

First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Photograph by Rick Simpson

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 16, 2017
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Easter

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

Choral Joseph Jongen
At Easter-tide Charles Villiers Stanford

Awake, O Wintry Earth Johann Sebastian Bach

Awake, O wintry earth, fling off your frozen sadness.
With sweetness, flowers bring mirth; bright springtime's ancient gladness.
Once more we sing the tale; through darkness, sunlight spread
to warm the winter's pale; and tell that death is dead.
Descended to the grave, three days the Son lay sleeping.
Yet Christ returned to save our hearts from woe and weeping.
O earth, break forth and sing, renew your bright array
to celebrate this spring and mark the Savior's way.

Awake, O Wintry Earth is set to music from Bach's Cantata 129. This version of the English text is by Beverly Easterling, based on a poem by Thomas Blackburn.

*Those who are able may stand.

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

*Call to Worship

We gather this day to celebrate the good news of God's love!
We joyfully accept God's call to be Easter people!
Darkness cannot claim us! Fear cannot bind us!
Faith marks the road we travel! Love lights the way!
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed!

*Hymn 123

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, you see deep within our hearts. You see the selfishness, the anger and the bitterness, the hurt pride, the arrogance, and envy – all the ways that we say “no” to your love. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Roll away the stone of our sin and resurrect us to the way of faith, hope, and love that lives your truth in Jesus Christ.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Hymn 104, Stanza 1

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

*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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

Worthy Is the Lamb That Was Slain

George Frideric Handel

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
and hath redeemed us to God by his blood,
to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength,
and honor, and glory, and blessing.
Blessing and honor, glory, and power, be unto him
that sitteth upon the throne,
and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

It seems likely that the beloved Easter text Jesus Christ Is Risen Today began in Latin and moved through German before reaching English, where it combined with the present tune in the emerging English evangelical style, a reaction to the restrained one-note-per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.

Worshipers 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 at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K through grade 2, are invited to **Children's Church held in The PIT.**

Worthy Is the Lamb That Was Slain is the final chorus of Handel's Messiah. The text is from Revelation 5:12-13.

First Lesson Colossians 1:9-14, page 1074
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson John 20:1-18, page 990
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Easter Eyes Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 108** Christ Is Alive! TRURO

***Affirmation of Faith** from A Declaration of Faith (PCUS 1977)

**Jesus is our living Lord.
Jesus was dead and buried,
but God raised him from the dead.
The risen Lord appeared to his followers.
They recognized him as their Master
who had been crucified.
Before Jesus left them,
he commissioned them to proclaim to all people
the good news of his victory over death,
and promised to be with them always.
We are certain that Jesus lives.
He lives as God with us,
touching all of human life with the presence of God.
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty
now belongs to Jesus Christ
in every sphere of life.
Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.**

The 117th General Assembly of the PCUS adopted this contemporary statement of faith as a reliable aid for study, liturgy, and inspiration.

Anthem Easter Anthem William Billings

The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah!
Now is Christ risen from the dead,
and become the first fruits of them that slept. Hallelujah!
And did he rise? Hear it, ye nations! Hear it, O ye dead!
He rose, he burst the bars of death and triumphed o'er the grave.
Then I rose, then first humanity triumphant passed the crystal ports of light,
and seized eternal youth. Man all immortal hail.
Heaven all lavish of strange gifts to man,
thine's all the glory, man's the boundless bliss.

Easter Anthem was originally published in 1787 and is probably Billings' most well-known and popular anthem. The text is a mixture of Biblical lines together with lines from Edward Young's poem "The Complaint, or Night of Thoughts on Life, Death, and Immortality." Billings was a self-taught American choral composer, and is regarded by some as the father of American choral music.

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.**

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received this morning. Contribution envelopes are in the pew pads. Funds raised through OGHs support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self Development of People ministry.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Allemande Jean Baptiste Loeillet

The roots of the English text The Day of Resurrection! come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in north-western England where the composer was then an organist.

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

***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 118** The Day of Resurrection! LANCASHIRE

***Benediction**

***Response** Hallelujah from Messiah George Frideric Handel
The congregation is asked to join the choir in singing.

***Postlude** Tocatta from Symphony V Charles Marie Widor

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 Fellowship Hall and down the stairs (or elevator) to the basement level.

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.

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.

EASTER BRUNCH

9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

There is no Sunday School this morning. Everyone is invited to gather for our annual Easter Brunch in Fellowship Hall.

EASTER LILIES

Please feel free to take a lily home with you after the 11:00 a.m. service.

YOUTH SUNDAY

April 30, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Our youth are hard at work preparing for Youth Sunday. We look forward to supporting them as they lead us in worship at both services.

WEEKDAY SCHOOL

50th Anniversary Celebration

May 7, 11:00 a.m.

Please join us during worship, followed by a reception and school open house. We will have current and former teachers with us and special activities for the memorable occasion.

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP, Atlanta, June 9-11

High school youth and adults will spend the weekend with DOOR serving the homeless community. For more information contact Kim Ness at kness@firstpresathens.org. No experience necessary, just an open mind and a giving heart.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Lane Holloway, Katherine Queen

Readers:

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins

11:00 a.m. Tom Landrum

Instrumentalists:

Brandon Craswell - Trumpet

Mark DeGoti - Trumpet

Jean Martin-Williams - Horn

Eric Dluzniewski - Euphonium

Nick Beltchev - Tuba

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head),
Barbie Hillman, Bryan Hillman, Mary Peace,
James Seagraves

11:00 a.m. Stephen Covington (head),
Matt Bishop, Greg Daniels, Terry McRae,
Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Christine Register,
Michelle Register, Robert Simmons

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles,
Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke

11:00 a.m. Margaret Johansen, Susan Landrum,
Ally Simmons, Arlene Shirley

ELDERS AT THE DOOR

8:45 a.m. Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. David Cole, Mark Harrison,
Diane Hudgins, Mike Morris

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

A tree is known by its fruit; people by their
deeds. – St. Basil the Great

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to
the glory of God and in memory of Mr. F.H.
Mendenhall, given by the Mendenhall family.

A rosebud is placed on the Communion Table
in honor of the birth of Robert Hale Davis on
April 6, 2017. Robert Hale is the son of Ben
and Margaret Davis.

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 on the prayer
cards in the pew pads, by phone to the church
office, 706-543-4338, or through the Prayer
Request link on our website, firstpresathens.org.

Lenten Prayer Stations

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? Today is the final day to spend time in The PIT exploring prayer stations inspired by the spiritual practices of our brothers and sisters from around the world.

Primetime Presbyterians Antique Car Tour

Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for our April gathering. Athens businessperson and car collector George Bugg will show us his antique cars and trucks which he has been assembling for over twenty years. At over 87 cars, his collection is one of the largest in the country and includes a 1963 Studebaker Hawk, a 1932 Hudson (which is one of only five known to exist), a 1912 Model T, and a 1934 Ford sedan with suicide doors- the same model that the Bonnie and Clyde gang used to rob banks.

We will meet at his warehouse at 131 Newton Bridge Industrial Way where his array of cars is stored. After the tour we will enjoy brunch at the Heirloom Cafe on Chase Street. Please RSVP to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706 549-2888 by April 25th.

**Easter Lilies are placed in the sanctuary
to the glory of God and in honor of:**

Bill Camp
Kitty Camp
Kate, Aiden, and John Coble
Phyllis Crowell
Ann B. Downs
Carolyn Hally
Dorothy Handley

Ian Hardin
Elaine Johnson
The Honorable James McDonald
Kathryn & Carl Nichols
Carol Robinson
Bill & Catherine Thomas
Carl Wilson

**Easter Lilies are placed in the sanctuary
to the glory of God and in memory of:**

Franklin Arnold
Joe & Ruth Barnish
Frank & Ada Barton
Harold & Jerry Berg
Conrad D. Bergmann
Mike Blanton
Paulo Bueno
Ronald Buikema
Clara Childers
Clyde Childers
Robert Thomas Cobb
Russell Coble, Jr.
Professor Pauline P. Collins
Barbara Bergmann Coulter
Julius Phillip Covington
Linnea Crouch
B.E. Downs III
Olga & Walter A. Drew
Reanne Drooger
Bolling & Mary Neil DuBose
Marie Fahling-Crawford
Sanders Hale
Judy Hand
J. Kimball Harriman
Wilda H. Hosch
Ethnye & Roy Johnson
Andrew Anson Jones
H.B Judkins, Jr.
Rev. J. Renwick Kennedy, Jr.
Rev. Mrs. Dorothy M. Kipp
Jack & Judy Koetzle
Dr. Wm. A. Kretzschmar
Jim Lindsey
Loved Ones
Francis B. Lyman, Jr.
Bob Marion
Sue Marion
CPL Evan Andrew Marshall
Thomas Allan Marshall

Dr. Elizabeth Hulsey Marshall
Richard A. Mattocks
Mr. & Mrs. William McDonough
Amos & Dorothy Mehl
Mary Gilbert Mell
Earl Middendorf
Kate Middendorf
Wayne F. Middendorf
Mr. & Mrs. James Mirisola
James T. O'Brien
Merritt & Be Oelke
Grace R. Poe
John Wesley Reed
Michael Warren Reed
Margaret Evran Rivers
Bee Rowland
Grace Hancock Rowland
Jane Scott
Merideth Sheskey
Rachel Short
Walt & Elizabeth Simmons
Dr. Edir Barros Siqueira
Professor & Mrs. Elvindo D. Siqueira
Gerald & Linda Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G Stephens, Jr.
John Henry Terrell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Tillman
Maria Umana
Fred & Helen Wallace
Charles & Evelyn Ward
Mr. & Mrs. John Wiarda
Prof. Howard J. Wiarda
Carolyn Smith Wilfong
William Sidney Wilfong
Mr. & Mrs. John Williams
George & Nadine Wilson
Nancy Conley Wilson
Jim Wines

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 16 - Easter

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
9:00 a.m. Lenten Prayer Stations open, The PIT
9:30 a.m. Easter Brunch, Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 17 - Church Office Closed for Easter Holiday

9:00 a.m. Weekday School Closed

Tuesday, April 18

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
5:00 p.m. History Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, April 19

12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Atrium
12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302

Thursday, April 20

2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Avery Place, 124 Avery St., Winterville
6:30 p.m. Men's Fellowship, Groove Burger, 1791 Oconee Connector #510
6:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Classic City Church, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Friday, April 21

9:15 a.m. Coffee & Jesus, Parlor
4:15 p.m. Van departure for Women's Retreat

Sunday, April 23

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. John Kipp preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

April 24 - Stephen Ministry Primer, 5:00 p.m.

April 29 - Primetime Presbyterians Antique Car Tour, 10:00 a.m.

April 30 - Youth Sunday, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Children's Ministry Thank You Breakfast, 10:00 a.m.

May 7 - Stephen Ministry Primer, 9:45 a.m.

Weekday School 50th Anniversary Celebration, 11:00 a.m.

May 14 - Mother's Day

High School Graduate Recognition, 11:00 a.m.

May 21 - Scottish Reformation Sunday

May 28 - Summer Schedule begins: 10:00 a.m. Worship, no Sunday School

May 30-June 2 - Vacation Bible School and Middle School Mission Trip

June 8-10 - Core Godly Play Training

June 9-11 - DOOR Weekend Mission Trip

June 25-July 1 - Montreat Worship & Music Conference

July 23-29 - Montreat Youth Conference

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