



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 31, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Eighteenth 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

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Paul Manz

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

Denise Horton

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

Denise Horton is Co-Chair of the Mission and Outreach Commission.

* *Those who are able may stand.*

The very strong 17th-century German hymn *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalm 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

***Hymn 482** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

****Latecomers may be seated.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God,
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.
We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to welcome one another;
we allow the past to hold us hostage.**

**In your loving kindness, have mercy on us,
and free us from sin.**

**Remind us of the promises you make in baptism
so that we may rise to new life,
and live together in grace.**

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **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

Natalie Bishop

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.**

First Lesson

Psalm 103:1-13, Hymn 222

Psalm 103 will be read responsively from the Hymnal.

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

Anthem

Bless the Lord, My Soul

Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov

O bless the Lord, my soul, O bless the Lord.
Blessed art thou, O Lord.
O bless the Lord, my soul, O bless the Lord,
and let all that is within me bless his holy name.
O bless the Lord, my soul, O bless the Lord,
and do not forget all of his generous acts:
who forgives all of your wrongs, your iniquities, your sins,
and who heals all your diseases, all of your ills;
who redeems your life from destruction;
who crowns you with loving kindness, compassion and steadfast love.

Russian composer Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov (1859-1935) studied at the St. Petersburg Conservatory and was a composition pupil of Rimsky-Korsakov. The anthem is an English-language version of *Blagoslovi, dushe moye, Ghospida* (Psalm 103). The editor, Thomas Gibbs, created a new English text that is more syllabic (one syllable per note of music), making it closer to the original Russian version than other English versions of this work.

Second Lesson Matthew 6:9-15, page 883

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

Sermon

The Lord's Prayer: 6. Forgive Us Our Debts

Dr. Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 223

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

STUTT GART

*Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Apostles' Creed

The stanzas of *O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer* are selected from sixteen that originally made up this paraphrase of Psalm 103, the second of two versions in the volume where they were first published. The tune used here was probably created as a German psalm tune but later came to be used with hymn texts.

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 DICKINSON COLLEGE

John Coble

*Doxology

**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.**

Hymn 592

*Prayer of Dedication

Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace is a relatively new English paraphrase of a hymn credited to Francis of Assisi. The paraphrase is by Father James Quinn, a Jesuit priest. Quinn made the hymn corporate by pluralizing the first person pronouns. The tune was named for Dickinson College, from which the composer, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. received one of his eleven honorary doctoral degrees in 1959.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 374** *Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace* DICKINSON COLLEGE

***Benediction**

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments 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**

Improvisation on LOBE DEN HERREN

John Coble

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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

Liturgist

John Kipp

Lay Reader

Ron Cox

USHERS

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

GREETERS

Mary Dudley, Diane Hartzell, Barb Laughlin,
Terry Nestor

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

Joe Neighbors, Terry Nestor, Leslye Queen,
Chuck Roberts

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Chris Pope, Jody Pope

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Jane Scott, given by the George Scott family.

The Elder on Call is Jerris Hayes. You may contact Jerris at (706)769-6595 August 1 - 7. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

A special word of welcome to our guests. Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our congregation, session, and staff welcome you to First Presbyterian Church of Athens. Please fill out the pew pad with as much contact information as you would like to share so that we may follow up with you.

We hope you will come again and if you do not have a church home, we invite you to consider joining this caring community of faith. Our next new member classes will begin September 11 at 9:45 a.m. Please call the church office (706-543-4338) or email us (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org) to inquire about attending.