promises, when we do not act like those who have been called your family.

Spirit, intercede...

when our words wound, when our silence speaks volumes, when our actions are a far cry from what you would have us do.

Spirit, intercede...

break forth into our lives, forming us into the image of your Son, that we might never feel separate from you again.

*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).

Few Welsh hymns are as well-known or loved as *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*. The 18th-century text was paired with this tune in the 20th century. The text is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage with vivid images from the Hebrew Scripture.

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:
Anne Marie Miller

The anthem sets Psalm 119:33 to music by English composer Thomas Attwood.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us is now meaningful to adults, though it was originally written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10. The tune is an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

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

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

Luke 12:22-25, page 951

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

Anthem

Teach Me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes;
and I shall keep it unto the end.

Second Lesson

Proverbs 3:1-8, page 574

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

Sermon

Wisdom Training

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn insert

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BEACH SPRING

*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

Beach Spring

Wilbur Held

***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 210**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 540, stanza 1

**God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude

Cwm Rhondda

Paul Manz



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. Thank you for your generosity.

*Some sing *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because it speaks immediately to the human condition. The tune was named for the London parish where the composer was organist.*

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.

Nursery Play for children 4 years old and younger is available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., are located in our Children's Playroom area 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*
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

Anne Marie Miller

USHERS

John Simpson (head),
Randy Dudley, Mary Peace

GREETERS

Susan and Tom Landrum

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of the birthday of Harold Wilson Hartman III (H.W.) by his family.

JULY FLOWER TEAM

Jennifer Poole (chair), Susan Barrett,
Richard 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) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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:

Susan Boatwright: boatwrightsusan@gmail.com
706-255-2250

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

Becky Hartman: hartmanbecky494@gmail.com
706-254-4504

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

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.

Matthew 25 Lunch & Book Study Today, 11:30-1:30 p.m., Moses Waddel Room

The Matthew 25 Commission invites you for the second part of the 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. RSVP for lunch and childcare is closed, but you can still attend the book study.

Back-to-School Blessing + Food Sunday, August 6

We invite all students to bring their bookbags and backpacks Sunday, August 6, for a special blessing as we begin another school year. Please fill your bookbags with items for Athens Area Emergency Food Bank: **fruit juice, ramen noodles, salty snack foods (chips, cheese and peanut butter crackers, roasted nuts, etc).**

You may also bring food to the church office until **Friday, August 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 July - our neighbors in need are grateful!

Faith Formation Leader Gathering, August 6

Come gather with all our faith formation leaders of all age groups to celebrate and prepare before the official kickoff date for our fall programming at the church. On **Sunday, August 6**, the entire congregation are invited to have biscuits and fellowship after worship. When you're done with your biscuits, we invite all our faith formation leaders to get together in the breakout area of Fellowship Hall from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This gathering will include all Sunday school teachers (children, youth, and adults), book group leaders, PW circle leaders, and anyone else who is leading a church group - including the Weekday School. If you are a class/group coordinator and have other people rotating leadership, we would love to see those leaders in our gathering as well. If you have any questions, contact Rev. Leigh Bonner at lbonner@firstpresathens.org.

Please RSVP for the gathering at tinyurl.com/FPC8623Gathering by **Thursday, August 3**.

August Matthew 25 Trip

The Matthew 25 Commission plans to annually lead tours to various Civil Rights Trail sites. For the first trip, scheduled for **Saturday, August 19, 2023**, we will stay close to home with a visit to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights.

The MLK National Park Walking Tour will take about two hours and includes the visitor center exhibit, historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church: New Horizon Sanctuary, the National Civil Rights Walk of Fame, the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Dr. King's Tomb, and King's early home. At the National Center for Civil and Human Rights we will see an evocatively designed building that expresses the civil and human rights theme through its architecture. Inside the doors, you will visit a series of exhibits and galleries, which trace the journey from Martin Luther King, Jr., the broader civil rights era from the segregation of Jim Crow to King's Assassination, to an international human rights movement.

RSVP (tinyurl.com/FPCM25Trip) will be needed by **noon on Tuesday, August 15**. A maximum of 14 people may ride in the church van, but if more are interested in the trip, we will arrange for ride sharing opportunities. For more information and questions, please contact Dan Nadenicek at dnadeni@uga.edu or call (706) 540-6013.

Itinerary:

- 8:00 a.m.: Leave from church parking lot
 - 9:45 a.m.: MLK Park tour
 - 12:00 p.m.: Lunch (location TBD)
 - 1:15 p.m.: National Center for Civil and Human Rights visit
 - 4:30 p.m.: Picnic and discussion at Leigh Bonner and Adam Graham's home
 - 8:00 p.m.: Arrive back in Athens (*those needing to arrive home earlier will be accommodated*)
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THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 30

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Refreshments, Atrium
- 11:30 a.m. Matthew 25 Lunch & Book Study, Moses Waddel Room
- 3:00 p.m. Nominations and Elections Committee Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Movie Night, The PIT

Tuesday, August 1

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group, Brides Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, August 2

- 10:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church

Sunday, August 6 - Communion Sunday, Back-to-School Blessing + Food Sunday, Blessings & Biscuits Brunch

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Blessings & Biscuits Brunch, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Faith Formation Leader Gathering, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

William Williams, 1745

Stanza 1 trans. Peter Williams, 1771

Stanzas 2-3 trans. William Williams, 1772

John Hughes, 1907

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me
 stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me
 fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me

with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through; Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

Feed me till I want no more, Be Thou still my strength and shield,
 I will ev - er give to Thee, Feed me till I want no more, Be Thou still my strength and shield,
 I will ev - er give to Thee.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7. D

Thrupp's *Hymns for the Young*, 1836

The Sacred Harp, 1844

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der
2. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we
3. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy

care; in thy pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre-
be; thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to
will; bless-ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our bo-soms

pare: bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we
free: bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to
fill: bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us

are; bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed
thee; bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed
still; bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed

Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee.
Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

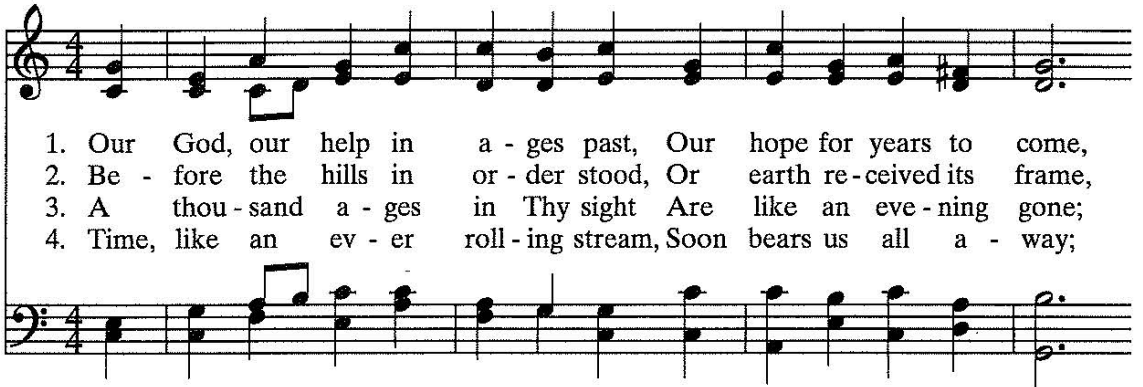
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

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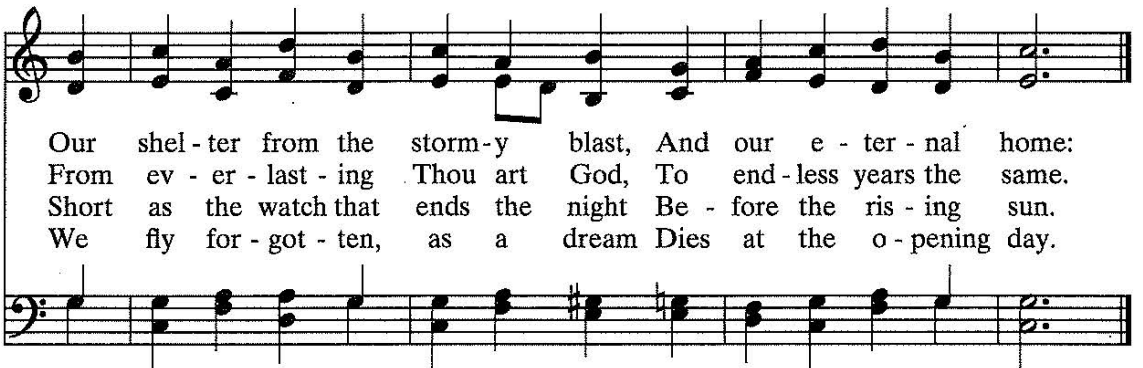
ST. ANNE CM

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Attr. William Croft, 1708



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived its frame,
 3. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
 4. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - pening day.

5. Our God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
 And our eternal home.

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)
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor* (lbonner@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
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, *Director of Communications* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Accounting Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@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*
Mr. Wayne Brock, *Sexton*