




First Presbyterian Church of Athens

March 6, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Fourth 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

Be Thou My Vision

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Hymn 269 is a paraphrase of the story from Genesis 28 of Jacob making a vow with God at Bethel: "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God." The revision in the *Scottish Paraphrases* brings us all personally into the story and into a covenant with God.

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

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

John 8:12

Leader: Jesus said:

People: *I am the light of the world.*

Leader: *Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness*

People: *but will have the light of life.*

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn No. 269** O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand

DUNDEE

***Latecomers may be seated.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Our gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against heaven and against you. In our stubbornness, we have gone our own ways and failed to stay near you. In our ingratitude, we have failed to remember how your righteous Son became sin on our behalf, to bring about our justification. In our shortsightedness, we have neglected the message of reconciliation entrusted to us. We acknowledge our sin, O God, for we cannot hide our iniquity.

We confess our transgressions, O Lord; set us free from all self-deceit. Forgive the guilt of our sin that we may be a joyous people and praise you with loud cries of deliverance. 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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination *(spoken)*

O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Those who are able may stand.

First Lesson Psalm 32, page 496
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Call to remembrance, O Lord* Richard Farrant
Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and loving kindness,
which have been ever of old.
O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth,
but according to thy mercy, think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

Second Lesson Luke 15:1-3, 11b-24, page 954
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon GETTING CLOSER TO JESUS THIS LENT Dr. Doak
3. When We Are the Prodigal Child
Text: Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger
of them said to the father, 'Father, give me the share of the property
that will belong to me.' So he divided the property between them."
Luke 15:11b-12

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

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

Offertory *I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ* Johann Sebastian Bach

***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**

***Hymn No. 339** *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal p. 16
... forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ...

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

The stanzas of *Be Thou My Vision* are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

Communion of the People

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.

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn No. 376 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* HYFRYDOL

*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 G Minor* J.S. Bach

The text and tune of Hymn 376 occur in almost all English language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.

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

Family Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 19th at 10:30 a.m.
The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane**

Be sure to mark your calendars for our family Easter egg hunt. Lee Epting has graciously offered his beautiful family home, The Hill, to host this special event! We will begin the morning with egg hunting and then enjoy a picnic on the lawn for an early lunch. Please bring your **Easter baskets for egg hunting, your lunch basket and a picnic blanket for your family.** The church will provide drinks for everyone.

We need your help with non-edible treats to fill the eggs. A few examples of non-edible treats are stickers, small toy cars, decorative shoelaces, finger puppets, erasers, small action figures, small note pads, small plastic animals, rubber stamps, playdough, and mini bottle of bubbles. Please bring your non-edible treat donations to the Children’s Ministry Suite by Sunday, March 13th. Thank you for your donations and for helping us make the Easter Egg Hunt a memorable event for all of our First Presbyterian children!