



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!

June 25, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

Greeting

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

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Prelude

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Wilbur Held

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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.**

The author of the Song of Gathering, having been exiled from Scotland during a religious persecution, was influenced by psalm paraphrases sung in Geneva. He had in mind the famous "doxology" tune. The text is the oldest English metrical psalm in use today.

Call to Worship

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
**The earth was a formless void
and darkness covered the face of the earth.**

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light,
and God saw that the light was good.

Indeed, God said all creation was good!

Let us give praise to the God who makes all things new!

* Those who are able may stand.

To illustrate the text, “And on his head were many crowns” (Revelation 19:12), two different authors wrote different texts, each with six stanzas. Most hymnals make a selection from both texts. The tune name suggests “diadems” or “crowns.”

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, rising ages Pre-K - grade 2, are invited to Children’s Church.

*Hymn 151

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace, serving in love and humility with wisdom and energy. Forgive us when we stumble over pride, when we are not guided by love. Turn our hearts when we act in folly and restore our energy when it is gone. Sometimes, many times, O God, our efforts fail; but your abundant grace is strong and eternal, and forgiveness is ours through Jesus Christ.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Hymn 579

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. Amen.

*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

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 321, Stanza 1

**Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

First Lesson

Psalm 138, page 565

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

Anthem

With A Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, alleluia.

○ be joyful in God, all ye lands,

○ sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

Second Lesson Acts 1:9-14, page 993
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Trilogy of Prayer: (3) The Adventure of Living Prayer
Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 339** Be Thou My Vision SLANE

***Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost;

In a time when the "now" seems to be most important, it is helpful to sing hymns which remind us that throughout the ages, the church has produced good ideas which are still valid and useful today. Written around the 8th century, the text Be Thou My Vision has become popular since 1927 when it was wedded to the memorable Irish tune SLANE.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p.16
... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

Blessing of Montreat Worship & Music Conferees

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Be Thou My Vision Paul Manz

***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 145** Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! MARION

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 535

**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.**

***Postlude** The people respond – Amen! Dan Locklair

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

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.

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. During the summer, Children's Church will be held in the Moses Waddel Room on the 3rd floor where we will continue to use our VBS curriculum, Passport to Peru.

FOOD SUNDAY

July 2

Next Sunday we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting we fill the breakfast table with:

- **breakfast cereal**
- **hot breakfast cereal**

Thank you for donating 279 items in June.

IHNA HOST WEEK

August 13-20

Our next Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens host week will be here soon. **Sign-up will begin in the Atrium next Sunday, July 2.** You may also check the online calendar or email Patty Whiten (pattywhiten@windstream.net) to volunteer. We are looking forward to this next opportunity to welcome our guests and provide them comfort and kindness.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 25

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 11:05 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 11:15 a.m. Called Session Meeting, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 12:00 p.m. Depart for Montreat Worship & Music Conference

Monday, June 26

- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, June 27

- 9:00 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Viva! Argentine Cuisine, 247 Prince Ave.

Wednesday, June 28

- 9:00 a.m. Wonderful Wednesday, Weekday School
- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Heirloom Cafe and Fresh Market, 815 N Chase St.
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga, Room 310

Thursday, June 29

- 9:00 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer

Sunday, July 2 - Food Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Mr. Isaac Toney preaching

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Melinda DeMaria

Lay Reader: Margaret Johansen

USHERS

Kitty Donnan (head), Judy Howell,
David Magrino, Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke,
Leslye Queen

GREETERS

Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,
Terry Nestor, Rosemary Stancil

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Terry Nestor

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the
glory of God.

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.

Recommendations for Ruling Elders

The Nominations and Elections Committee encourages your participation in the process for nominating Ruling Elders. Ruling Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian Gospel, both within the church and in the world at large.

Please return this form to the Nominations and Elections Committee by placing it in one of the boxes in the Narthex, Atrium or church office, or by placing it in the collection plate. You may also mail it to the church office or email the church office at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org by July 10.

Current Ruling Elders: (Not eligible for recommendation)

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

I prayerfully recommend the following for Ruling Elder:

Name _____	Reasons _____
Name _____	Reasons _____
Name _____	Reasons _____
Name _____	Reasons _____
Name _____	Reasons _____

Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee are David Cole (chair), Mary Burton, DeeAnn Cox, Patti Reed, Carol Robinson, and Jim Scanlon.