



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!

August 7, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Nineteenth 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

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

J.S. Bach

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

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

The prelude is based on Hymn 17. The text is based on the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13). The tune is often called "the king of chorales." The organ chorale prelude is an arrangement by Bach of a movement from his Cantata 140.

Journeying by Stages

Interim Search Committee Update

Rod Canfield

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

Song of Gathering

Hymn 229, Stanza 1

From all that dwell below the skies

let the Creator's praise arise:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung

through every land and every tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to Worship

Psalm 50:14-15

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

and pay your vows to the Most High.

Call on me in the day of trouble;

I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

Friends, let us worship God.

*Hymn 442

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

*****Latecomers may be seated.*

* *Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

***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

Blessing of the Backpacks

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

English Folk Song

**Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
eternal power, be my support; eternal wisdom make me wise.**

First Lesson

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, page 1098

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

Second Lesson

Luke 12:32-40, page 951

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

Sermon

An Unexpected Hour

The Rev. Andy Cooke

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.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 505

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

ST. FLAVIAN

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

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

Offertory

Keep Your Lamps!

arr. André J. Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

*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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...and so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"



"...Great is the mystery of faith:"



"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."



Not all communion texts refer to the Last Supper: the brief hymn *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread* is based on the meal at Emmaus shared by the Risen Christ and his two companions on the road (Luke 24:13-35). It is set to a 16th-century psalm tune that carries the text with appropriate simplicity.

Please partake as you are served. The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten-free bread.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal p. 16

. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . . .

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 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**

The Church's One Foundation

Charles Ore

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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 down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass doors.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Guest Preacher

The Rev. Andy Cooke

Liturgist

Carol Strickland

Lay Reader

John Drew

USHERS

Kitty Donnan(head), John Adams, Jayne Bailey,
Stan Bailey, Jerris Hayes, Margaret Johansen

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Allison Flaishans

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

David Cole, Bertis Downs, Ed Smith,
Sally Vandiver

GREETERS

James Dove, Mary Peace, Julie Sanks,
Kay Spencer

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Nancy Elizabeth Wilfong and Jackson Lewis Tucker on August 6, 2016.

The Elder on Call is Terry Nestor. You may contact Terry at (706)202-3352 August 8 - 15. 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. 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 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.

We welcome The Rev. Andy Cooke, Campus Minister at the Presbyterian Student Center, to our pulpit today. Andy has served as Campus Minister since January 2008. Originally from Augusta, Georgia, Andy studied at the University of Georgia, Princeton Theological Seminary, and the University of St. Andrews before making his home in Athens. He was ordained to service as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Northeast Georgia Presbytery in 2005 and served as the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church from 2005 to 2008.