



# 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 3, 2016  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Second 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.*

**Prelude**     *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!*     Jean-François Dandrieu

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

*Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.*

### Song of Gathering

Hymn No. 121, Stanza 1

**That Easter day with joy was bright,  
the sun shone out with fairer light,  
when, to their longing eyes restored,  
the apostles saw their risen Lord.**

### \*Call to Worship

Psalm 150:1-2

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Praise God in his sanctuary;**

Leader: praise him in his mighty firmament!

**People: Praise him for his mighty deeds;**

Leader: Praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

**People: Come, let us worship God.**

### \*Hymn No. 104

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

HYMN TO JOY

The prelude is based on Hymn 116, a 15th century tune and text. The text is based on the traditional gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter.

In commenting on the text of Hymn 104, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

\*Those who are able may stand.

## \*Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our offenses and our shortcomings. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, and in failing to trust you.**

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins. Help us to live in the light of your love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen savior. Amen.**

## \*Assurance of Pardon

### Congregational Response

Hymn No. 119, Stanza 1

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## \*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.*

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

## 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 150, page 554

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

The verbal and musical elements of the anthem mesh so well because the words were written to fit this Dutch tune. The news of Christ's resurrection is joyfully conveyed by the ever-higher phrases and final cascade of notes at the end of the refrain.

## \*8:45 a.m. Hymn No. 522 *Lord, When I Came Into This Life*

LAND OF REST

### 11:00 a.m. Anthem *This Joyful Eastertide* arr. Charles Wood

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!  
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:  
till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number. *Refrain*

Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river:  
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. *Refrain*

**Second Lesson** John 20:19-31, page 959  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** St. Thomas Dr. Strickland

## 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** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing Paul Manz

The offertory is based on Hymn 111.

**\*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**

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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**

### **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. 108** Christ Is Alive! TRURO

### **\*Benediction**

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

**\*Congregational Response** Hymn No. 118, Stanza 3

**Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth the song begin,  
let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.**

**\*Postlude** Toccata on Gaudeamus Pariter James Biery

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the text of Hymn 108 was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.