



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!

September 1, 2024
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fifteenth 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

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

Psalm 118:24

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

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.

Hymn 489, stanza 1

Call to Worship
God teaches us the way of righteousness,
the way of love, the way of peace.
We glorify God,
gathering to hear God’s word.
We glorify God,
enacting God’s word in the world.

***Hymn 476** *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!* LYONS

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**
Holy God, we know that you created us in love, to enjoy this world and You, to serve your creation and your children. And we know that we do not do your will. With clenched hands, we can neither give nor receive. With eyes tight shut, we cannot see pain or beauty. With feet of clay, we cannot dance in joy or run to help. We ask for your help and your power to change. Open our hands and eyes, move our feet, toward grace and hope and trust in You. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***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).

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above! addresses the first two stanzas to the singer and the last three to God. It is a free paraphrase of Psalm 104, recasting the psalmist’s imagery with baroque verve. Though first published in England, it has been more popular in North America.

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."

Children are invited to remain in the Sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

Lay Readers:
8:45: Karen Burg
11:00: Ella Stewart

The author of *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* was editor of several Presbyterian hymnals and a significant American hymnologist in the early 20th century. He wrote this hymn not as a scholar, but as a person of deep faith.

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. Thank you for your generosity.

*Congregational Response

David Ogden



*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

Revelation 7:13-17, page 1124

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

Second Lesson

Daniel 12:1-13, page 819

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

Sermon

The End?

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 508

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM

*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

8:45 Offertory

When We Are in Deepest Need

J. S. Bach

11:00 Offertory

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

***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.

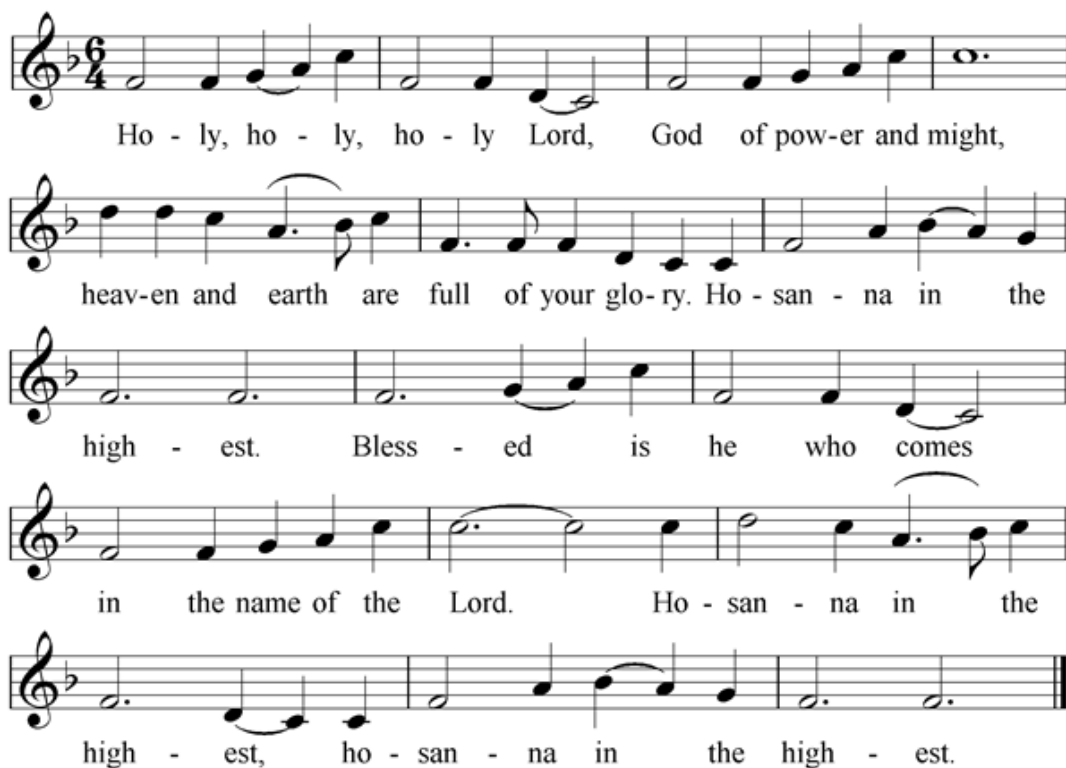
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

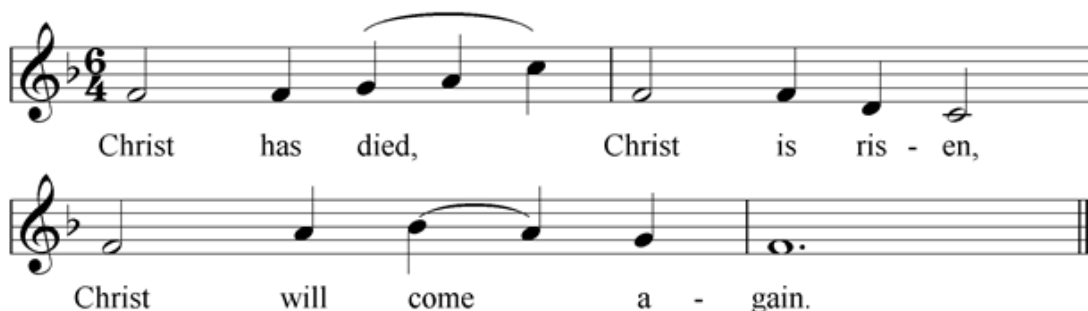
The musical setting of the communion liturgy is based on the American folk hymn LAND OF REST, arranged by American composer Richard Proulx.

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 Lord's Prayer



A - men, a - men, a - men.

Using Jesus' harvest imagery, *Come Labor On* sounds a compelling call to Christian service. The name of the tune echoes the Benedictine motto "Prayer is work."

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

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 415 *Come, Labor On* ORA LABORA

*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,
we'll live and speak his praise.

Postlude *Ora Labora* Gerre Hancock

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

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.

Children's Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

Come Volunteer with Children and Youth Ministries

Children and Youth Ministries at FPC are at the beginning of a new and exciting season and we need your help! All members of the congregation are invited to sign up to help support these ministries by serving occasionally as a teacher or volunteer, by bringing a meal, or chaperoning an outing.

- Children's Sunday School & Children's Church: tinyurl.com/FPCCM2024
- Sunday School Teachers (Middle & High School): tinyurl.com/FPCYouthSS
- Youth Group Meals & Volunteers: tinyurl.com/FPCYouthDinner2024

Red Cross Blood Drive
September 22, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment online at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code AFPC), or contact the church office (call 706-543-4338 or e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org).

If you cannot give blood but would like to help check-in donors, please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer (jbneighb@bellsouth.net).

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

8:45 a.m. Joan Pinson

11:00 a.m. Anne Dantzler

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Diane Hartzell

11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Chuck Toney, Laura Toney

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

SEPTEMBER FLOWER TEAM

Betsy Bushnell (chair),

Eve Morris, Lois Neighbors, Beverly Phares

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

TO AID IN WORSHIP

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 1 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium

Monday, September 2 - Labor Day, Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 1, Parlor

2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4

7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, September 4

10:00 a.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

11:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

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

Thursday, September 5

2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Robyn McDonald, Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, September 8

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium

12:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203

4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

4:50 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

476 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

LYONS 10.10.11.11

Robert Grant, 1833; alt.

Attr. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806); alt.



1. O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!
 2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
 3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4. Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space.
 Al - might - y, Thy power hath found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, Pa -
 The char - iots of heaven the deep thun - der - clouds form, And
 Hath stab - lished it fast by a change-less de - cree, And
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain, And



vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.
 round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
 Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
 Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

508 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

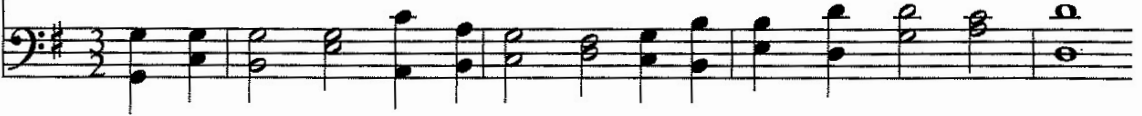
KINGDOM 8.7.8.7

Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924; alt.

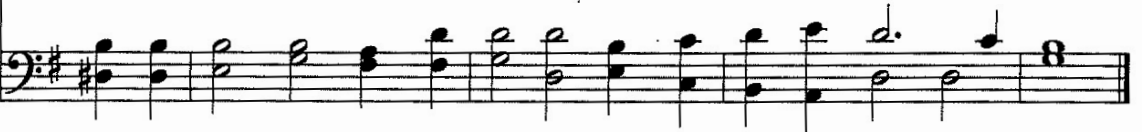
V. Earle Copes, 1959



1. For the bread which You have bro - ken, For the wine which You have poured,
2. By this prom - ise that You love us, By Your gift of peace re - stored,
3. With the saints who now a - dore You Seat-ed at the heaven-ly board,
4. In Your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; In our hearts keep watch and ward;



For the words which You have spo-ken, Now we give You thanks, O Lord.
By Your call to heaven a - bove us, Hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
May the church still wait - ing for You Keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
In the world to which You send us Let Your king-dom come, O Lord.



Come, Labor On

415

ORA LABORA 4.10.10.10.4

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; rev. 1863; alt.

Thomas Tertius Noble, 1918

1. Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har-vest plain
 2. Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
 3. Come, la-bor on. A - way with gloom-y doubts and faith-less fear!
 4. Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west-ern sky,

While all a - round us waves the gold-en grain? And to each ser - vant
 To young and old the gos - pel glad-ness bear. Re - deem the time; its
 No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here; Though fee - ble a - gents,
 Till the long shad-ows o'er our path-way lie, And a glad sound comes

does the Mas-ter say, "Go work to - day."
 hours too swift-ly fly. The night draws nigh.
 may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.
 with the set-ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2025

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

CLASS OF 2026

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

CLASS OF 2027

Susan Baldwin
Bill Bushnell
Amy Cowser
Matt Crim
Jay Holloway
Tom Lane
Joan Pinson
Paige Simmons

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor* (whitney@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Hannah Knight, *Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries* (hannah@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)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Joli Winstanley, *Receptionist* (frontdesk@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*