



# 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!*

February 14, 2016  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
First Sunday of Lent

## 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

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*

Alec Wyton

The prelude includes two settings of Hymn 77. The text reflects both on Christ's temptation in the wilderness and on the purpose and goal of Lent as preparation for Easter.

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

*Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.*

### Minute for Mission

Honduras Mission Trip

Tommy Jackson

### Song of Gathering

TALLIS' CANON

**The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, by whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

### Call to Worship

From Psalm 91

Leader: We who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,

**People: and abide under the shadow of the Almighty,**

Leader: we shall say to the Lord,

**People: "Our refuge and our stronghold;  
our God in whom we put our trust."**

Leader: When we call the Lord will answer.

**People: God will be with us in trouble and show us salvation.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

Although the ancient text of *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.

**\*Hymn No. 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**

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed to love, neglected justice and ignored your truth.**

**Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**\*Congregational Response**

Hymn No. 572

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*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.*

**11:00 a.m. A Time for Young Children**

*Children, age four through grade two, may come forward for a message and then leave for Children's Church located in the Children's Ministry Suite. To pick up your child after the service, please go through the Atrium and down the stairs.*

Children's Church is a special time for our youngest members to learn scripture through song, art, and play.

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876) served in a number of London churches and cathedrals. He composed service music, anthems, psalms, pieces for organ, and songs. *Wash Me Thoroughly from My Wickedness* is one of his finest anthems.

Like many of this author's hymns, the text of Hymn 81 was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

**Congregational Prayer for Illumination** *(spoken)*

**O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**First Lesson** Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, page 537

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

**11:00 a.m. Anthem** *Wash Me Thoroughly from My Wickedness*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

*Kendall Kookogey, soloist*

**Second Lesson** Luke 4:1-13, page 938

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

**\*Hymn No. 81** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

**Sermon** GETTING CLOSER TO JESUS THIS LENT Dr. Doak

*1. When Life Presses in on Us*

Text: Jesus was driven by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1-2

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

\*Hymn No. 400

*When We Are Living*

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

*When We Are Living* began as an orally transmitted stanza reflecting on Romans 14:7-8 and was expanded by a Spanish-language hymnal committee to offer additional examples of the many dimensions of life, thereby strengthening the recurring affirmation that we belong to God through them all.

### Litany for Lent

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.  
You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy;  
you are generous to all who call upon you.

#### Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins.  
On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were  
bruised for our iniquities.

#### Save us, Lord.

O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and  
our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation:

#### Save us, Lord.

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you,  
and joy of all the saints:

#### Save us, Lord.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

#### have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

#### have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

#### grant us peace.

**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.*

**8:45 a.m. Offertory** *Improvisation on "A Winter Carol"* John Coble

**11:00 a.m. Offertory** *A Winter Carol* Fred Gramann

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow has left the heavens all coldly clear;  
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow, and all the earth lies dead and drear.  
And yet God's love is not withdrawn; his life within the keen air breathes;  
his beauty paints the crimson dawn, and clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths.  
And though abroad the sharp winds blow, and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,  
home closer draws her circle now, and warmer glows her light within.

O God! who gives the winter's cold, as well as summer's joyous rays,  
us warmly in thy love enfold, and keep us through life's wintry days. Amen.

*Jimmy Brown, soloist*

The 11:00 a.m. Offertory Anthem is a setting of a text by Samuel Longfellow. It is set to the hymn tune DANBY by Fred Gramann, Music Director of The American Church in Paris.

### \*Doxology

Hymn No. 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

### \*Benediction

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

### \*Congregational Response

Hymn No. 396, Stanza 4

**So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;  
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.**

### Postlude

*Prelude and Fugue in D Minor* Johann Sebastian Bach

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### Red Cross Blood Drive

**Sunday, February 28th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

Our annual blood drive has become an important and integral part of First Presbyterian's Outreach Program. This year, our goal is to donate 32 usable units of blood.

Snacks and refreshments will be available to donors. You can reserve an appointment time online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), by signing up in the Atrium after worship services, by calling the church office, or by emailing Caitlin White at [caitlin@firstpresathens.org](mailto:caitlin@firstpresathens.org). Please join us for this important event!

### Flower Arranging Classes Begin February 17

Several members of the flower committee have teamed up to bring us a new class. On Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. in the Atrium, we will learn new tips for creating beautiful flower arrangements for church and at home:

February 17 — *Lenten Season Arrangements*  
with Eve Morris and Susan Ferguson

February 24 — *Greenery and Flower Arrangements from Your Yard*  
with Greta Covington and Tootsie Adams

March 2 — *Seasonal Table Flower Arrangements*  
with Suzanne King

March 9 — *Greenery and Color Combinations for Sanctuary Arrangements*  
with Diane Adams

March 16 — *The Basics of Church Arrangements*  
with Glenda and Denise LaBoon