



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!

November 20, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Thirty-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.**

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God
Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Minute for Mission Thornwell Home for Children Sherri Bozardt

Song of Gathering

**Let ev'ry voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

DUKE STREET

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord,
For the Lord is good.

God's love endures forever.

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 held in the Godly Play Rooms.

Psalm 106:1

***Hymn 551** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

***Latecomers may be seated.

*Those who are able may stand.

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

Sherri Bozardt is the Mission Advancement Officer for GA, with the Thornwell Home for Children

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of the text of Come, Ye Thankful People, Come is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of Grace, we confess our ingratitude for all that you have done for us. We are impatient when prayers seem to be ignored and selfish when prompted to give or share. We confess our unfaithfulness as we wander from your way. We ask for your forgiveness so that we might be renewed, refreshed, and redeemed for service in your kingdom.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 555, Stanza 3

**All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heavens,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was and is, and shall be evermore.**

***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 396, Stanza 1

**O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!**

First Lesson

Psalm 118:19-29, page 554

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune

Ralph Vaughan Williams

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 Lord, ye know, is God indeed, without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
O enter then his gates with praise, approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.
For why? the Lord our God is good: his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Second Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24, page 1079

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

Sermon

Thinking Thanks-filled Thoughts for a Thanks-giving Life

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The anthem sung by our combined Chancel Choir and Celebration Singers was composed for the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey in 1953. The text, a paraphrase of Psalm 100, was written by William Kethe, a Scot. The tune is by French composer Louis Bourgeois. The choral arrangement is by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 554** Let All Things Now Living ASH GROVE

***Affirmation of Faith** The 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.**

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

Offertory Improvisation on ASH GROVE John Coble

***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 555** Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS
**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

***Postlude** Sinfonia from Cantata No. 29 J. S. Bach

Written for an easy-to-sing folk melody familiar in England as well as Wales, the 20th-century North American text Let All Things Now Living bears many resemblances to both Psalm 148 and the traditional canticle "Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord."

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

Although Hymn 555 is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

Following 11:00 a.m. worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments in Fellowship Hall to welcome our new members.

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 fellowship pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Today, 4:30 p.m.

We begin a new tradition as we participate in the first annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service, hosted this year by First Baptist Church. Please join us for this worship experience for all faith groups (Christians, Jews, Muslims, et. al.), followed by refreshments. This year's offering recipient will be Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens. Child care will be provided.

THORNWELL SPECIAL OFFERING Today

You can help give children a home with love and encouragement by participating in the special offering taken for Thornwell Home for Children.

ANGEL TREE

There is a special Salvation Army Angel Tree in Fellowship Hall. Please choose an angel (infant -12 year old child) from the tree and buy Christmas presents for him or her. All gifts are due December 4.

LIVE NATIVITY

December 6, 6:00 p.m.

We need your help! If you can be a wise man (or woman,) shepherd, holy family (families with a baby less than a year old), or help with set up, clean up, greeting, or advertising, please email Elaine Johnson at elaine@firstpresathens.org.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 11, 5:00 p.m.

Our children will lead us in this special tradition for the whole church family, followed by dinner in Fellowship Hall.

A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA December 13, 2:00 p.m.

All senior adults are cordially invited to a festive tea party and time of fellowship. Please RSVP to the church office at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org.

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS December 18, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Please join us for this time of worship led by the Chancel Choir and Celebration Singers.

IHN GIFT CARD DRIVE

Please help support and empower IHN parents to shop for their own families this Christmas season by donating gift cards! They can include places such as Wal-Mart, Target, Kroger, Toys "R" Us, Academy Sports, Dick's Sporting Goods, Old Navy, Best Buy, Shell, or BP gas stations. Please drop gift cards off at the church office by December 12.

LIBRARY IMAGINATION

Visit the library on the second floor of the Tinsley-Stern building for Thanksgiving and Christmas craft, baking, decorating, and other ideas.

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

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

11:00 a.m. Ben Ness

Readers:

8:45 a.m. James Dove

11:00 a.m. Margaret Johansen

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Cash Havick, Katherine Queen

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Bobby Heath (head), Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell (head), Phyllis Crowell, Sydney Jackson, Tommy Jackson, Tom Reigle, Rick Simpson

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Terry Caven, June De Nadai, Grace Lu, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Martha Elmore, Nonie Hale, Ginny Rogers, Jerry Rogers

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Harry Shuford

11:00 a.m. Rod Canfield, Christine Register, Arlene Shirley, Ed Smith

RECEPTION HOST

Madie Fischetti

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The bread which you hold back belongs to the hungry; the coat, which you guard in your locked storage-chests, belongs to the naked; the footwear moldering in your closet belongs to those without shoes. The silver that you keep hidden in a safe place belongs to the one in need.

– St. Basil the Great

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, the Atrium is equipped with video and sound for your worship needs.

Available in the narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** are available and usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted by phone to the church office, (706)543-4338, through the Prayer Request link on our church website (www.firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

The elder on call is Diane Hudgins. You may contact Diane at (706)255-7047 November 20-30. The elder on call is available if there is an emergency that requires support.

Casa de Amistad Baskets

Please help provide low income Hispanic families with food for a special Christmas meal. Either write a check to First Presbyterian Church for \$39.00 marked, “for Casa basket” and the shopping will be done for you!

Or fill a laundry basket, large bucket, or other reusable container with the items below:

- 5 lb Bag of Rice
- 2 lb Bag of Dried Pinto Beans
- Bag of onions
- Chili Peppers (dried red New Mexico pods)
- Cooking Oil
- Mole (brown sauce for meat)
- Masa (flour for making tortillas)
- Can of Jalapeños
- Can of Tomatoes
- Adobe powder (in spice area) or fresh garlic
- Bag of cookies or a cake
- Gift certificate from Los Compadres or Walmart for \$10

Donations are due to the church by December 4. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m. Sunday School Greeters this week: Jim Scanlon, Judy Scanlon

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants - 5th Grade

Infants • Nursery Infant Room
Room Lead: Rita Raines

Toddlers - Preschoolers • Nursery Playroom
Nursery Coordinator: Wendi Finch
Our toddler and preschooler curriculum is Group Publishing's Play-n-Worship. It is filled with music, activities, and storyboards that encourage little ones to interact with Bible stories.

Children's Sunday Morning Music: Garland Ryder
Our 4 year-olds through 2nd graders begin most Sunday mornings in the Children's Ministry Suite with fun music and movement before heading into their Sunday School rooms.

4 Year-Olds - Kindergarten • Room 127
Teachers: Jennifer Castleman, Karen Cobb, Mary Smith, Dan Trier

1st Grade - 2nd Grade • Room 126
Teachers: Jennifer Abbott, Don DeMaria, Madie Fischetti, Matt Jones
Our 4 Year-Olds through 2nd Graders will be using Spark Lectionary Curriculum. Every Sunday, our children will explore their Bibles, enjoy fun activities, sing, pray, and grow in faith together.

3rd Grade - 4th Grade • Room 125

5th Grade • Room 124
The 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders will be introduced to our new Godly Play curriculum. Godly Play encourages children to explore their faith through story, helps them gain religious language and grows their spiritual experience through wonder and play.
Teachers: Natalie Bishop, Jody Corry, Greta Covington, Susan Ferguson, Denise Laboon

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Christian Issues • Room 310
Study of the book, Forgiveness: Making Peace with the Past, by Douglas Connelly from the LifeGuide Bible Series.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Connections • Room 303
Study of the book, Making Sense of the Bible, by Adam Hamilton.

Led by: Margaret Davis, Jay Holloway, Carol Strickland

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room
Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living.

- November 20 - Sherri Bozardt, Mission Advancement Officer for GA, Thornwell Home for Children
- November 27 - DVD, The Other Side of History

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern
Saga of Jacob from Genesis
Teacher: John Kipp

New Voices • Room 302
Study of the book, Searching for Sunday, by Rachel Held Evans
Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Erik Ness, Christine Register

W. D. Hooper • Room 309
Will begin with the Gospel of John with other books of the New Testament to follow.
Led by: Richard Stone

Women's Bible Class • Room 301
Will begin by looking at the last four chapters of the Gospel of Luke; other books of scripture will follow.
Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

6th - 12th Grade • The PIT

This year we will connect with God multiple ways: fellowship, breaking bread together, service projects, small group study of scripture, and Godly Play. Through these different spiritual disciplines, we hope to come to know God and each other on a deeper level.

Led by: Kim Ness, Meghan Bawcum, Middle School, Alyssa Standard, High School

November 20

We will meet in our small groups today. Our high school group, led by Alyssa Standard, will continue exploring the lectionary through the PC(USA) Feasting on the Word curriculum. Our middle school group, led by Meghan Bawcum, will watch videos and answer common faith questions using the re:form curriculum.

Tonight we will participate in the first annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, a worship experience for all faith groups (Christians, Jews, Muslims, et. al.). We'll worship at First Baptist Church at 4:30 p.m., go out to dinner afterwards, then go to purchase gifts for children in need through Operation Shoebox and the Angel Tree.

Holiday Benevolence Market

December 4, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

This alternative market gives you an opportunity to support local, nonprofit agencies by purchasing items they need in the name of someone with whom you would ordinarily exchange presents: friends, teachers, co-workers, etc. Representatives from the agencies will be on hand to share information about their missions. Area congregations will entertain us with live music.

The market is an interfaith effort supported by ten local congregations and the United Way. Questions? Please contact Margaret Davis at revmargaretdavis@gmail.com or Dianne Penny Wilson at diannepenny@aol.com.

Lunch Fundraiser: Come hungry to the Holiday Benevolence Market! Our youth, under the leadership of Chef Magrino, will be providing a delicious lunch for donations to benefit refugees and disaster relief. Eat here or get yours to go.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 20

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Reception for New Members, Fellowship Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, First Baptist Church

Monday, November 21

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Thanksgiving Break begins
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, November 22

- 12:10 p.m. Lunch Book Group, Room 124
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, November 23

- 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi Group, Moses Waddel Room

Thursday, November 24 - Thanksgiving Holiday Church Offices Closed

Friday, November 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday Church Offices Closed

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

November 30 - Presbyterian Women Santa Express Drop Off Deadline, 4:30 p.m.

December 4 - Holiday Benevolence Market, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

December 6 - Live Nativity, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

December 11 - Christmas Pageant and Christmas Dinner, 5:00 p.m.

December 13 - Senior Adult Ministry's, "A Cup of Christmas Tea," 2:00 p.m.

December 18 - A Festival of Lessons & Carols, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services, 4:00, 6:00, & 8:00 p.m.

December 25 - Christmas Day Service, 10:30 a.m.

January 1 - New Year's Day Service, 10:30 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Bruce Lancaster, Moderator Jerris Hayes, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2016

Diane Adams
Matt Bishop
Rod Canfield
Bertis Downs
Joe Neighbors
Terry Nestor
Leslye Queen
Chuck Roberts
Ed Smith
Sally Vandiver

CLASS OF 2017

Allen Crowell
Don DeMaria
Madie Fischetti
Jerris Hayes
Joy Holloway
Diane Hudgins
Mike Morris
Jerry Rogers
Ella Stewart

CLASS OF 2018

Joe Attaway
David Cole
Jason Doornbos
Sue Gray
Mark Harrison
Denise Horton
Christine Register
Arlene Shirley
Harry Shuford
Richard Stone

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Interim Senior Pastor
Dr. Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor
Dr. John Kipp, Parish Associate
The Reverend Bob Googe, Parish Associate
Dr. John Coble, Director of Music and Organist
Mrs. Kim Ness, Director of Youth Ministries
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, Director of Children's Ministries
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, Director of Weekday School
Mr. Roger Burbage, Church Administrator
Ms. Melanie Powers, Children and Youth Music Assistant
Ms. Lucy Bell, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Nan Powell, Communications Specialist
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Laura McHugh, Accountant
Mrs. Tiffany Greene, Weekday School Administrative Assistant
Ms. Wendi Finch, Nursery Coordinator
Mr. Chuck Hunt, Sunday Morning Manager
Mr. Willie "Buc" Collins, Sexton
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, Parish Nurse

STUDENT INTERNS

Ms. Alyssa Standard, Youth Ministry Intern
Ms. Geneva Stonecipher, Church Music Intern
Ms. Angela Suh, Website Intern

WADDEL FELLOWS

Ms. Stacey Bowden, Children's Ministry
Mrs. Christina Cotsakis Cordon, Outreach
Ms. Nettie Jester, Youth Ministry
Ms. Peyton Lipecky, Congregational Care
Ms. Jordan Osborne, Children's Ministry

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