



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!

July 10, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Fifteenth 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

O God Beyond All Praising

Charles Callahan

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Journeying by Stages

Why an Interim?

Stephen Covington

"And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb." Genesis 12:9

Song of Gathering

Hymn 483, Stanza 1

**Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!**

Call to Worship

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.**

Come, let us worship God.

The congregation is invited to speak or sing the text in bold type.

Psalm 121 has long been a favorite among people of faith, especially during trials and turmoil. Its second line contributed a phrase to the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

***Hymn**

Psalm 121

O WALY WALY

***Latecomers may be seated.



I lift my eyes un - to the hills; from where shall come my help at
Each day God is a strength and shield a - gainst the on - slaught of my
The prom - ise of the Lord is sure: to hold me in un - yield - ing



last? What - e'er the need, God will pro - vide, the Lord, by whom the world was cast.
foes; and to the dan - gers of the night, the eyes of God are nev - er closed.
care; through - out my life, may faith con - firm that where I am, the Lord is there.

The opening hymn is a setting of Psalm 121. The text was paraphrased by Michael Morgan in his *Psalter for Christian Worship* (2010). The tune is an English folk melody.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Eternal God, cleanse us from all our offenses
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,
confessing our faults,
confiding in your grace,
and finding in you our refuge and strength;
through Jesus Christ your Son. 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."*

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 Children's Ministry Suite. To pick up your child after the service, please go to the Atrium and down the stairs.

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.**

** Those who are able may stand.*

First Lesson Luke 11:1 - 4, 9 - 10, page 949
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *With a voice of singing* Martin Shaw
With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

Second Lesson Genesis 12:1 - 4a, 9, page 9
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *The Journey Ahead* The Rev. Hilary Shuford

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 281** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Reflections from Youth Mission Trip

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

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

Offertory *Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness*

Gabriel Heitzmann

The anthem was composed for the 1923 Annual Festival of the Rochester Diocesan Church Choirs Association and is still a universal favorite. Martin Shaw was an English composer of over 300 published works.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as the 18th-century Hymn 281. The text did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in the English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

The Nicene Creed was the first official doctrinal statement of the whole Christian church. It developed from the work of the first two ecumenical councils, Nicaea in 325 and Constantinople in 381. It is the only creed accepted and used by all three major branches of Christendom: Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant.

This ecumenical version of the Lord's Prayer is a modern translation of Matthew 6:9-13 plus the traditional concluding words of doxology ("For thine is the kingdom....").

The stanzas of *Be Thou My Vision* are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proven popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

***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 339**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

***Benediction**

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship in the Atrium.

***Congregational Response**

AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

***Postlude**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Paul Manz

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

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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Guest Preacher:

Hilary Shuford

Guest Organist and Choir Director:

Michael Morgan

Liturgist:

Carol Strickland

Lay Reader:

Kitty Donnan

USHERS

Chuck Toney (head), Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke,
Andy Osborne, Isaac Toney, Laura Toney

GREETERS

James Dove, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Terry Nestor,
Kay Spencer

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

Don DeMaria, Jerris Hayes, Chuck Roberts,
Jerry Rogers

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Jim Scanlon, Judy Scanlon

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Kielly McKee Dunn and Jonathan Ryan Friesen on June 17, 2016 in Denver, Colorado.

We welcome The Rev. Hilary Shuford, Transitional General Presbyter of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, to our pulpit today. Hilary first came to First Presbyterian Church at the age of eleven, where she met her future husband Harry in their sixth grade Sunday School class. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree of History and Philosophy from Duke University, a Juris Doctor degree of Law from the University of Georgia and a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary. Hilary served presbyteries in Ohio, Michigan, and Texas before she and Harry returned to Athens in January, 2014.

This morning we also welcome Michael Morgan, Seminary Musician at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. For many years Michael served as organist at Atlanta's historic Central Presbyterian Church. Columbia Seminary, along with the Office of Theology and Worship, PC(USA), published Michael's *Psalter for Christian Worship*, a metrical version of the book of Psalms.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 10

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:05 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, July 11

- 10:00 a.m. Project Safe Thrift Store Volunteer Day, Bell Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.

Tuesday, July 12

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, July 13

- 9:00 a.m. Wonderful Wednesday, Weekday School
3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
5:00 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Youth Group Movie Night, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 14

- 2:00 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, July 17

- 9:00 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
10:00 a.m. Dr. Strickland preaching, *The Lord's Prayer: 4. Thy Will Be Done*

PROJECT SAFE THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEER DAY

Please join our team from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. sorting clothes and other items for sale to benefit victims of domestic violence. To volunteer or for questions please contact Kitty Donnan (kittydavedonnan@gmail.com).

IHN HOST WEEK, JULY 24 - 31

Please sign up today in the atrium to help with our next Interfaith Hospitality Network Host week. We need volunteers for set up, meals, laundry, driving, hosting or take down. You may also contact Terry Nestor (terrynestor@hotmail.com). Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

SAVE THE DATE:

AUGUST 7

Blessing of the Backpacks
Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study Overview

AUGUST 14

Two Worship Services Resume
Fall Kickoff Brunch

AUGUST 28

Senior Adult Sunday
Sunday School Resumes for All Ages

**PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**

The Elder on Call is Ella Stewart. You may contact Ella at (706)543-2071 July 10 - 15. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

Session of First Presbyterian Church

Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor Jerris Hayes, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2016

Diane Adams
Matt Bishop
Rod Canfield
Bertis Downs
Joe Neighbors
Terry Nestor
Leslye Queen
Chuck Roberts
Ed Smith
Sally Vandiver

CLASS OF 2017

Allen Crowell
Don DeMaria
Madie Fischetti
Jerris Hayes
Joy Holloway
Diane Hudgins
Mike Morris
Jerry Rogers
Ella Stewart

CLASS OF 2018

Joe Attaway
David Cole
Jason Doornbos
Sue Gray
Mark Harrison
Denise Horton
Christine Register
Arlene Shirley
Harry Shuford
Richard Stone