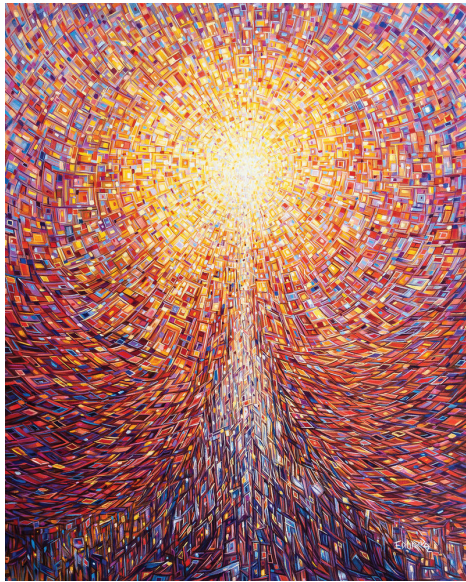


First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Ascension
by Eduardo Rodriguez Calzado

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 12, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Second 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.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Allegretto from Sonata IV
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

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.**

Call to Worship

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

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

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

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.

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

*Those who are able may stand.

Although the first stanza of this paraphrase of Psalm 121 draws heavily on 17th-century Scottish psalters, most of this version dates from the early 20th century. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned for use with a specific psalm.

***Hymn 234**

I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes

DUNDEE

***Call to Confession**

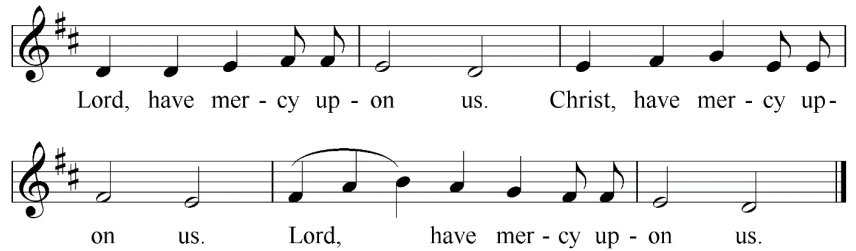
***Prayer of Confession**

In your presence, O God, we sense your promise and encouragement, your belief in us as your children. So many times we have questioned you and turned away from you; disbelieving your will for us; and failing not only ourselves, but those whom we love. We ask that you do not give up on us; that you take us by the hand and, in your mercy, shine upon us and make our path clear before us.

***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 Isaiah 40:27-31, page 721

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem He, Watching Over Israel

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, he will quicken thee.

Second Lesson Psalm 121, page 560

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

Sermon

God's Passions: Protection

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The anthem is a chorus from Mendelssohn's oratorio Elijah. The text of the chorus is a portion of Psalm 121. Elijah was first performed in 1846 conducted by the composer.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 210** Our God, Our Help in Ages Past ST. ANNE

***Affirmation of Faith** from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory DUNDEE Stephen Gabrielsen

***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**

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

In 1983, the PC(USA) was formed by the reunion of what were the Northern and Southern streams of the Presbyterian denominations in the USA. The Brief Statement of Faith was written to articulate the common identity Presbyterians share. This creed is arranged in a trinitarian framework that is meant to be used in worship.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

- *Hymn 361** How Firm a Foundation FOUNDATION
- *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** Allegro maestoso e vivace from Sonata II
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

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.

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. There will be boxes in the Atrium for the next three weeks, as well as in the reception area and Fellowship Hall.

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.

MEN'S SOFTBALL March 16, 8:30 p.m.

Our Men's Softball team is getting started for the spring. We play every Thursday night at Bishop Park at 6:30, 7:30, or 8:30 p.m. Come join us to play or cheer us on! Game times are posted in the bulletin and online on the church calendar. You may also contact Dan Trier at dantrier@hotmail.com for more information.

PW BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON March 26, 12:15 p.m.

All women in the congregation are invited to a luncheon marking the founding of Presbyterian Women in 1922. Circle members are providing delicious salads and 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 CHÂTEAU ÉLAN March 28, 10:30 a.m.

The Primetime Presbyterians will go to Château Élan in Braselton this month for a tour of the winery. Afterwards, 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.

IHN HOST WEEK April 2-9

Thank you to all who made our February 19 Interfaith Hospitality Network host week work so well. Having two host weeks so close together is not typical, yet the response from the congregation has been amazing, as always. Please check the sign-up board in the Atrium for the April week or check the church website for the online IHN calendar to volunteer. Thanks for helping provide such warm hospitality to our guests.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists:

8:45 a.m.

Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m.

Carol Strickland, Aidan Farley

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Lorenzo Fischetti, Rachel Huff

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Cheryl Gazlay

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell

USHERS

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

Bill Woolbright, Mary Ben Woolbright

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

Rod Canfield, Steve Covington,

Margaret Johansen, Ed Law, Chuck Toney

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. James Dove, Carroll Gaillard,

Diane Hartzell, Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Karen Allen, Susan Landrum,

Tom Landrum

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Seek joy in what you give, not in what you get.

– Author Unknown

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. David Cole

11:00 a.m. Joe Attaway, Jason Doornbos,

Mark Harrison, Sue Gray

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Bob Glasscock, Brenda Glasscock

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Allison Ansley Paine and Stephen Jeremy Watruba and in loving memory of Josephine and Rufus Paine, Sr. and Rufus Paine, Jr.

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** 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.

Easter Mobile Design Meeting March 19, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Do you have creative talent to share? If you would like to help design and construct an Easter mobile for Fellowship Hall, please join us for this planning meeting. Contact Carol Strickland at cstrickland@firstpresathens.org with any questions.

DOOR Weekend Mission Trip June 9-11

This summer we will send a team to Atlanta for a “Discover Weekend.” Sponsored by DOOR, a faith-based urban network, participants will be challenged to see the face of God in the city as they spend time listening, volunteering, worshiping, and reflecting on their experiences. Lodging will be in a local church. The cost is \$130 with partial scholarships available. Our team will be intentionally intergenerational with space for ten adults and ten high schoolers. Beginning Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon, this is the perfect experience for anyone who can’t spend a week in Haiti or Honduras.

Contact Rob and Susan Haire if interested at hairer@gmail.com

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 Corry, 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 12 - DVD, The Other Side of History
- March 19 - Sr. Margarita from Oasis Católico Santa Rafaela will discuss her work in the Pinewoods neighborhood.
- March 26 - Anna Berrier Lawrence from UGA's Office of Disability Services will speak about Destination Dawgs, a program to help students with disabilities.

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

WEDNESDAY@FIRST

March 15-29, 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. Rather, they give voice to our common humanity and bring power, shape, and authority to what we know about ourselves in relation to God.

This Lenten study will explore the psalms as tools for praying to collaborate in God's work in our world.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 12 - Second Sunday of Lent

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 8:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. Books for Keeps Book Drive, Atrium
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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, March 13

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 8:15 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Tuckston UMC, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, March 14

- 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 15

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 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

Thursday, March 16

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Mulberry Grove, 343 Price St, Statham
- 3:30 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room
- 8:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Trinity Baptist, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Friday, March 17

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

Saturday, March 18

- 9:20 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Over the Edge for Kids, SPARC Building, 1765 Old West Broad St.

Sunday, March 19 - Third Sunday of Lent

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

LOOKING AHEAD

March 12-26 - Books for Keeps Book Drive

March 19 - Book Fair for Children

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.

March 28 - First Friends, Sr. Sol, 6:00 p.m.

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