



First Presbyterian Church of Athens

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!

May 28, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of 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 the service. 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.

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Prelude on THAXTED

William H. Bates

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Shepherd's Men

Patti Reed

Song of Gathering

Hymn 220, Stanza 1

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forthtell,
come ye before him and rejoice.**

Call to Worship

Isaiah 12:2-3

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

For the Lord God is my salvation and my might.

With joy we give thanks and call on the name of the Lord.

**Let us sing praises and proclaim the deeds of the Lord
among the nations!**

The familiar 18th century text *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* grew out of Isaac Watt's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

*Hymn 101

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Alpha and Omega, God of all creation, we confess we are tempted to believe that we know all that there is to know: about you, about the world, about our neighbors and ourselves. Break down the barricades that surround our sanctuary of self-righteousness. Open us, we pray, to the new thing you do each day through the living Christ, so that we may live as your new creation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Celtic Alleluia. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with the same lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'.

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

After the Commissioning of VBS Volunteers, children, ages Pre-K - grade 2, are invited to Children's Church held in the Godly Play Rooms.

***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.

Commissioning of Vacation Bible School Volunteers

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 396, Stanza 1

**O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!**

First Lesson

Romans 5:6-11, page 1029

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

Anthem

I Vow to Thee, My Country

Gustav Holst
arr. James Kirkby

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.
And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.

Second Lesson 2 Samuel 23:13-17, page 296

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

Sermon

Where Are Our Heroes?

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 85**

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDEROUS LOVE

***Affirmation of Faith**

from The Belhar Confession

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells, that God's life giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

Commissioning of Middle School Mission Week Participants

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

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

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

What Wondrous Love Is This

Charles Callahan

In 1921, Gustav Holst adapted music from a section of Jupiter from his suite The Planets to create a setting for this poem by Sir Cecil Spring Rice. Rice was Ambassador to the United States and encouraged Woodrow Wilson to join Britain in the war against Germany. The first stanza refers to those who sacrificed their lives for their country. The last stanza is a reference to heaven. The final line is based on Proverbs 3:17, which reads "her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

Hymn 562 was written for a student sailing to America. The tune especially composed for it preserves the ancient Roman name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked, now called Malta.

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

***Doxology**

**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.**

Hymn 592

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 562**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

MELITA

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

Hymn 535

***Postlude**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Wayne L. Wold

Nurseries for infants and toddlers, available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.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 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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

Carol Strickland

Lay Reader:

Ron Cox

USHERS

Bruce Miller (head), Richard Lane,
Jim McDonald, Robyn McDonald,
Carmen Meadows

GREETERS

Carroll Gaillard, Nonie Hale, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Phyllis Crowell and Lois Neighbors

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and to honor the men and women who have served our Armed Forces and in memory of James W. Dudley, Sr. and Jr., Major Bruce Coleman, and Colonel John Duane.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 28

10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching

11:05 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, May 29 - Church Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, May 30 - Friday, June 2, Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, May 30 - Saturday, June 3, Middle School Mission Trip

10:00 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer

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

Wednesday, May 31

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary

3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302

4:30 p.m. Yoga, Room 310

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

Sunday, June 4 - Pentecost, Wear Red!, Pentecost Special Offering, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

June 4 - Usher & Greeter Refresher Training, 11:05 a.m.

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

August 13-20 - IHNA Host Week

Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Interim Senior Pastor

Dr. Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

Dr. John Coble, Director of Music and Organist

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Tuesday, May 30 - Friday, June 2

8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Church doors will open each morning at 8:45 a.m. and VBS Fun will begin at 9:00 a.m. Please plan to walk your child into the church at the **Weekday School Entrance** at the back of the church. Parent Pick-up/Car Line will begin at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday with a car line at the back parking lot beginning at the **Weekday School Entrance**. On Friday we will finish the VBS week all together, parents and children, in Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m. We are looking forward to a wonderful week together!

JUBILEE PARTNERS REMODELING PROJECT

Beginning May 30, 10:00 a.m

Your help is needed! First Presbyterian Church will be assisting in renovating one of the family houses at Jubilee Partners, a Christian service community in nearby Comer that offers hospitality to refugees.

We will work on Tuesdays, beginning May 30, as well as some Thursdays and Saturdays, throughout the summer. You can learn more at jubileepartners.org. For details please contact Richard Lane at rlane@uga.edu.

PENTECOST

June 4, 10:00 a.m.

Please wear RED for our special Pentecost worship service.

PENTECOST OFFERING

The Pentecost Offering on June 4 is a denomination-wide effort with 60 percent of the funds supporting Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth, and Children-At-Risk. Forty percent stays here to help children within our community. Since 2015, we have directed this portion to Barrow Elementary School for scholarships for their after-school program.

CAN I GET A DOORKEEPER IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD?

**Usher & Greeter Refresher Training
June 4, 11:05 a.m**

Interested in serving as an Usher and/or Greeter on Sunday Morning? Have you been serving in this ministry of hospitality? Ushers and Greeters are often the first impression someone has of First Presbyterian Church: welcoming the congregation, orienting visitors to the church facility and the specifics of the worship service, and responding to any unexpected needs that arise during the service.

Dr. Bruce Lancaster will be leading a refresher training on Sunday, June 4, 11:05 a.m. in the Sanctuary so that FPC continues to provide a warm smile and welcome to all who worship with us. All current ushers and greeters, and anyone interested in serving, are encouraged to attend.

YOGA CLASS

Wednesdays, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join a summer yoga class led by Michelle Arrington. It will meet until the Wed@First class starts back up in the fall. There will be no class June 7 or July 12. Classes are \$10 per session and meet in room 310. There is no charge if you miss a class. For questions please contact Bob Bostrom at bostrom@uga.edu.

SUMMER CHOIR

Beginning June 11, 9:15 a.m.

All interested singers are invited to join us during June and July. We will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the choir room to rehearse music for that Sunday's service. You may join us for any single Sunday or as many as you wish. There is no obligation, but we do hope some will decide they like singing in the choir enough to continue in the fall. Although this choir is made up mostly of adults, youth and children are also welcome.