

First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Starry Night
by Vincent Van Gogh

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!

February 26, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Transfiguration Sunday

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.

The congregation is invited to speak or sing the liturgy in **bold** type.

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude

Improvisation on CORONATION

John Coble

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Minute for Mission

DOOR Mission Trip

Denise Horton

Song of Gathering

Hymn 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!

Children, ages Pre-K through grade 5, are invited to come forward during the Song of Gathering at the 11:00 a.m. service to lead the Call to Worship. Afterwards, they are invited to Children's Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

Call to Worship

Psalm 100:1-3

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!, an 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ, has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since its publication.

*Hymn 142

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

*Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of all Truth: we confess that we have sinned as we bend your truth for our benefit. We are not nearly as good as we think we are. Both the law and the prophets have clarified your desire for justice, mercy, and humility. We have denied justice and withheld mercy from others through our self-righteous pride. Forgive our manipulation of the gospel as we repent of our sin, for the sake of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



Worshippers may greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

***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.**

Introduction of New Members

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 321, Stanza 1

**Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

First Lesson

Jeremiah 7:1-7, page 693

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

11:00 Anthem

Christ upon the Mountain Peak

Paul Bouman

Christ upon the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing,
Let us, if we dare to speak, with the saints and angels praise him – Alleluia!
Trembling at his feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law shout through them their joyful greeting – Alleluia!
Swift the cloud of glory came, God, proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as his Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder – Alleluia!
This is God's beloved Son. Law and prophets fade before him,
first and last and only One. Let creation now adore him! – Alleluia!

Second Lesson

Luke 9:28-37, page 946

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

Sermon

Is There a Place for Jesus in the Church?

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The text of the anthem was written by Brian Wren. Born in England, Wren served as Conant Professor of Worship at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia until his retirement in 2007.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 462** Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies Ratisbon

***Affirmation of Faith** from the Confession of 1967

**The life, death, resurrection,
and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church's mission.
His life as human
involves the church in the common life of all people.
His service to humanity
commits the church to work
for every form of human well-being.
His suffering makes the church sensitive
to all the sufferings of humankind
so that it sees the face of Christ
in the faces of people in every kind of need.
His crucifixion discloses to the church
God's judgment on the inhumanity of humanity and
the awful consequences of its own complicity in injustice.
In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming,
the church sees the promise
of God's renewal of human life in society
and of God's victory over all wrong.
The church follows this pattern in the form of its life
and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16
... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Fairest Lord Jesus Charles Ore

***Doxology** Hymn 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 306** Fairest Lord Jesus CRUSADERS' HYMN

***Benediction**

***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** Toccata Eugène Gigout

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments in Fellowship Hall to welcome our new members.

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

In approving the Confession of 1967, the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America adopted its first new confession of faith in three centuries. It is built around a single passage of Scripture: "In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself . . ." (2 Cor. 5:19, NRSV) and addresses the church's role in the modern world.

Franz Liszt used the melody of Hymn 306 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 tune before the first half of the 19th century.

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

Nurseries for infants and toddlers, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

To pick up your child from Children's Church after the 11:00 a.m. service, please go through the Atrium to Fellowship Hall. A Children's Church teacher will meet you there.

A special word of welcome to our guests: thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Please fill out the fellowship pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

**The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series
presents**

The University of Georgia's University Chorus performing

**Eternal Light: A Requiem
by Howard Goodall**

Tuesday, February 28, 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Under the direction of Lauren Elizabeth Whitham

Peng-Chian Chen, piano

John Coble, organ

Monica Hargrave, harp

Lent at First Presbyterian Church

Ash Wednesday, March 1

Worship, 12:00 & 6:30 p.m.

Children & Family Time, 5:00-5:30 p.m. (see below)

Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Soup Group, March 3, 17, 31, and April 7 (see below)

Simple supper and spiritual exploration at the home of Dr. Carol Strickland

Wed@First, March 8-29, 6:30 p.m.

Praying the Psalms, a Lenten study led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster

Lenten Calendars, please take the calendar in today's bulletin home with you and use it to enhance your experience this Lenten season.

Stay tuned for special Holy Week activities and services.

**Ash Wednesday - Children & Family Time
March 1, 5:00-5:30 p.m.**

Our children and families are invited to meet in the Narthex between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. to experience Lenten stations together in the Sanctuary as small groups. Materials will be provided for families to create their own Lenten calendars. Dr. Lancaster will spend time with each family and talk about the service traditions of Ash Wednesday.

**Soup Group
March 3, 17, 31, and April 7**

Join Carol Strickland at her home on four Friday evenings in Lent for a simple soup supper and exploration with some ancient spiritual practices. Let her know by March 1 at cstrickland@firstpresathens.org or 706-765-7671 if interested.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m.

Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m.

Carol Strickland, Keila Porras Allen

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Ron Cox

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove (head), David Cole, Don Hill

11:00 a.m. Joe Hermanowicz (head), Michael Earl, Erika Hermanowicz, Margaret Johansen, Jacki Macker, Jane Mann, Cash Morris

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. June De Nadai, Faye Marshall, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Karen Allen, Jeanie Burbage, Ginny Rogers, Jerry Rogers

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone. – Ronald Reagan

RECEPTION HOST

Sarah Bryan

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Harry Shuford

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell, Don DeMaria, Madie Fischetti, Jerris Hayes

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Kathleen and Paul Wingfield Reid, given by the Bangle boys.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, the Atrium is equipped with video and sound for your worship needs.

Available in the narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** are available and usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted by phone to the church office, (706)543-4338, through the Prayer Request link on our church website (www.firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Today, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

There are still some time slots available to donate blood today. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall Breakout Area for the schedule. You can help save up to three lives by donating blood.

FOOD SUNDAY

March 5

Next Sunday we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting: **breakfast cereals, hamburger helper dinners, Jiffy muffin mixes (any variety)**. Thank you for donating 410 items in February!

IHN HOST WEEK

Thank you to all who made our February 19 host week work so well and helped provide such warm hospitality to our guests.

LENTEN CALENDARS

Every day during the season of Lent, we will seek to engage in prayer, reflection, and acts of service. Each day of the calendar has a suggestion for a short passage to read and for an activity to complete to guide us through the season. Many of the activities are a great way for members of all ages to get involved in our church's outreach initiatives. We hope that you can use this calendar to enhance your Lenten experience.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m. Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants - 5th Grade

Infants • Nursery Infant Room

Room Lead: Rita Raines

Toddlers - Preschoolers • Nursery Playroom

Nursery Coordinator: Wendi Finch

Our toddler and preschooler curriculum is Group Publishing's Play-n-Worship. It is filled with music, activities, and storyboards that encourage little ones to interact with Bible stories.

Children's Sunday Morning Music: Garland Ryder

Our Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd graders begin most Sunday mornings in the Children's Ministry Suite with fun music and movement before heading into their Sunday School rooms.

Pre-Kindergarten - Kindergarten • Room 127

Teachers: Jennifer Castleman, Karen Cobb, Mary Smith, Dan Trier

1st Grade - 2nd Grade • Room 126

Teachers: Jennifer Abbott, Don DeMaria, Madie Fischetti, Matt Jones

Our 4 Year-Olds through 2nd Graders will be using Spark Lectionary Curriculum. Every Sunday, our children will explore their Bibles, enjoy fun activities, sing, pray, and grow in faith together.

3rd Grade - 4th Grade • Room 125

5th Grade • Room 124

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders will be introduced to our new Godly Play curriculum. Godly Play encourages children to explore their faith through story, helps them gain religious language and grows their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

Teachers: Natalie Bishop, Jody Cory, Greta Covington, Susan Ferguson, Denise Laboon

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Christian Issues • Room 310

Study of the book, The Story of Scripture: the Unfolding Drama of the Bible, by Robbie Fox Castleman from the LifeGuide Bible Series.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Connections • Room 303

Study of the book, Making Sense of the Bible, by Adam Hamilton. Meeting today in the Moses Waddel Room to experience Godly Play.

Led by: Margaret Davis, Jay Holloway, Carol Strickland

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living.

- February 26 - Will not meet today.
- March 5 - Wings/ALAS Guatemala, Women's Health in Guatemala presented by Ray Schofield.

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

New Voices • Room 302

Study of the book, Searching for Sunday, by Rachel Held Evans. Meeting today in the Moses Waddel Room to experience Godly Play.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Erik Ness, Christine Register

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

Will begin with the Gospel of John with other books of the New Testament to follow.

Led by: Richard Stone

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Saga of Jacob from Genesis.

Teacher: John Kipp

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Study of 1 Thessalonians.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

6th - 12th Grade • The PIT

This year we will connect with God in multiple ways: fellowship, breaking bread together, service projects, small group study of scripture, and Godly Play. Through these different spiritual disciplines, we hope to come to know God and each other on a deeper level.

Led by: Kim Ness and Alyssa Standard

Wednesday@First

March 8-29, 6:30 p.m.

Praying the Psalms, a Lenten study led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster

With few exceptions, the psalms are not the voice of God. Praying the psalms gives voice to our common humanity that brings power, shape, and authority to what we know about ourselves in relation to God. This Lenten study will explore the Psalms as praying to collaborate in God's work with us in our world.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 26

- 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:50 a.m. Reception for New Members, Atrium
- 10:30 a.m. Called Session Meeting, Parlor
- 12:05 p.m. Reception for New Members, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 5:50 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, February 27

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 8:15 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Big Chunkies, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Road

Tuesday, February 28

- 12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 8:00 p.m. The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series
UGA University Chorus Concert, Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 1 - Ash Wednesday

- 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, The PIT
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 3:00 p.m. Wed@First Programs Begin
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Children & Family Time, Meet in Narthex between 5:00 & 5:30 p.m.
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 2

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Morningside, 1291 Cedar Shoals Dr.
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Friday, March 3

- 6:00 p.m. Soup Group, Home of Carol Strickland & Jack Palmer, 1141 Nona Dr.

Sunday, March 5 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

March 3, 17, 31 and April 7 - Soup Group, 6:00 p.m.

March 8-22 - "Praying the Psalms," Wed@First Lenten Study, 6:30 p.m.

March 26 - Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon, 12:05 p.m.

April 2-9 - IHN Host Week

April 13 - Maundy Thursday Service & Dinner, 5:00 p.m.

May 30-June 2 - Vacation Bible School

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Bruce Lancaster, Moderator Jerris Hayes, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2017

Allen Crowell
Don DeMaria
Susan Ferguson
Madie Fischetti
Jerris Hayes
Joy Holloway
Diane Hudgins
Mike Morris
Jerry Rogers
Ella Stewart

CLASS OF 2018

Joe Attaway
David Cole
Jason Doornbos
Sue Gray
Mark Harrison
Denise Horton
Christine Register
Arlene Shirley
Harry Shuford
Richard Stone

CLASS OF 2019

Robbie Bryan
Jody Jenkins Corry
Greta Terrell Covington
DeeAnn Cox
Mary Havick
Joe Hermanowicz
Richard Lane
Mary Peace
Lawton Stephens
Dan Trier

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Interim Senior Pastor
Dr. Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor
Dr. John Kipp, Parish Associate
The Reverend Bob Googe, Parish Associate
Dr. John Coble, Director of Music and Organist
Mrs. Kim Ness, Director of Youth Ministries
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, Director of Children's Ministries
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, Director of Weekday School
Mr. Roger Burbage, Church Administrator
Ms. Melanie Powers, Children and Youth Music Assistant
Ms. Lucy Bell, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Nan Powell, Communications Specialist
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Laura McHugh, Accountant
Mrs. Tiffany Greene, Weekday School Administrative Assistant
Ms. Wendi Finch, Nursery Coordinator
Mr. Chuck Hunt, Sunday Morning Manager
Mr. Willie "Buc" Collins, Sexton
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, Parish Nurse

STUDENT INTERNS

Ms. Alyssa Standard, Youth Ministry Intern
Ms. Geneva Stonecipher, Church Music Intern
Ms. Angela Suh, Website Intern

WADDEL FELLOWS

Ms. Stacey Bowden, Children's Ministry
Mrs. Christina Cotsakis Cordon,
Mission & Outreach
Ms. Nettie Jester, Youth Ministry
Ms. Peyton Lipecky, Congregational Care
Ms. Jordan Osborne, Children's Ministry

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

706-543-4338, 185 EAST HANCOCK AVENUE, ATHENS, GA 30601-2719