



# 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 17, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Sixteenth 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

*"The Peace may be exchanged"* from Rubrics Dan Locklair

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

*Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.*

### 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

Colossians 2:7 (Good News Bible)

Keep your roots deep in [Christ Jesus],  
**build your lives on him,**  
and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught.  
**And be filled with thanksgiving.**

### Rooted & Reaching Reflections

Harry Shuford

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

Harry is the ruling elder chairing the Congregational Care Commission.

In the first stanza of Hymn 489 “Zion” is not a general synonym for Jerusalem but a reference to the part of the city where the Temple stood. It prepares the way for the interior temple of the heart in stanza two. The pre-existing tune is by a prominent German Reformed hymn writer.

**\*Hymn 489** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* UNSER HERRSCHER  
\*\*\*\**Latecomers may be seated.*

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God,  
our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide,  
and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us  
a consuming fire of judgment.  
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace  
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



**\*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.*



