



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 28, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Senior Adult Sunday

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

Pastorale on ST. ANNE

Paul Manz

*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.

Minute for Stewardship

Chuck Toney

Chuck Toney is Chair of the Stewardship Committee.

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 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Children, ages 4 through grade 2, are invited to come forward to lead the Call to Worship at the 11:00 a.m. service. Afterwards, they will depart for Children's Church in the Godly Play Room located in the Tinsley-Stern building.

Hymn 210 is a paraphrase of verses 1-11 of Psalm 90. It was written in the form Hebrew poetry: Thesis (God's goodness and providence); Antithesis (our mortality); Synthesis (God continues to demonstrate care and protection and will be our eternal home). John Wesley changed the first word to "O", feeling that it reached out to everyone and was more inclusive.

*Hymn 210

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

****Latecomers may be seated.

*Call to Confession

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, we come to worship polluted by the stains
of daily living.

Our sins rise up to accuse us,
our failures prevent faith,
and our pride stands in the way of growth.

In tender mercy and compassion, O God, come to us
with forgiveness and cleansing.

Help us to amend what we are, to move beyond
what we have been, and to claim your promise
for the future.

Trusting in the love and grace of Jesus Christ,
may we become what you have chosen us to be:
agents of your love in a lonely world.

***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.*

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 90:1-4,10-17, page 536

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

O How Amiable

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord:

My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:

even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be always praising thee.

The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:

prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.

O prosper thou our handiwork.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,

our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

The anthem is a gentle setting of Psalm 46:10 by Rick Sowash, an author, composer, publisher, filmmaker and storyteller who lives in Cincinnati.

Second Lesson Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 page 1100

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

Sermon

“If it ain’t broke...”

John Kipp

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 285**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

AUSTRIAN HYMN

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles’ Creed

**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.**

The text of God, You Spin the Whirling Planets was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, “In the Image of God,” is variously considered here as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity.

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

Abide with Me

Flor Peeters

***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 543	<i>Abide with Me</i>	EVENTIDE
*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	<i>Fugue in E-flat</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach

*Following 11:00 a.m.
worship, all are invited for
a reception in Fellowship
Hall honoring our Senior
Adult members and guests*

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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.

To pick up your child from Children's Church, following the 11:00 a.m. service please go through the Atrium into Fellowship Hall. Turn right to enter the Tinsley-Stern building and up the stairs to the church library.

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.

DR. BRUCE LANCASTER'S FIRST SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Our new Interim Senior Pastor, Dr. Lancaster, begins his ministry with us September 8. He will be leading us in worship and preaching for the first time at both the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday, September 11.

CHURCH PICNIC, SEPTEMBER 11 3:00 - 6:00 P.M., SANDY CREEK PARK

Join us as we welcome Dr. Bruce Lancaster and his wife Cathi to our church family. Enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun for family and friends of all ages. Registration begins today in the atrium or you may register online at FirstPresAthens.org.

\$7 per person, \$20 maximum per family.

WAYS TO SERVE FORMS

Have you seen the Rooted & Reaching Tree in the Atrium? It has many leaves representing church members who are ready to serve. If you have not filled out your "Ways to Serve" form it's not too late!

WED@FIRST PROGRAMS BEGIN, SEPTEMBER 14

Dinner and programs for all ages kickoff September 14 with the youth group mission trip report, "Practicing Radical Hospitality" at 6:30 p.m. Watch for the full list of classes, including Dr. Lancaster's "Believing the Future" study, coming soon.

IHN HOST WEEK, SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 2

Our next Interfaith Hospitality host week is September 25 - October 2. Please sign up today in the Atrium to help with set up, meals, laundry, driving, hosting or take down. You may also contact Terry Nestor (terrynemor@hotmail.com) to volunteer or for questions. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

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