



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 18, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Twenty-Fifth 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

Plainsong

Robert J. Powell

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.**

The Song of Gathering is the first stanza of a paraphrase of Psalm 100 by a Scot, set to a tune that a French composer originally created for Psalm 134. This text and tune have been paired since 1561 and have appeared together in nearly every comprehensive English-language hymnal since then.

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 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

***Latecomers may be seated.

**Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

O God, source of salvation:

We confess that we ignore the mystery of your love.

We bear grudges against our neighbors,
while it is your nature to forgive.

We hold tightly to our possessions,
while Jesus blesses the poor.

We yield to the turmoil in our lives,
while the Holy Spirit gives us peace
that passes all understanding.

In mercy, forgive us, and help us to live by faith, hope, and love.

***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 3:14-21, page 1067

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Behold, the Tabernacle of God*

Robert J. Powell

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with you,
and the spirit of God dwelleth within you;
for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are:
for the love of whom you do this day celebrate the joys of the temple
with a season of festivity. Alleluia.

Second Lesson

Joshua 14:6-15 (NKJV), page 204

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

Sermon

Claim Your Mountain!

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The anthem was written by Mississippi native Robert J. Powell, who has published over 300 compositions for organ, choir, handbells and instrumental ensembles. He served as Organist and Choir Director at Christ Church in Greenville, SC from 1968-2003.

