



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 14, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Twentieth 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 during both services. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin or large-print hymnal.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Timothy Albrecht

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Rooted & Reaching Reflections

Leslye Queen

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.

Colossians 2:7 (Good News Bible)

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

Leslye Queen is Chair of the Education & Discipleship Commission.

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

Come to this time. Let this pause from your busyness refresh you.

Do not dwell in the past or in the future but in the now.

Come to this place. Be here. Be present.

Leave the other places at the door.

Come to this people. You are part of this company of saints – young, old, strange, familiar. Enjoy the diversity and yet unity of this gathering.

Come to worship. Lift up your voices in praise.

Lift up your hearts in faithfulness. Let your restless selves find peace.

The well-known melody of Hymn 464 was created to provide a choral setting for J.C.F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

***Hymn No. 464** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
****Latecomers may be seated.*

HYMN TO JOY

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God,
you love us, but we have not loved you.
You call, but we have not listened.
We walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
God of grace,
help us to admit our sin,
so that as you come to us in mercy,
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.**

***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."*

****Latecomers may be seated.*

11:00 a.m. 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

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

Psalm 121, page 560

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

***8:45 a.m. Hymn 234** *I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes* DUNDEE

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Rejoice in the Lord always* Anonymous
Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all: the Lord is e'en at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Second Lesson Philippians 4:1,4-9, page 1070
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Rejoice!?* The Rev. Bob Googe

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***11:00 a.m. Hymn 234** *I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes* DUNDEE

***Affirmation of Faith** *"A New Creed" (1968)*
United Church of Canada

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to 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 DUNDEE* John Coble

Although the first stanza of *I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes*, a paraphrase of Psalm 121, draws heavily on 17th-century Scottish psalters, most of this version dates from the early 20th century. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned for use with a specific psalm.

***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 145**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

MARION

The stanzas of Hymn 145 are drawn from a much longer hymn created for the processional at an English choir festival in 1865. The original text lacked the refrain that gives the hymn so much of its energy and interest. That feature was added by the composer of this tune in 1883.

***Benediction**

Following the 8:45 a.m. worship service, all are invited to the Fall Kickoff Brunch in Fellowship Hall.

***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**

Processional

Grayston Ives

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Nurseries for infants and toddlers are available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., located next to the Children’s Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass doors.

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 be in touch. 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 (lbell@firstpresathens.org) to inquire about attending.

We welcome the Rev. Bob Googe, Parish Associate, to our pulpit today. Bob has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Auburn University and a Masters in Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary. Prior to serving as Parish Associate, Bob was the Pastor of Gum Creek Presbyterian Church and Campus Minister of the Presbyterian Student Center at The University of Georgia. Bob has also held several positions in the fields of business and education.

Currently, Bob is the President of Athens Coffee Company, which owns five Jittery Joe’s Coffee Shops in Athens. He is also CEO of Classic City Roaster which owns Jittery Joe’s Coffee Roasting Company. He and his wife Deborah have two daughters, both at UGA, Katie and Nicole.

Couples’ Small Group Organizational Meeting Rescheduled. The meeting scheduled for today has been rescheduled for next Sunday, August 21. Any couples interested in participating in a small group this fall, please meet Paula-Frances and Greg Price in Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 a.m. worship service next Sunday. Bring your calendar and ideas. Childcare will be provided.