



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!

May 1, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sixth 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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford

The prelude is based on Hymn No. 171.

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Song of Gathering

Hymn No. 481, Stanza 3

Praise the Lord, great mercies trace, Alleluia!

Praise this providence and grace, Alleluia!

All that God for us has done, Alleluia!

All God sends us through the Son. Alleluia!

Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning before everything else,

People: God was.

Leader: Here and now among us,

People: God is.

Leader: In the end when all is fulfilled,

People: God will be.

Leader: Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Christ, by the Holy Spirit,

People: God was, God is, God will be.

Leader: Come, let us worship God!

*Those who are able may stand.

Since its creation in the mid-19th century, the text of *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* has been one of the favorite paraphrases of Psalm 23 in the English-speaking world. That popularity increased in the early 20th century when *The English Hymnal*, 1906, first joined these words to this flowing Irish melody.

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

The unattributed Hymn No. 387, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

***Hymn No. 171** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* ST. COLUMBA
****Latecomers may be seated.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

11:00 a.m. Reception of New Members

***Congregational Response** Hymn No. 438, Stanza 1
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love: the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

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 Ezekiel 34:1-6, page 788

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

***8:45 a.m. Hymn No. 387** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Christ's Flock* Martin Shaw

In Christ's own flock let love be surely placed,
from Christ's own flock let concord hate expel:
of Christ's flock let love be so embraced,
as we in Christ, and Christ in us may dwell.
Christ is the author of all unity, from whence proceedeth all felicity.
O sing unto this glittering glorious King,
O praises bring from every living thing:
let heart and voice like bells of silver ring. Alleluia!

The anthem was written for the Church of St. Francis, Ngong, Kenya. The church was built by African and Asian craftsmen funded by Europeans. It has a mixed race congregation; services are conducted in English and Swahili.

Second Lesson John 21:9-17, page 992
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Feed My Sheep* Dr. Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn No. 421** *The Church of Christ in Every Age* WAREHAM

***Affirmation of Faith** from the United Church of Canada

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

In the challenging text of Hymn No. 421, written by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

STACEY BOWDEN,
Children's Waddel Fellow

GREG PURSER,
Youth Intern

ANGELA SUH,
Website Intern

ALYSSA STANDARD,
*Youth Waddel Fellow and
Youth Intern*

ELIZABETH WILKES,
Outreach Waddel Fellow

11:00 a.m. Recognition of Waddel Fellows and Student Interns

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 *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* 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**

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**

Tocatta in F

Dietrich Buxtehude

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Music for Organ and Strings

**Today, May 1 at 4:00 p.m.
Sanctuary**

This free recital will feature the music of J. S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, Handel, Mozart, Daniel Pinkham, Marcel Dupré, Louis Vierne and Alexandre Guilmant.

John Coble, organist
Rachael Fischer and Serena Scibelli, violin
Larissa Powers, viola
Ana Abrantes, cello

A reception will follow hosted by the Congregational Care Commission.

Mother's Day Offering

Sunday, May 8

First Presbyterian is one of more than 200 PC(USA) congregations in Georgia that participates in the annual Mother's Day Offering. This offering benefits the Presbyterian Homes' Caring Hands Fund. This fund enables residents who have financial needs to remain at their Presbyterian Home. We look back in thanksgiving for the ways this offering has touched the lives of residents and their families through the years, and we hope that you'll continue this tradition of caring. Thank you for your prayerful support of this ministry.