

THE TWELVE

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24, 2024

9:30 & 11:00 A.M.

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Worship of God

*Please stand as you are able. The congregation speaks the text in **bold** type.

Large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. Please ask a member of our Welcome Team for assistance.

✠

THE FLOWERS AND PALMS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In loving memory of Jeanne and Ralph Beaird by their children and grandchildren.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Today, we journey with Jesus as he is welcomed in triumph upon entering Jerusalem and then is utterly rejected and crucified at Golgotha outside the gates of the city. We enter Holy Week today with prayers, music, and ceremonies that would be recognized by ancient pilgrims to Jerusalem walking the way of the cross. This is not merely the story of Jerusalem two thousand years ago—it is our story, too. Hosanna means “save us.” We shout hosanna not knowing what it will bring.

GATHERING

The Prelude

“The Emperor’s Fanfare” | Antonio Soler

Raina Wood, Organist

The Welcome and Reading | Matthew 21:1-9 | Rev. Natalee Dukes Hamby

The Responsive Prayer

Today we enter Holy Week, with its cycle of life, death, and new life.

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Jesus, the holy one, enters Jerusalem as he rides on the back of a donkey colt.

Crowds wave palm branches and cry out,

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Jesus, holy one, enter the gates of our hearts today as we join you in this time of your passion. With you, let us remember and celebrate your birth, your calling, and your ministry.

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Jesus, guide us through the streets of our journey. Open our eyes and our ears to the guiding of God's spirit who calls us to costly faithfulness and to joyous wholeness.

Let us sing with all our selves.

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Amen.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**The Procession of the Palm Branches*

UMH 278 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" | ELLACOMBE

The Music of the Children

"Loud Hosanna" | Elizabeth Charles

Sung by the Children's Choirs and Sunday School children; Janis Maxwell, Director of Student and Children's Music; Beth Rector, piano; Cathy Felton, Rosemary Belger, Amy McCollum, and Erin Towe, handbells

9:30 a.m. | *Children will be taken to Sunday School after singing.*

11:00 a.m. | *Children will sit with a parent in reserved pews after singing.*

**The Hymn* | UMH 280 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" | ST. THEODULPH
Verses 1, 3 and 4

**The Prayer of Confession* | Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson

As we watch the gates open for Jesus' triumphant entry, let us open the gates of our own hearts that we may confess, with all honesty, the sin that resides within.

God of palms and passion, source of hope and promise, we would rather sing hosannas with a cheering crowd than stand up for our convictions in the face of an angry mob; we would rather dine at your table with those we call friends than admit we are no different from those we consider enemies; we would rather imagine our faithfulness in the face of opposition and temptation than admit that we too might betray you with a kiss. Forgive the fickleness of our devotion and strengthen our resolve to follow Christ each and every day, even to the cross.

All pray in silence.

God has opened the gates of righteousness and Christ has beckoned us to walk through. Sing with the children; throw your clothes upon the road, for the one who comes in the name of the Lord offers us salvation in his name. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

**The Kyrie* | Antonin Dvorak

Translation: *Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.

**The Passing of the Peace*

During the Passing of the Peace at 11:00 a.m., children Pre-K up to grade 4 are dismissed through the front, lectern side doors to attend Children's Church. They can be picked up at the conclusion of worship in Hancock Hall.

The Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer | Rev. Betsy Butler

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering and Offertory Anthem

"Ride On, King Jesus" | Spiritual; arr. Moses Hogan

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Ava Bogarde, soprano; Gwyn Bacon, piano; Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music

This anthem has been placed in the choir library to the Glory of God and in honor of Shelly Prescott and Gary Sergent by Martha and Bob Noble, Evelyn and Bob Winstead, and Dianne Wall.

Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, the conquering king. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man, no, can a hinder thee. I was but young when I begun. But now my race is almost done. King Jesus rides a milk white horse. The river of Jordan he did cross. He's the King, Lord of all. Jesus is the first and He's the last. Jesus is the Lord, Lord of Lords. Jesus is the Prince, Prince of peace. Ride on, King Jesus, ride on, the conquering king. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, ride on.

**The Doxology* | UMH 95 | OLD 100TH

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.

PROCLAMATION

The Reading | Matthew 23:1-4, 11-12, 37-39; 26:1-5

The Solo | “The Holy City” | Stephen Adams; arr. Alan A. Craig

Sung by Erin Towe, soprano, with the Sanctuary Choir

Last night I lay a sleeping, there came a dream so fair, I stood in old Jerusalem beside the temple there. I heard the children singing, and ever as they sang, methought the voice of angels from heav'n in answer rang: Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing, Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to your King! And then methought my dream was changed, the streets no longer rang, hushed were the glad Hosannas the little children sang. The sun grew dark with mystery, the morn was cold and chill, as the shadow of the cross arose upon a lonely hill. And once again the scene was changed, new earth there seemed to be, I saw The Holy City beside the tideless sea: The light of God was on the streets, the gates are opened wide, and all who would might enter and no one was denied. No need of moon or stars by night or sun to shine by day, it was the new Jerusalem that would not pass away. Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Sing for the night is o'er! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna forever and ever more! Text by F.E. Weatherly.

The Reading | Matthew 26:14-30, 47-50; 27:1-5

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The Message | “The Twelve: Judas” | Rev. Jeremy Lawson

RESPONSE

**The Hymn of Response*

UMH 298 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” | HAMBURG

**The Blessing*

**The Postlude* | “Agincourt Hymn” | John Dunstable

Holy Week worship continues on Maundy Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and Good Friday at 12:00 noon.

THE STEEPLE

March 24, 2024



Easter Sunday | March 31

Join us next **Sunday, March 31**, as we celebrate our risen Savior with three triumphant worship services. Our **7:00 a.m. Sunrise at the Steeple service** will take place in front of our sanctuary on North Lumpkin Street. It will feature uplifting music, an inspiring message, and coffee and refreshments courtesy of the Café Racer food truck.

Our **traditional 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. sanctuary worship services** will feature our choir, brass, and handbells. You're also invited to help us decorate our floral Easter cross located outside in front of the church. Overflow seating will be available for both services. We hope you can join us as we celebrate the good news of Easter — **"He is not here. He is Risen!"**



For the Beauty of the Earth: Hymn Festival Sunday, April 21

Join us on **Sunday, April 21, at 3:00 p.m.** for a festival service of hymns led by renowned organist and conductor Dr. Marilyn Keiser. Together, with choirs and clergy from some of our Athens downtown churches, we will gather as a community to celebrate the wonders of God's creation through the great hymns of our faith accompanied by brass, handbells, and organ. Featuring the choirs of: Athens First United Methodist Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, First Baptist Church Athens, First Christian Church Athens, and First Presbyterian Church of Athens. A reception will follow in Hancock Hall.

Ryan Ferguson, Director of Music | ryan@athensfirstumc.org



Scuba VBS | Registration Open

Scuba VBS will be full of Bible adventures, games, music, snacks, hugs, high-fives, and sciency-fun "wows"! Don't miss all the "fin-tastic" fun God has in store during the summer's best week! Kids **going into grades K-5 in the fall of 2024** will participate in the elementary program, learning about God's friendship and exploring the deep blue sea. Going into 6th Grade this fall? You will have your own Aquatic realm buoying between our AFUMC campus and offsite mission opportunities. Register today by scanning the QR code above and join us for Scuba VBS!

Traci Lowry, Director of Children's Ministry
traci@athensfirstumc.org



UMW Spring Luncheon | April 22

The United Methodist Women cordially invite all women of the church to join their annual UMW Spring Luncheon on **Monday, April 22, at 11:30 a.m. in Hancock Hall**. We are excited to have Kim Arnold lead our program. Kim is the mother of Katherine Wolf, who is a survivor of a catastrophic brain stem stroke and an advocate, author, and speaker who encourages others to find hope. The luncheon cost is \$10. Register by calling the church office or scanning the QR code. **Reservations should be placed by noon, Wednesday, April 17.** For more information, contact Cindy.

Cindy McKoy, Director of Small Groups | cindy@athensfirstumc.org



High School Summer Mission Trip June 22 - 28

Calling all High School Youth (Rising 10th-graduated Seniors), we are heading to **Fort Myers, Florida, from June 22 - 28** for the High School Mission Trip! The week will consist of Hurricane relief and helping rebuild homes from when Hurricane Ian made landfall in the Fall of 2022. This is sure to be an amazing mission trip as we head to Southwest Florida to serve. The trip costs \$445, and a \$150 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of registration! Registration is now open! Scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin for more information and to register!

Hannah Stubblefield, Director of Student Ministry
hannah@athensfirstumc.org



Summer Music and Arts | Registration Open

Join us at AFUMC for Summer Music and Arts, for students from **rising Grade 1 to rising Grade 6**. Dive into the world of music with a focus on Instruments with Mallets, Hand Bells, Percussion, and more. There will also be special live performances scheduled throughout the week. Camp takes place on **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from June 17th to June 20th, running from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Scan the QR code to register!

Janis Maxwell, Director of Children and Youth Music Ministry
janis@athensfirstumc.org

MEMBER NEWS:

Baptism

We celebrate that Gebi Oliver Wiesner-Hawkins, son of Michele Wiesner and Josh Hawkins, received the sacrament of baptism on March 17.

New Members

On March 17, we welcomed Susan and Greg Jungles and Trent Azevedo to the Athens First United Methodist Church family.

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Burlyn Michel who passed away on March 12.

WAYS TO GIVE

OFFERING PLATE



Fill out the envelope located in your pew.

ONLINE



Scan to be taken to Realm, our online giving platform.

TEXT-TO-GIVE



"AFUMCTTG" to 73256

FINANCIAL REPORT

February Goal \$261,388 | **February Giving:** \$208,513

FOLLOW UP WITH A MINISTER

Rev. Jeremy Lawson | Senior Minister
jeremy@athensfirstumc.org | 404-304-3574

Rev. Betsy Butler | Associate Minister
betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-714-1559

Rev. Natalee Dukes Hamby | Associate Minister
natalee@athensfirstumc.org | 404-414-1701

Rev. Dr. Nancy Johnson | Associate Minister
nancy@athensfirstumc.org | 762-233-4761

REQUEST PRAYER

Have a prayer request? Scan the QR code located in your bulletin and select **"Needing Prayer"** to fill out a form to submit your prayer request. If you desire for the request to be shared with our Prayer Ministry team, please indicate that in your submission. Prayer requests can also be made directly via email prayer@athensfirstumc.org.

Cover Image Credit: @FaithArtCreation

CCS #12591 • CCLI #1097880

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

327 N LUMPKIN ST. ATHENS, GA 30601 • 706-543-1442 | athensfirstumc.org