



# 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 16, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Fifteenth 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.

### Greeting

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

### Prelude

Praeludium in D

Dietrich Buxtehude

### 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

The Lord our God overflows with loving kindness.

**We come in worship and praise of God's holy name!**

The Lord our God is glorious beyond our imagination.

**Yet God provides for our care with tender mercies!**

The Lord our God is worthy of worship by every generation.

**We praise and bless God's holy name forever!**

\* Those who are able may stand.

The congregation is invited to speak or sing the liturgy in **bold** type.

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Hymn 477 resembles many 18th-century drawings that show parallels between worship on earth and in heaven, especially as described in Romans 7:9-11. The tune has had many names; the one here honors the dynasty of British monarchs, 1714-1901.

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.

**\*Hymn 477**      Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**God, you are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. We know we lack gratitude and compassion, we are quick to anger and limited in mercy. As we confess our sin, help us to believe your promise of goodness to all and to live by your love in Jesus Christ, our Lord and 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.

## 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**      Ephesians 4:11-16, page 1068

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

## **Anthem**

I Will Arise

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms,  
in the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.  
Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace,  
streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms,  
in the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

## **Second Lesson** Acts 1:15-26, page 993

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

## **Sermon**

Acts of the Little Known Disciples:

(1) Matthias – Replacing Judas Dr. Bruce Lancaster

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### **\*Hymn 435**

We All Are One in Mission

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

from A Declaration of Faith, PCUS 1977

**God sent his Son to proclaim release to those who are bound,  
to announce that God's promised kingdom is at hand,  
to urge everyone to repent and believe the good news.**

**The Lord is moving toward the time when the glorious liberty  
of the children of God will be manifest throughout the whole  
creation.**

**We testify God is at work here and now when people obey  
Christ's commission to witness to him and make disciples of  
all nations, when they spread the good news by their words  
and embody it in their lives.**

**We believe that God sends us to tell all nations that Christ calls  
everyone to repentance, faith, and obedience.**

**We are to proclaim by word and deed that Christ gave himself  
to set people free from sin and self-hatred, from ignorance and  
disease, from all forms of oppression, and even from death.**

The Lutheran pastor wrote the text of Hymn 435 in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require denial of diversity but are enriched by it.

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."

**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** I Will Arise Robert Powell

**\*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 442** The Church's One Foundation AURELIA

**\*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 Church's One Foundation Charles Ore

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.

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, July 16

- 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

### Monday, July 17

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Camp Week begins
- 6:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

### Tuesday, July 18

- 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

### Wednesday, July 19

- 9:00 a.m. Wonderful Wednesday, Weekday School
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga, Room 310
- 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

### Thursday, July 20

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

### Sunday, July 23

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**July 23-29** - Montreat Youth Conference

**July 30** - Presbyterian Women Bible Study Overview

**August 6** - Blessing of the Backpacks; Recognition of Ms. Wendi Finch, Nursery Coordinator

**August 8-12** Pictorial Directory

**August 13** - Fall Kickoff Brunch, Two Worship Services Resume

**August 13-20** - IHNA Host Week

**August 20** - The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents Music for Organ & Brass

Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Interim Senior Pastor

Dr. Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

Dr. John Coble, Director of Music and Organist

**PLEASE SEE [FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG](http://FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

**Liturgist:** Carol Strickland

**Lay Reader:** Ron Cox

### USHERS

Leslye Queen (head), Charlotte Chromiak, Cash Havick, Mary Havick, Steve Havick, Katherine Queen

**FELLOWSHIP HOST:** Kathy Bangle

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### GREETERS

Jayne Bailey, Carroll Gaillard, Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum

### FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of John and Carey Walden. Given by Jennifer and Campbell Abbott and Elizabeth Walden.

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### PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

**August 8-12**

We are producing a new Pictorial Directory. Everyone photographed will have the opportunity to purchase portraits and will receive a copy of the completed directory. Please sign up in the Atrium today. You may also sign up online or by contacting the church office. This will be a valuable tool for our new Senior Pastor, and we encourage everyone to participate.

### 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.

### IHNA TRAINING

**July 30, 1:30 p.m.**

To learn more about serving with IHNA you may attend a class at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1080 Julian Drive in Watkinsville. For questions contact Patty Whiten at pattywhiten@windstream.net.

### SUMMER CHOIR

All singers are invited to join us through 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.

### PW BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

**July 30, 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Join Dr. Carol Strickland in the Fellowship Hall Break Out Area as she gives a sneak preview of the 2017-18 Presbyterian Women circle curriculum (A Cloud of Witnesses) on the Book of Hebrews. Everyone is welcome.

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & HONORING MS. WENDI FINCH

**August 6, 10:00 a.m.**

The 2017-2018 school year is right around the corner. We invite all of our children to bring their backpacks to be blessed in worship.

Also, Ms. Wendi Finch is retiring after almost ten years as our Nursery Coordinator. We will recognize her in worship with a special reception to follow the service in Fellowship Hall.