



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!

July 9, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Fourteenth 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

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 470, Stanza 1

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
this day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God triune.**

Call to Worship

from Psalm 5

We, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house.

We will bow down towards your holy temple in awe of you.

Lead us, O Lord, in your righteousness; make your way straight before us.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy.

Hymn 482 employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103: 1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

*Hymn 482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

* Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

***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.

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 Pre-K - grade 2, are invited to Children's Church.

The Prayer for Illumination is a reminder that the reason to gather for worship is to hear the Word of God. This text was designed to be sung before the sermon. Originally there were seven stanzas, but usually only three are sung, and sometimes only one.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

Hymn 454, Stanza 1

**Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your teachings true and holy,
drawn from earth to love you solely.**

First Lesson

Psalm 34:15-22, page 498

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

Anthem O for a Closer Walk with God arr. C.V. Stanford
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!
Return, O holy Dove, return! Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

The anthem is a setting of Hymn 396, a text by William Cowper. The tune was one of the new common tunes in the Scottish Psalter of 1635.

Second Lesson Galatians 6:2, page 1065
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Bear One Another's Burdens Dr. Carol Strickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 438** Blest Be the Tie the Binds DENNIS

***Affirmation of Faith** from A Declaration of Faith, PCUS 1977
God sends us to exercise compassion. In his concern for justice in the social order God has never forgotten the needs of individuals. In the end the Lord will judge all persons by the simple, unremembered acts of kindness they did or failed to do for the least of their sisters and brothers.

The Affirmation of Faith is an excerpt from a contemporary statement of faith which the church adopted as "a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration."

We acknowledge God is at work here and now when people show personal concern for each other and work to make helping agencies, including the church itself, more compassionate.

We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and comfort in compassion for our neighbors.

We are to give to them and receive from them, accepting everyone we meet as a person; to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind; to help and accept help in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility.

We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving, for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God.

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

Hymn 374 is credited to Francis of Assisi, paraphrased by Father James Quinn, a Jesuit priest. The tune was composed by Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. named for Dickinson College, from which he received one of his eleven honorary doctoral degrees in 1959

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

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Improvisation on DICKINSON COLLEGE John Coble

***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 374** Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace
DICKINSON COLLEGE

***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** Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty Paul Manz

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.

IHNA HOST WEEK, August 13-20

Our next Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens host week will be here soon. Please sign up in the Atrium today. 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, July 9

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
11:05 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, July 10

- 9:00 a.m. Ruling Elder Recommendations due to church office

Tuesday, July 11

- 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
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, July 12

- 9:00 a.m. Wonderful Wednesday, Weekday School
11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, South Kitchen, 247 E. Washington St.
12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302

Thursday, July 13

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

Sunday, July 16

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

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: John Kipp

Lay Reader: Julian Attaway

USHERS

Leslye Queen (head), Jay Holloway,
Jennings Holloway, Joy Holloway,
Lane Holloway, Katherine Queen

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Kathy Bangle

GREETERS

Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,
Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke

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.

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 9

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
11:05 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, July 10

- 9:00 a.m. Ruling Elder Recommendations due to church office

Tuesday, July 11

- 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
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, July 12

- 9:00 a.m. Wonderful Wednesday, Weekday School
11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, South Kitchen, 247 E. Washington St.
12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302

Thursday, July 13

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

Sunday, July 16

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

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: John Kipp

Lay Reader: Julian Attaway

USHERS

Leslye Queen (head), Jay Holloway,
Jennings Holloway, Joy Holloway,
Lane Holloway, Katherine Queen

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Kathy Bangle

GREETERS

Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,
Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke

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.