

# First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Golden Dawn  
by Darko Topalski  
topalski.com

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!

April 2, 2017  
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Fifth 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

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

Max Drischner

The prelude is based on Hymn 240.

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### Song of Gathering

**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.**

TALLIS' CANON

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.**

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

### \*Hymn 457

I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

### \*Call to Confession

\*Those who are able may stand.

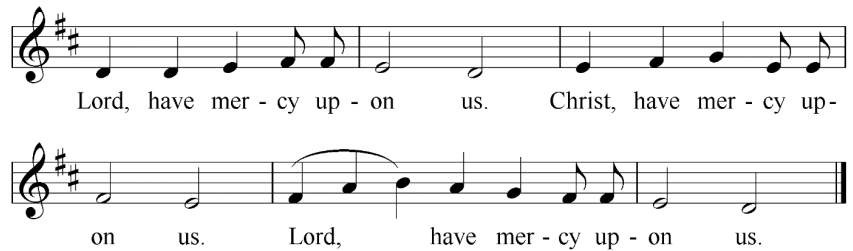
### \*Prayer of Confession

God who delivers and redeems, we have failed to live into the promise of new life. We have been afraid to enter troubled waters to help those gasping and grabbing for life. We have stood by on the comfortable banks of our self-righteousness and been unwilling to risk ourselves for the sake of others in need. Call us into a new life of courage, a life that is lived in the promise of your love for the whole world.

### \*Silent Prayer

### \*Congregational Response

Healey Willan



### \*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.**

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14, page 791

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

#### 11:00 a.m. Anthem

Psalm 130

Paul Manz

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand?

But there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope;

my soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy,

and with him is redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

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.

#### Second Lesson

Psalm 130, page 562

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

#### Sermon

God's Passions: Redemption

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

### \*Hymn 316

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

The anthem was composed by Paul Manz (1919-2009), an American church musician, organ recitalist, composer, and teacher. He was particularly known for his hymn festivals. Among many other positions, Manz served as Cantor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit in Hymn 316 as the "Breath of God."

## Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Wondrous Love

Charles Callahan

\*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 offertory is a setting of our final hymn, What Wondrous Love Is This. The melody for this hymn shows signs of Celtic influences, and the unusual meter is that of an old sea chanty. The tune first appeared in the valleys of the Southern Appalachians, where Williams Walker included it in his historic Southern Harmony. Each stanza has a single thought which is underscored by repetition, but it is the haunting melody which has made the hymn so popular in this country.

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

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

|                                  |   |                    |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| * <b>Hymn 85</b>                 | What Wondrous Love Is This  | WONDROUS LOVE      |
| * <b>Benediction</b>             |   |                    |
| * <b>Congregational Response</b> |   | Hymn 540, Stanza 2 |
|                                  | <b>God be with you till we meet again;<br/>unseen wings protecting hide you,<br/>daily manna still provide you:<br/>God be with you till we meet again.</b> |                    |
| * <b>Postlude</b>                | Improvisation on WONDROUS LOVE  | John Coble         |

**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.

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### STEPHEN MINISTRY PRIMER

**Today, 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.**

Come to the Staff Conference Room to start learning about Stephen Ministry, a system for organizing and training laypeople to give one-to-one Christian care to persons going through divorce, job loss, grief, and other life challenges. This summer we will be recruiting those interested in becoming Stephen Ministers at FPC. Presentations will be repeated April 24 at 5:00 p.m. and May 7 at 9:45 a.m.

### IHN HOST WEEK

**April 2-9**

We're looking forward to welcoming our guests with love and warmth as our host week begins today. Please pray for them, as well as our volunteers.

IHN will be offering a training class April 25, 6:30 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church. We encourage anyone who has not yet had the opportunity to attend the one hour class to sign up with Patty Whiten at [pattywhiten@windstream.net](mailto:pattywhiten@windstream.net). A light dinner will be provided and children are welcome.

### PALM SUNDAY

**April 9, Worship Services, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**

Everyone is invited to join the palm procession at 10:40 a.m. outside the Weekday School entrance in the upper parking lot. Both children's choirs will be singing during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

### LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS

**April 9-16, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

What does it mean to be a neighbor? How do we show love to all our neighbors? During Holy Week, everyone is invited to spend time in The PIT exploring prayer stations inspired by the spiritual practices of our brothers and sisters from around the world.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Dinner & Communion Service**

**April 13, 5:30 p.m.**

Our informal service will be held in Fellowship Hall. As we remain around the tables after dinner we will remember the events of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples and celebrate Communion. Each worshiper should bring a cup or glass from home which has special meaning. Donations will be accepted for the dinner. Please RSVP to the church office at [frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org) or 706-543-4338 by Monday, April 10 to help us plan. Nursery will be provided for infants and toddlers.

### COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

**April 14, 7:00 p.m.**

The combined Presbyterian Good Friday service will be held this year at the Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S. Lumpkin St., co-hosted by Central Presbyterian Church. Dr. Bruce Lancaster will preach.

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

**Liturgists:**

**8:45 a.m.**

John Kipp

**11:00 a.m.**

John Kipp, Chiara Bono

**Acolytes:**

**11:00 a.m.** Cate DeMaria,

Cash Havick

**Readers:**

**8:45 a.m.** Terry Caven

**11:00 a.m.** Kitty Donnan

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.** Carl Bergmann (head),

Randy Dudley, James Seagraves

**11:00 a.m.** Stephen Covington (head),

John Adams, Michael Earl, Margaret Johansen,

Terry McRae, Rick Simpson

### GREETERS

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

JoAnne Lowe, Faye Marshall

**11:00 a.m.** Jayne Bailey, Susan Landrum,

Tom Landrum

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Robbie Bryan, Sarah Bryan

### STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

God looks at the heart, not the hand; the giver,  
not the gift. – Author Unknown

### ELDERS AT THE DOOR

**8:45 a.m.** Allen Crowell

**11:00 a.m.** Susan Ferguson, Joe Hermanowicz,  
Richard Lane, Lawton Stephens

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Jim McGown's birthday, given by Jane McGown.

A rosebud is placed in the sanctuary in honor of the birth of Ila Katherine Johnson on March 27, 2017. Ila Kate is the daughter of Boone and Jenny Johnson and the granddaughter of Tim and Elaine Johnson.

### 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](http://www.firstpresathens.org)) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

### Easter Lily Dedications

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, April 10**. Each dedication is \$12. You may place your completed form and check in a pew pad envelope and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or contact the church at (706) 543-4338 or [frontdesk@firstpresathens.org](mailto:frontdesk@firstpresathens.org) with your dedications. Each dedication will be listed in the April 16 worship service bulletin.

**In Memory of**

\_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Given by**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

## 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 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

Discussion of various topics using "The Thoughtful Christian" curriculum led by rotating team of teachers.

**Inquirers** • Moses Waddel Room

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

- April 2 - DVD, The Other Side of History
- April 9 - Sally Coenen & Sara Glickman from Nancy Travis House, one of our Holiday Benevolence Market agencies.
- April 16 - Easter Brunch; we will not meet.

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

Study of the Acts of the Apostles.

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

### Vacation Bible School Registration Now Open Passport to Peru!

**Tuesday, May 30 - Friday, June 2, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School 2017 at First Presbyterian Church!

This program is open to children entering Pre-K through 5th grade in fall 2017.

Online registration can be found on the home page at [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org).

We need your help! To volunteer, please contact Natalie Bishop at [natalie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:natalie@firstpresathens.org).

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday, April 2 - Fifth Sunday of Lent - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Book Fair for Children, Children's Ministry Suite
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Primer, Staff Conference Room
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 2:00 p.m. IHN Host Week Begins, The PIT
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

### **Monday, April 3**

- 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

### **Tuesday, April 4**

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 7:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Six, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

### **Wednesday, April 5**

- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

### **Thursday, April 6**

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Thrive Senior Living, 2040 Resurgence Dr., Watkinsville
- 3:30 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Living Hope, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

### **Friday, April 7**

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

### **Sunday, April 9 - Palm Sunday**

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

## Holy Week Services & Activities

### **Palm Sunday, April 9**

- Worship Services, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
- Palm Sunday Procession, Upper Parking Lot, 10:40 a.m.

### **Prayer Stations, April 9-16, The PIT, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

### **Maundy Thursday, April 13, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 p.m.**

- Dinner (donations accepted), please RSVP by April 10
- Communion Service
- Recognition and welcome of 1st and 2nd graders to the Lord's Table
- Each worshiper is invited to bring a cup or glass that is special to you.

### **Good Friday, April 14, Presbyterian Student Center, 7:00 p.m.**

- Presbyterian Community Service, 1250 S. Lumpkin St.

### **Easter Egg Hunt, April 15, The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane, 11:00 a.m.**

### **Easter, April 16**

- Worship Services, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
- Easter Brunch, Fellowship Hall, 9:30 a.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

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## 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](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

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