



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!

April 10, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter

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

I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ

C.P.E. Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Song of Gathering

Hymn No. 481, Stanza 1

Praise the Lord, God's glories show, Alleluia!

Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!

Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!

All that see and share God's love. Alleluia!

*Call to Worship

Rev. 5:11-14

Leader: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain

People: to receive power and wealth,

Leader: wisdom and might,

People: honor, glory, and blessing!

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: The Lord's name be praised!

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

The prelude is an arrangement by Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach of a piece composed by his father, J.S. Bach.

*Those who are able may stand.

The majestic hymn *Lift High the Cross* celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

We welcome Hilary Shuford, Transitional General Presbyter of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery, as the liturgist today.

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

The opening four lines of *O Word of God Incarnate* celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

***Hymn No. 371**

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

***Call to Confession**

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and gracious God, you give us every reason to have confidence in you. Still, we are burdened by questions: Where are you calling us to go? From whence will our help come? How can your promises be fulfilled?

Patient God, we confess our fear and lack of faith in you. We admit our confusion and resistance to your teachings. Open our minds, O God, and open our hearts that we may know you are faithful and trust your gracious care for us. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn No. 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.*

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 Hymn No. 327, Stanza 1

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

First Lesson

Psalm 8, page 482

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

God so loved the world

John Stainer

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved.

Second Lesson

John 3:1-17, page 959

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

***Hymn No. 304**

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

Sermon *A Faith that Will See You Through* Dr. Doak
Text: This is how much God loved the world, He gave his Son, his one and only Son; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.
John 3:16, *The Message*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn No. 485** *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY

***Affirmation of Faith** *Good News Creed*

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. 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

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

Offertory *Adagio* Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

***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**

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**

Lift High the Cross

Charles Ore

The American gospel song *To God Be the Glory* became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God