



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!

May 29, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prelude

Cortège et Litanie

Marcel Dupré

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Song of Gathering

Hymn No. 489, Stanza 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

Psalm 29: 3-4, 10-11

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

**People: the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful;

People: the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;

People: the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

Leader: May the Lord give strength to his people!

People: May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn No. 262** *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* NATIONAL HYMN

*****Latecomers may be seated.*

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand was generated by 19th-century celebrations: the words by the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the United States Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in this hymn of praise and prayer for peace.

* Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God our Creator: you led men and women to this land and, out of conflict, created in us a love of peace and liberty. We have failed you by neglecting rights and restricting freedoms. Forgive pride that overlooks national wrong or justifies injustice.

Forgive divisions caused by prejudice or greed. Have mercy, God, on the heart of this land. Make us compassionate, fair, and helpful to each other. Raise up in us a right patriotism, that sees and seeks this nation's good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*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."

The lovely and joyous baptismal text *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* was written by Ronald S. Cole-Turner for the baptism of his child. It celebrates the love and joy surrounding the new life of the child, while acknowledging that this child comes from God, is given back to God in baptism, and is indeed God's child.

Children, age four through grade two, may come forward for a message and then leave for Children's Church located in the Children's Ministry Suite. To pick up your child after the service, please go through the Atrium and down the stairs.

Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Robert Durand Heath III, son of Randy and Sarah Heath.

*Question to Congregation

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Durand by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ? Do we? **We do.**

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed* Hymnal, p.14

Baptism Hymn No. 498 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* KINGDOM

A Time for Young Children

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn No. 321, Stanza 1
**Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

First Lesson Psalm 23, page 491

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *And I saw a new heaven* Malcolm Archer

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;
and there was no more sea,
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.
And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down from God out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

The anthem is a setting of Revelation 21: 1-2, 4. Malcolm Archer, an English composer, is Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College where he trains and conducts the Quiristers and Chapel Choir and teaches organ and composition in the College.

Second Lesson Revelation 22 (selected), page 1135
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *What Happens When We Die?* Dr. Doak

Text: And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:5

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16
... forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . . .

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings
Every worshiper, young and old, is encouraged to offer a gift out of gratitude to God.

Offertory *Improvisation on MELITA* John Coble

***Doxology** Hymn No. 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 No. 562** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* MELITA

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn No. 535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

***Postlude** *For All the Saints* David Cherwien

The year after the text *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* was written for a student sailing to America, it was included in the most influential British hymnal of the 19th century. The tune especially composed for it preserves the ancient Roman name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked, now called Malta.

Following worship, all are invited for a time of conversation and refreshments in the Atrium.

Nurseries for infants and toddlers are available from 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible through the Atrium and down the stairs.

The elder on call is David Cole. You may contact David June 1-15 at (706) 546-4411. The elder on-call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.