



# 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 11, 2016  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Twenty-Fourth 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.**

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

### Prelude

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Emma Lou Diemer

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

*Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.*

### Song of Gathering

Hymn 220, Stanza 1

**All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,  
come ye before him and rejoice.**

### 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.*

Although the ancient text *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

### \*Hymn 417

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

REGENT SQUARE

\*\*\*Latecomers may be seated.

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess  
our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.  
You alone know how often we have sinned  
in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts,  
in forgetting your love.**

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry  
for all we have done to displease you.  
Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light,  
and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**\*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.**

**First Lesson**

Ephesians 1:3-10, page 1066

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

**11:00 a.m. Anthem**

*He Comes to Us*

Jane M. Marshall

He comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside he came to all those who knew him not. He speaks to us, he speaks the same word: "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the tasks which he has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, he will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who he is.

O Morning Star, how fair and bright  
thou beamest forth in truth and light!

O Sovereign meek and lowly.

Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,  
my Lord and master, thou hast won  
my heart to serve thee solely!

Thou art holy,  
fair and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing,  
rule and might o'er all possessing.

The anthem, by American composer Jane Marshall, sets text by Albert Schweitzer from *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*. The last section of the anthem is the chorale *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* (Hymn 69), the text of which is addressed to Christ as the Morning Star (Revelation 22:16), who guides and sustains us in this life and is our hope for the life to come.

**Second Lesson** Luke 3:1-6, page 936  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** *Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?*  
Bruce Lancaster

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn 13** *Prepare the Way* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed* Hymnal, p.14

### Litany of Remembrance

For the Church, that she may continue to provide care and healing for all,  
especially those affected by the attacks on September 11, 2001,  
**we pray to the Lord;**

For all victims of violence and terrorism around the world,  
and for their families, that they may find comfort and peace,  
**we pray to the Lord;**

For the safety of our servicemen and women abroad,  
for civil servants who protect us and keep us safe,  
and for all who live with war and violence,  
**we pray to the Lord;**

For our leaders and for the leaders of all nations,  
that they may work together to address the problems  
that provide fertile ground for the growth of terrorism,  
**we pray to the Lord;**

For the ability to forgive and for an end to all hatred,  
beginning in our own hearts,  
**we pray to the Lord.**

**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** *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* Johann Sebastian Bach

**\*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

**\*Hymn 356** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON  
*Guests are welcome to stay and observe the Congregational Meeting. You may also  
depart during the final hymn and are invited to the Atrium where members will  
join you following the service for fellowship and refreshments.*

*Prepare the Way*, an engaging Advent hymn based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10, has been used in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an older Swedish tune, which in turns seems to be derived from a German folk tune that spread to Scandinavia.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton.

## SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

11:00 a.m. Called Congregational Meeting to Elect Ruling Elders

**\*Benediction**

**\*Congregational Response**

Hymn 540, Stanza 1

**God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold, you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.**

**\*Postlude**

*Improvisation on NETTLETON*

John Coble

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

**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.

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**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.

### **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 6:00 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.

### **WED@FIRST, "A POTPOURRI OF CLASSES" SEPTEMBER 14: INTRO TO GODLY PLAY FOR ADULTS**

If you would like to learn about Godly Play, please join Natalie for an introduction on September 14 at 5:00 p.m. in the Moses Waddel Room. This is a great opportunity for parents to learn about Godly Play while children are at Cherub and St. Andrew's choir rehearsals.

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

Become user friendly with your membership 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 9:45 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 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](mailto:terrynemor@hotmail.com)) to volunteer or for questions. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

### **PRIME TIME PRESBYTERIANS TRIP TO GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART, SEPTEMBER 27**

We will meet at the Georgia Museum of Art Tuesday, September 27 at 10:00 a.m. to see the new exhibit "Gifts and Prayers: The Romanovs and Their Subjects." Lunch will be ordered ahead and carpooling is encouraged. Please sign up by September 23 with the church office at 706-543-4338 or [frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org).

**PLEASE SEE [FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG) FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**