



# 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 17, 2016  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Fourth 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

*Andante*

Georg Frideric Handel

### 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. 21:10, 22

Leader: In the new Jerusalem we will need neither sun nor lamp  
because God's glory will shine forever.

**People: Let the nations walk in the light of Christ.**

**Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

### \*Hymn No. 487

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

*When Morning Gilds the Skies* is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

\*Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Lord Jesus, you have said that those who love you will keep your words. You have given us your Holy Spirit to remind us of all that you have said, and your will is that our hearts would be open to hear what you have to say. Yet we confess that our hearts are easily troubled by worry and anxiety, falsehood and fear.

Forgive us our sins, O Lord, and cleanse our hearts. Heal our troubled minds and renew our ailing bodies. Bathe us in the light of your countenance and restore us to your peace, for your name's sake. 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.*

Hymn 498, addressed to a newly-baptized child, begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

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

**11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism**

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Anna Katherine Barrett, daughter of Brandon and Stephanie Barrett.

**\*Question to Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Anna Katherine by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ? Do We? **We do.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**      *The Apostles' Creed*      Hymnal, p.14

**Baptism Hymn No. 498** *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*    KINGDOM

**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 67, page 518

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

**\*8:45 a.m. Hymn No. 326** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*  
MORECAMBE

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*, a reflection on Galatians 5:25, was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for *Abide with Me* but more often appears with the present text.

**11:00 a.m. Anthem** *With a voice of singing* Martin Shaw  
With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.  
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.  
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.  
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,  
O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

**Second Lesson** John 5:1-9, page 972  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** *Long Time John* Dr. Doak  
Text: Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethzatha.... One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. John 5:2, 5

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

**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** *Improvisation on DUKE STREET* John Coble

**\*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

**\*Hymn No. 423** *Jesus Shall Reign, Wher'er the Sun* DUKE STREET

**\*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, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

**\*Postlude** *Pièce d'Orgue* Johann Sebastian Bach

Hymn 423 is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5-19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.