



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!

September 4, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Twenty-Third 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

Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne Dietrich Buxtehude

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
“Come! the banquet is prepared.” 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 to the Godly Play Room located in the Tinsley-Stern building.

*Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

***Latecomers may be seated.

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

The opening line of *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody by many three-note units.

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of life,
eternity cannot hold you,
nor can our little words catch the magnificence
of your kindness.

In the space of our small hearts, come close and repair us.
Forgive us for our careless thoughts, our thoughtless deeds,
and our wounding words.

In your mercy scatter the sin from our souls.

Begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are,
for we place our hope in you.

***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

Hymn 339, Stanza 1

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

Scripture Lessons

I Chronicles 29:10-13, page 380

I Timothy 1:17, page 1082

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

King of Glory, King of Peace

Johann Sebastian Bach

arr. William H. Harris

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
and that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.
Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.
Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is in this poor sort to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

Sermon

The Lord's Prayer 8:

For Thine Is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory

Carol Strickland

The anthem is an arrangement by English organist and composer Sir William Henry Harris. It combines a text by George Herbert with music of J. S. Bach.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 147

Blessing and Honor

O QUANTA QUALIA

Fittingly titled “The Song of the Lamb” by its author, Hymn 147 is a paraphrase and expansion of Revelation 5:12. It is set here to a resonant French tune of a kind that flourished in the transition from the older chant style to the harmonies and rhythms of modern hymns.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

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

Offertory *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* David M. Cherwien

*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:”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical setting of the communion liturgy will be sung at 11:00 a.m. only.

“...Great is the mystery of faith:”

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

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

A - men, A - men, A - men.

The Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal page 16

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

8:45 a.m. – Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward as the clergy direct.

11:00 a.m. – 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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 376** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* HYFRYDOL

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 507, Stanza 5

**Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise,
we'll live and speak his praise.**

***Postlude** *Toccata on HYFRYDOL* John Coble

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Nurseries for infants and toddlers, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are 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 after the 11:00 a.m. service, please go through the Atrium to Fellowship Hall. A Children's Church teacher will meet you there.

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 next 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. Register in the Atrium or online at FirstPresAthens.org. You may pay in the Atrium, by mail, in person at the church office, or at the door the day of the picnic. \$7 per person, \$20 maximum per family.

WED@FIRST PROGRAMS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 14

Dinner and programs for all ages begin September 14. The youth group mission trip report, "Practicing Radical Hospitality," will be at 6:30 p.m. A full list of classes, including Dr. Lancaster's "Believing the Future" study, can be found on our website and in the newsletter.

LET'S GET FRIENDLY: WEBSITE & CHURCH LIFE APP CLASSES, SEPTEMBER 18

Become user friendly with your member profile on our website and the church directory app for your smart phone. Bob Bostrom will lead this class in Fellowship Hall on September 18 at 8:00 a.m., repeated at 9:00 a.m. and 12:05 p.m., and September 28 at 5:00 p.m.

RIVERS ALIVE SERVICE DAY, SEPTEMBER 24, DUDLEY PARK

Please join our youth at the Rivers Alive Service Day, September 24 at 9:00 a.m. There will be a kickoff breakfast at Dudley Park, then volunteers will spread out to pick up litter and debris from the Oconee River and its tributaries.

IHN HOST WEEK, SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 2

Our next Interfaith Hospitality host week is September 25 – October 2. Please sign up in the Atrium to help. You may also contact Terry Nestor (terrynestor@hotmail.com) to volunteer or for questions. Thank you for your support!

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