



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 8, 2016
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Seventh 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

Berceuse

Louis Vierne

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Minute for Mission

Caring Hands Fund

Susan Stone

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

***Hymn No. 442** *The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

****Latecomers may be seated.*

The Church's One Foundation was one of twelve hymns written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable since.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, source of all wisdom, you have called us to honor your word and showered us with blessings when we have followed your counsel. You have sent your Spirit to purify us deep within, so that we may follow your way single-heartedly, even when other voices and inner desires call us away from you. Yet we have disregarded your precepts and grieved your sanctifying Spirit.

In your mercy, forgive us for resisting you. By your boundless love, draw us near to yourself, that with joy and gratitude we may honor you faithfully in all that we do and say, bearing abundant fruit of beauty and wholeness, the inheritance of those who live by your holy wisdom, through your Son Jesus Christ. 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. Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Harper Elizabeth Price, daughter of Greg and Paula-Frances Price.

***Question to Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Harper 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 to sit with Mrs. Natalie Bishop, listen to our children's choirs sing, 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.

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. Anthems *Love Is Little* arr. Carol McClure

Love is little, love is low, love will make my spirit grow.
Grow in peace, grow in light; love will do the thing that's right.

Can You Count the Stars? Robert J. Powell

Can you count the stars that brightly twinkle in the midnight sky?
Can you count the clouds, so brightly o'er the meadows floating by?
God, the Lord, does mark their number, with his eyes that never slumber;
he has made them every one, he has made them every one.
Can you count the loving measure of a mother's heart and mild,
nurturing the wondrous treasure found in each and every child?
Like a mother, God enfolds us, gently in his arms, will hold us;
and will comfort every one, and will comfort every one.
Do you know how many children rise each morning on their way?
Can you count their happy voices, singing sweetly on this day?
God hears all the happy voices, in their merry songs rejoices,
and he loves them, every one, and he loves them every one.

Love Is Little is an arrangement of a piece from the South Union, Kentucky, Shaker Settlement (1834).

Can You Count the Stars? is an original composition by South Carolina composer, Robert J. Powell.

11:00 a.m. Recognition and Blessing of our High School Graduates

Athens Academy	WILL CORRY	Washington & Lee University
Oconee County H.S.	SARA COTTON	Vassar College
Clarke Central H.S.	ELLIS FLURRY	University of Georgia
Cedar Shoals H.S.	CATE KIRCH	Joffrey School of Ballet, NYC
Oconee County H.S.	MADDY MAGRINO	University of North Georgia
North Oconee H.S.	EMILY NOAKES	University of Georgia
Oconee County H.S.	JORDAN OSBORNE	University of Georgia
Athens Academy	LIZZY SIMMONS	Salem College

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 Proverbs 31 (selected), page 601

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

***8:45 a.m. Hymn No. 441** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* ST. THOMAS

Second Lesson Ephesians 5:25-32, page 1069

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

Sermon *How to Talk to Your Wife* Dr. Doak

Text: Husbands, love your wives; just as Christ loved the church
and gave himself up for her." Ephesians 5:25

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.

8:45 a.m. Offertory *Beautiful Savior* Charles Ore

11:00 a.m. Offertory *Spring Carol* arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar
Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who make the woeful heart to sing.
Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.

Spring Carol is a setting of the hymn, *Fairest Lord Jesus*. Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusader's March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

***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. 359** *More Love to Thee, O Christ* MORE LOVE TO THEE

***Benediction**
Following worship, all are invited to a reception honoring our graduates in Fellowship Hall.

***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** *Toccata in Seven* John Rutter

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Mother's Day Offering

Today

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.