



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 20, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Twelfth 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

Allegro from Sonata I Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

Presbyterian Women

Carol McKay

Song of Gathering

Hymn 489, st. 1

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.**

Call to Worship

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come.

God will bring us to the holy mountain, a house of prayer for all people. God gathers all the outcasts together, and makes us joyful!

*Hymn 470

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN LKEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of all goodness, We do not want to face all that is in our own hearts. We want to focus on the good — on the love, the compassion, the care — and ignore the bad — the greed, the envy, the cruelty. But before you, God, we must face it. Forgive all the ways we have let evil take hold in our hearts. Cleanse us. Help us face our own demons, and empower us to live a Christlike life.

*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).

In O Day of Radiant Gladness, the first day of the week represents a commemoration of Creation, Resurrection, and Pentecost — each with Trinitarian activity centered on one of the Three Persons. The tune name recalls the German song adapted for use as a hymn tune.

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:
Dan Nadenicek

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

The opening lines of *O Word of God Incarnate* celebrate attributes of Christ revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

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

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

PROSPECT



First Lesson

Luke 12:22-23, page 951

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

Anthem

Consider

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 us too.
Consider the lilies that do neither spin nor toil,
yet are most fair: what profits all this care and 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

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18, page 603

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

Sermon

Wisdom and Knowledge

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 327

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

*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 *O Word of God Incarnate* Alec Wyton

***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 413** *All Who Love and Serve Your City* CHARLESTOWN

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 538, stanza 1
Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, thy love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Postlude *Toccata in F* Dietrich Buxtehude



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.

All Who Love and Serve Your City enriches the genre of urban hymns. The second stanza quotes John 9:4, the third stanza refers to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, and the final line cites the name given to Israel's future holy city.

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.

Fall 2023 Kickoff Sunday
August 27, 11:00 a.m.

Join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for bagels, greet our new members, and learn more about opportunities for ministry and faith formation at FPC this fall. Information will be available about how you can get involved in a variety of church ministries, from Sunday school to small groups, from mission to fellowship. We hope that you will find your calling among the many ways to get connected in the congregation.

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

Dan Nadenicek

USHERS

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

GREETER

Carol McKay

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

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.

AUGUST FLOWER TEAM

Jennifer Poole (chair), Mary Adams,
Susan Baldwin, Karen Gilmore,
Rosemary Stancil

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

PW NEW YEAR'S PARTY

August 27, 11:30 a.m.

Come join the Presbyterian Women for a New Year's Party! Stop by the parlor and make a friend, take a look at our study guide, and learn more about our small groups. All are welcome. For more information, contact Jamie Baer at jamielbaer@yahoo.com or Betsy Canfield at betsycanfield@gmail.com.

PROJECT SAFE WORK DAY

August 27, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Help tidy the Project Safe Thrift Store in Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7. Project Safe works to end domestic violence. Please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com for more information and to volunteer.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job - it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.

If you know of someone who is going through a difficult time, contact one of our Stephen Leaders:

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 20

- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 11:30 a.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 11:30 a.m. New Member First Things Class, Staff Conference Room
- 3:00 p.m. Weekday School Parents Meeting, Sanctuary
- 3:15 p.m. Godly Play Meeting, Bishop residence

Tuesday, August 22

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group, Brides Room
- 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 23

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Saturday, August 26

- 10:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, August 27

- 9:30 a.m. New Members Coffee with the Session, Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Service, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching
- 11:00 a.m. New Member Reception & Fall 2023 Kickoff Sunday, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women New Year's Party, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Project Safe Thrift Store Work Day, Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Kickoff Potluck, Fellowship Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

September 3 – Communion Sunday, Last 10:00 a.m. service of the Summer

September 10 – Food Sunday, Sunday School Resumes, Worship Service at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Youth Kickoff Potluck

August 27, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

All Middle and High School youth and parents are asked to attend the kickoff dinner/meeting. We'll go over plans for the year, complete paperwork, sign up for trips, and get to catch up over a meal together. The church will provide fried chicken, water, and lemonade. Please bring a dish to share.

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

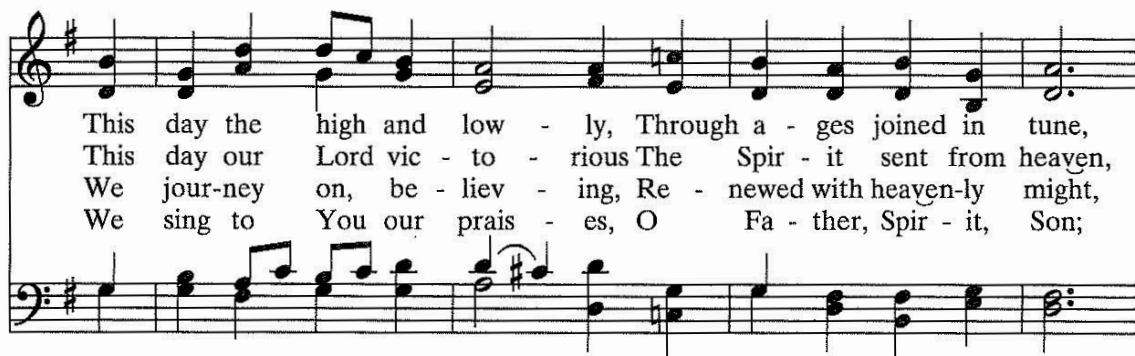
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904



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 heav-en-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.

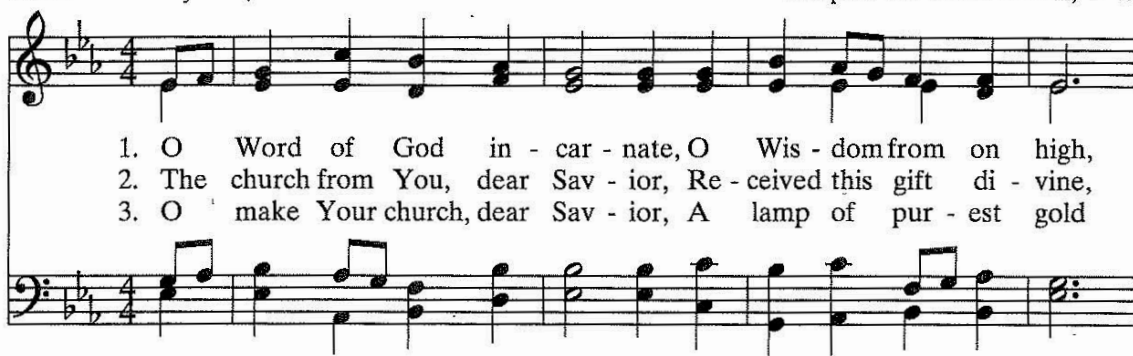
O Word of God Incarnate

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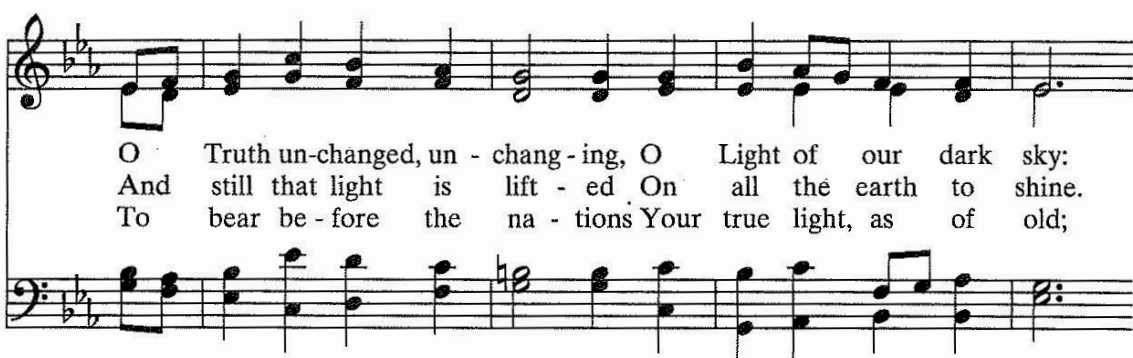
MUNICH 7.6.7.6 D

William Walsham How, 1867
As in *Psalter Hymnal*, 1987

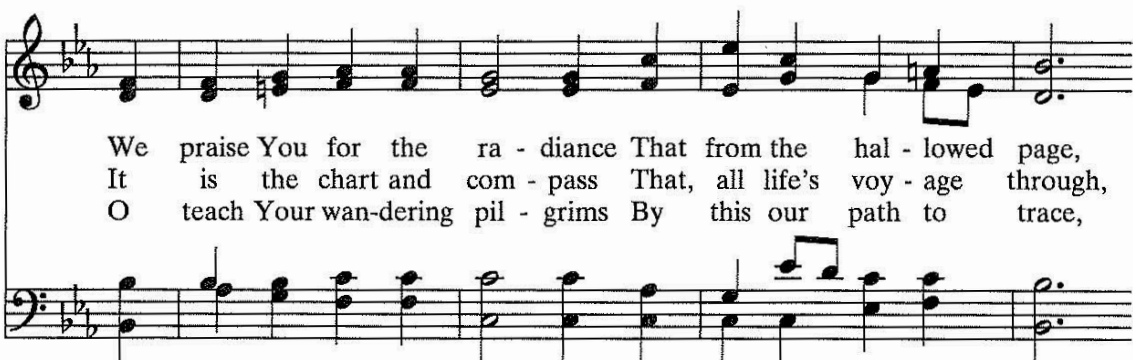
Neuvermehrtes Meiningsches Gesangbuch, 1693
Adapt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847



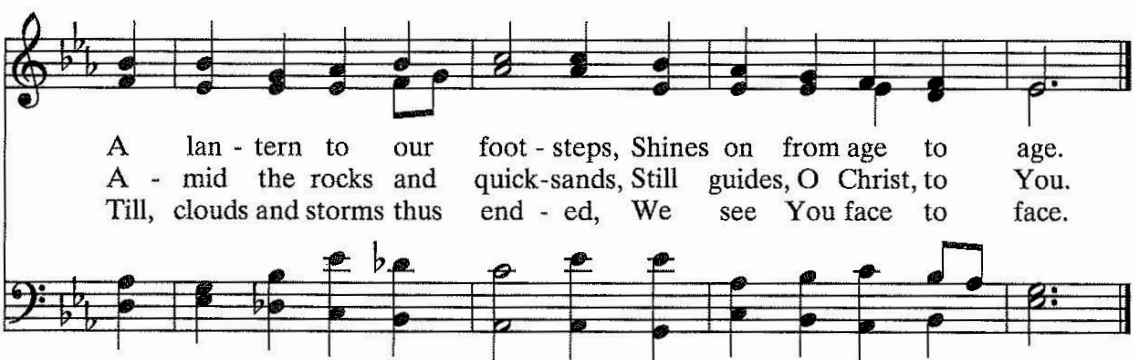
1. O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2. The church from You, dear Sav - ior, Re - ceived this gift di - vine,
3. O make Your church, dear Sav - ior, A lamp of pur - est gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed On all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light, as of old;



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan - dering pil - grims By this our path to trace,



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
A - mid the rocks and quick - sands, Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, We see You face to face.

All Who Love and Serve Your City

413

CHARLESTOWN 8.7.8.7

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

Erik Routley, 1966

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 consists of a single treble staff with a melody line. The second system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass) with a harmonic accompaniment. The third system is a single treble staff with a melody line. The fourth system is a grand staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding musical staves.

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
Keith Oelke

CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Kemp Gaskill
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Logan Neff
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*