

First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Artist Unknown

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!

March 5, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
First Sunday of Lent

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

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Alec Wyton

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

TALLIS' CANON

**The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

Children, ages Pre-K - grade 5, may come forward during the Song of Gathering at the 11:00 a.m. service to lead the Call to Worship.

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord,
the Lord's name be praised.

Afterwards, children ages Pre-K - grade 2 are invited to Children's Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

*Hymn 81

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

Hymn 81 is a reminder of how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

*Those who are able may stand.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God, we come with hesitant steps and uncertain motives as we confess our resistance to your truth. There are places in our lives where sin has accumulated and we avoid your call to repentance. Take our half-hearted attempts at following Christ and bring us again to the fullness of faith, for you alone can bring new life and make us whole.

*Silent Prayer

*Congregational Response

Healey Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Assurance of Pardon

*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."

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Jeremiah 31:31-34, page 721

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

Second Lesson Psalm 32, page 496

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

Sermon God's Passion: Forgiveness Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 347** Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive DETROIT

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive Wilbur Held

11:00 a.m. Offertory Create in me a clean heart, O God
Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Create in me a clean heart, O God!

Few petitions of the Lord's Prayer are as difficult to pray as the one in Hymn 347, and we would not dare to pray it if we had to depend on ourselves rather than the example of forgiveness we are given in Jesus Christ. The shape note tune sets these words with appropriate spareness.

The anthem is a setting of Psalm 51 by American composer Carl F. Mueller (1892-1982). Mueller served as organist and choir director at Central Presbyterian Church in Montclair, NJ and First Presbyterian Church in Red Bank, NJ. His choral compositions have been widely used. Create in me a clean heart, O God sold nearly two million copies.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

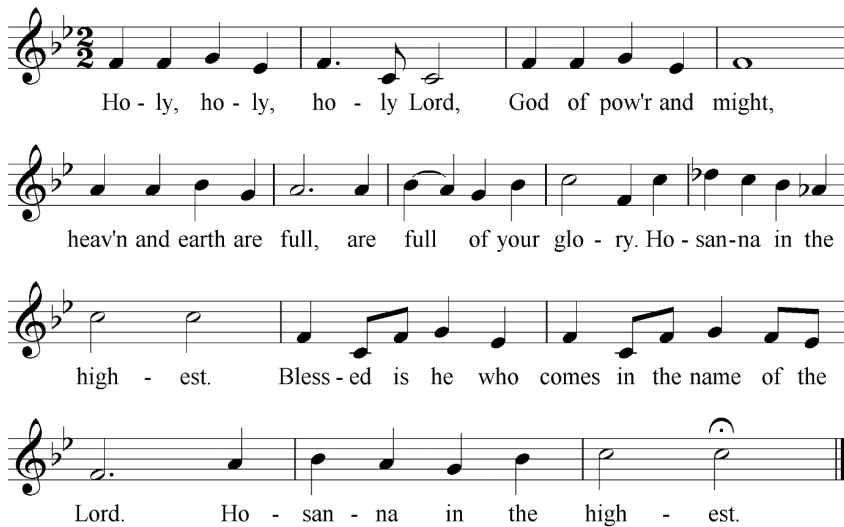
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

"...Great is the mystery of faith:"



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."



A - men, A - men, A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

The musical setting of the communion liturgy will be sung at 11:00 a.m. only.

The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten-free bread

8:45 a.m. – Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles.

11:00 a.m. – Please partake as you are served..

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 280** Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound AMAZING GRACE

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 540, Stanza 2

**God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

***Postlude** Prelude and Fugue in D Minor attr. J.S. Bach

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

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.

Lenten Services & Activities

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

Praying the Psalms, a Lenten study led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster (see next page)

Experiential Lenten Calendars are available in the Narthex, church office, and on the church website. Please use these calendars to enhance your Lenten experience.

Stay tuned for special Holy Week activities and services.

PNC UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee held its first meeting and was led in orientation by the Rev. Hilary Shuford, General Presbyter of Northeast Georgia Presbytery. The committee elected its leadership: Lewis Hudgens, Chair; Fran Lane, Vice-Chair; Melinda DeMaria, Recording Secretary; and Steve Covington, Corresponding Secretary. Dr. Lancaster will be working with the PNC as it develops the Ministry Information Form.

BOOKS FOR KEEPS BOOK DRIVE

March 12-26

Help make sure no child in our community goes a summer without great books to read. Please donate your used books as part of our book drive. We will have boxes in the Atrium starting next Sunday. Books of all kinds will be accepted, then sold by Books for Keeps with proceeds used to buy new children's books. Contact Jane Mann at jmann49@bellsouth.net or Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com with any questions.

PW BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

March 26, 12:15 p.m.

All women in the congregation are Presbyterian Women and are invited to a luncheon marking our founding in 1922. Circle members are providing a delicious salad lunch and, of course, a birthday cake. After lunch John Kipp will present a program entitled "Who is Jesus According to Other Abrahamic Faiths?" in the Moses Waddel Room. Please RSVP to the church office at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or 706-543-4338 by March 21 to help us plan.

PTP TRIP TO CHATEAU ELAN

March 28, 10:30 a.m.

The Primetime Presbyterians will go to Chateau Elan Winery and Resort in Braselton this month for a tour of their winery operation. After the tour we will enjoy lunch together at Cafe Elan. Please RSVP to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706 549-2888 by March 22 to reserve your seat on the van.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m.

Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m.

Carol Strickland, Cash Havick

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Aidan Farley, Cael Farley

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Christine Register

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John A. Simpson (head),

Barbie Hillman, Bryan Hillman

11:00 a.m. Rick Simpson (head),

Judy Howell, Margaret Johansen, Ed Law,

Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Chuck Toney

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles,

Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke

11:00 a.m. Shirley Evans, Nonie Hale,

Sydney Jackson, Tommy Jackson

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other.

Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other.

You can't worship God and Money both.

– Matthew 6:24-34, The Message

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Jacki Macker

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Ella Stewart

11:00 a.m. Joy Holloway, Diane Hudgins, Mike Morris, Jerry Rogers

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God.

A rosebud is placed in the sanctuary in honor of the birth of Chatham Payne Johnson on February 21, 2017. Chatham Payne is the daughter of Nolan and Sara Oelke Johnson and the granddaughter of Keith and Lisa Oelke.

A rosebud is also placed in honor of the birth of Monica Hromalik on March 1, 2017. Monica is the daughter of Joe and Beverly Barton Hromalik and the granddaughter of Woody and Nan Barton.

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.

Wednesday@First

Praying the Psalms, a Lenten study led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster
March 8-29, 6:30 p.m., Moses Waddel Room

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.

Wed@First Classes for 2017-2018

The Education & Discipleship Commission would like your help. Class scheduling is beginning for 2017-2018 and we need your suggestions for classes. Please send any suggestions to Mark Harrison at mahfst@uga.edu by March 20. Include any topics you would like us to consider and possible instructors (you can even suggest yourself).

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.

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.

- March 5 - Wings/ALAS Guatemala, Women's Health in Guatemala presented by Ray Schofield.
- March 12 - DVD, The Other Side of History

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

New Voices • Room 302

Study of the book, Searching for Sunday, by Rachel Held Evans.

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 5 - First Sunday of Lent

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

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, March 6

9:00 a.m. Weekday School Closed for Spring Break

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Two, Parlor

4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

5:15 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

6:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Redeemer, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Tuesday, March 7

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

2:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Three/Four, Home of Carol Ashmore, 265 Waterford Way

5:00 p.m. History Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

7:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Six, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, March 8

9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Seven, Bride's Room

11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Bone Island Grill House, 2055 Oconee Connector

3:00 p.m. Wed@First Programs Begin

5:45 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

6:30 p.m. Praying the Psalms, Moses Waddel Room

8:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Trinity Baptist, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Road

Thursday, March 9

3:30 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room

Sunday, March 12 - Second Sunday of Lent

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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

March 12-26 - Books for Keeps Book Drive

March 21 - Prayers for Healing, 5:30 p.m.

March 23 - Men's Fellowship, 6:00 p.m.

March 26 - Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon, 12:15 p.m.

March 28 - Primetime Presbyterians Trip to Chateau Elan, 10:30 a.m.

April 2-9 - IHN Host Week

April 9 - Palm Sunday and Palm Procession

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

April 14 - Good Friday Service, Presbyterian Student Center, 7:00 p.m.

April 15 - Easter Egg Hunt, The Hill, 11:00 a.m.

April 16 - Easter

May 7 - Weekday School 50th Anniversary Celebration

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