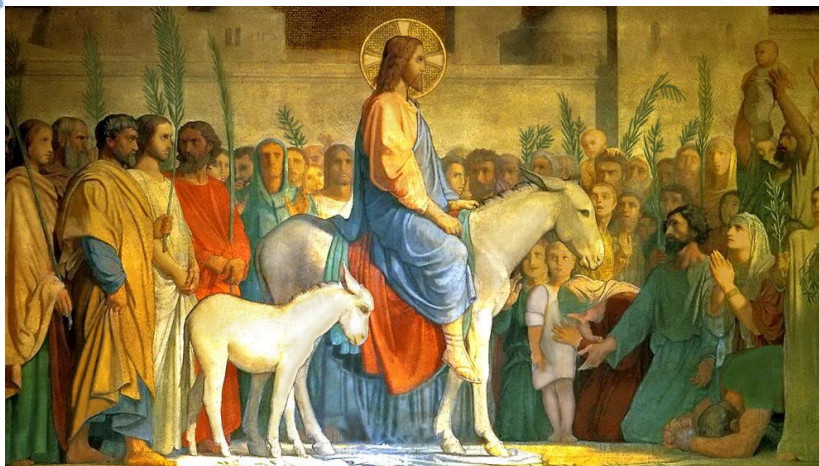


First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Jesus Riding into Jerusalem by Jean-Hippolyte Flandrin

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 9, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Palm 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

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

***Processional Hymn 88** All Glory, Laud, and Honor
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

***Call to Worship** Psalm 118:26; Zechariah 9:9

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”

The text of All Glory, Laud, and Honor is from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. The tune is a 17th-century German chorale adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

*Those who are able may stand.

The first anthem, sung by the Cherub Choir and St. Andrews Choir, is based on Psalm 24:7.

11:00 a.m. Anthem Come to Us, Lord Jesus Hal H. Hopson
Lift up your heads, all the gates lift high. Christ the Lord will soon be here.
Joy will fill the city, the place where Jesus comes.
Lord Jesus, come, quickly come, come within our hearts.
Come to us, Lord Jesus, we claim the prophet's word.
Lord Jesus, come, quickly come, come within our hearts.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, we confess that we are spectators of faith. As Jesus Christ rides through our world, even though we have not called for his death, neither have we shouted of his greatness, nor expressed delight in the salvation he has won for us. Help us to see your glory in his humility, so that we will be joined to the fullness of life as faithful and joyful disciples of our Lord and Savior.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response** Hymn 89, Stanza 3
**“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.**

***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.

Minute for Mission One Great Hour of Sharing
8:45 a.m. Denise Horton
11:00 a.m. Kitty Donnan

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

After the Passing of the Peace, children, ages Pre-K through grade 2, are invited to Children’s Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, page 554
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem The Simplest and the Best Alfred V. Fedak
Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang,
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang:
to Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.
From Olivet they followed ‘mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.
“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing.
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

Second Lesson Matthew 21:1-11, page 900
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Passion on Parade Dr. Bruce Lancaster

The Simplest and the Best, sung by the St. Andrews Choir and Chancel Choir, is a setting of the text of Hymn 89. The opening two stanzas narrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. In this anthem, the text is set to the tune MUNICH.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 76**

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

***Affirmation of Faith**

Philippians 2:5-11

**Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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

My Song Is Love Unknown

Michael Burkhardt

***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 91**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

ST. DROSTANE

***Benediction**

The writer of Hymn 76 was one of a small group of 17th century writers whose sacred poems have become part of our heritage. Written when only psalm singing was permissible, it moved to a more personal expression of emotions. Beginning with the Incarnation, it moves directly to the events of Holy Week. The Savior's love is defined by his life and death and the writer defines our response in continual praise.

The 19th-century text Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! is better understood as the reflection of someone standing outside the event rather than as coming from those participating in the actual procession. This poignant text is set to a tune written especially for it later in the same century.

***8:45 a.m. Congregational Response** Hymn 540, Stanza 4
**God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

***11:00 a.m. Choral Response** Christ, We Do All Adore Thee
Théodore Dubois
Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever,
for on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.

***Postlude** The Royal Banners Forward Go Wilbur Held

Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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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 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 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 be preaching.

EASTER EGG HUNT

April 15, 11:00 a.m.

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt at The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket, picnic basket with lunch, and blanket for your family.

EASTER

**April 16, Worship Services 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Brunch 9:30 a.m.**

Please join us next Sunday for the celebration of the risen Christ. Instead of Sunday School we will all gather as a church family for our annual Easter Brunch in Fellowship Hall.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m.

Beginning in April, Prayers for Healing will take place EVERY Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This informal, half-hour service is for any who wish to request or offer prayers for healing.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

April 21-23

There have been a few cancellations in this spring's retreat, so you have a second chance to join other women to make and renew friendships and reflect on biblical teachings. Register by Tuesday, April 11, at FirstPresAthens.org where you can find more information and the registration form at the link on the right side of the home page. The cost is \$145.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

8:45 a.m.

Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m.

Carol Strickland

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Sandy Boyles

11:00 a.m. Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head),
Randy Dudley, James Seagraves

11:00 a.m. Stephen Covington (head),
John Adams, Jack Drew, Joe Neighbors, Lois
Neighbors, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Terry Caven, June De Nadai,
Carroll Gaillard, Faye Marshall

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

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The best investment with the least risk and the
greatest dividend is giving. – Sir John Templeton

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Dick Ferguson, Susan Ferguson

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Harry Shuford

11:00 a.m. Don DeMaria, Madie Fishetti,
Mary Havick, Jerris Hayes

FLOWERS

The palms are placed in the sanctuary to the
glory of God and in celebration of Palm Sunday.

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 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 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.

Classes will not meet next Sunday.

Please join us for the Easter Brunch, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall.

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 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.

We need your help! To volunteer, please contact Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 9 - Palm Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:00 a.m. Lenten Prayer Stations open, The PIT
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 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, April 10

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, April 11

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, April 12

- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Seven, Bride's Room
- 11:45 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Taziki's Mediterranean Grill, 227 Prince Ave.
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, April 13 - Maundy Thursday

- 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Tuckston UMC, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Friday, April 14 - Good Friday

- 7:00 p.m. Community Good Friday Service, Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S. Lumpkin St.

Saturday, April 15 - Holy Saturday

- 11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane

Sunday, April 16 - Easter

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

Holy Week Services & Activities

Palm Sunday, April 9

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.

Lenten Prayer Stations open until 7:00 p.m.

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

Combined Presbyterian 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

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