



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!

March 27, 2016
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Easter

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 phones. The nursery is available downstairs during both services. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin or a large-print hymnal.

Prelude *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands* J.S. Bach

Grand Chœur Dialogue Eugène Gigout

Call to Worship John 11:25

One: He is risen! Christ is risen.
Jesus the Christ is risen from the dead.

All: The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed!

One: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."

All: The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed!

One: Christ is risen from the dead and reigns in victory forevermore.

All: The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed!

One: The Lord is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

***Processional Hymn No. 123** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN
The congregation will stand when the introduction begins.

**** *Latecomers may be seated.*

Stanzas 1 – 3 of *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* come from an Easter carol which first appeared in German and Bohemian manuscripts of the 14th century, translated in *Lyra Davidica* in 1708. Stanza 4 was written by Charles Wesley in 1740. The hymn is made up of a series of short one-liners which are easy to remember, and with added Alleluias it is a favorite Easter hymn.

* Those who are able may stand.

In commenting on the late 20th-century text *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: “Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection.”

Awake, O Wintry Earth is an English text by Beverly Easterling, set to music from Cantata 129 by J. S. Bach.

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed
and indifferent to the calls for peace;
we despise the weak
and abuse the earth you made.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Hymn 104, stanza 1

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.

*Passing of 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.

*Worshippers may greet each other by saying, “The peace of Christ be with you,”
and responding, “And also with you.”*

A Time for Young Children

Children, age four through grade two, may come forward for a message and then leave for Children’s Church located in The Pit. To pick up your child after the service, please go through Fellowship Hall and down the stairs (or elevator) to the basement level.

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

8:45 a.m. Kitty Donnan

11:00 a.m. Denise Horton

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

Awake, O Wintry Earth Johann Sebastian Bach

Awake, O wintry earth, fling off your frozen sadness.
With sweetness, flowers bring mirth; bright springtime’s ancient gladness.
Once more we sing the tale; through darkness, sunlight spread
to warm the winter’s pale; and tell that death is dead.
Descended to the grave, three days the Son lay sleeping.
Yet Christ returned to save our hearts from woe and weeping.
O earth, break forth and sing, renew your bright array
to celebrate this spring and mark the Savior’s way.

