



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 30, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Seventeenth 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.

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Prelude on SLANE

Craig Phillips

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

I was glad when they said unto me,
"Let us go into the house of the Lord!"

**We are standing in God's presence,
alert and ready to receive God's word.**

The Lord is our light and our salvation,
of whom shall we be afraid?

**We seek to live as people of the light.
Come, Lord Jesus!**

* Those who are able may stand.

Hymn 420, used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930, was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, Harry Emerson Fosdick. It has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

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

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 420** God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, you call us to the dawning of a new day. Forgive us as we shake the sleep from our eyes, oblivious to our surroundings and ill-prepared to answer your call. We confess that our drowsy discipleship turns our discussions into battles and our differences into discord. Reawaken a right spirit within us so that everything we do reflects Christ's light.

***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 Philippians 3:10-16, page 1072

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

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Alice Parker

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with the one.
Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.
High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall.
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The anthem is an arrangement of a well-known Irish hymn. The text was written around the 8th century and has been popular since 1927 when it was wedded to the Irish tune SLANE.

Second Lesson Acts 21:7-16, page 1016

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

Sermon

Acts of the Little Known Disciples:

(3) Mnason – Living Faith

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 421

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Declaration of Faith, PCUS 1977

The Spirit enables people to become believers. The Spirit enabled people of all races, classes, and nations to accept the good news of what God had done in Christ, repent of their sins, and enter the community of faith.

We testify that today this same Holy Spirit makes us able to respond in faith to the gospel and leads us into the Christian community. The Spirit brings us out of death into life, out of separation into fellowship. The Spirit makes us aware of our sinfulness and need, moves us to abandon our old way of life, persuades us to trust in Christ and adopt his way.

In all these things we are responsible for our decisions.

(over)

Hymn 421 is a challenging text by a British Methodist minister. The odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of “the servant church,” while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

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.”

But after we have trusted and repented we recognize that the Spirit enables us to hear and act. It is not our faith but God's grace in Jesus Christ that justifies us and reconciles us to God. Yet it is only by faith that we accept God's grace and live by it.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p.16

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Hallowed be thy name

Dan Locklair

***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 371**

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

***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**

Lift High the Cross

Charles Ore

Lift High the Cross celebrates the paradox that for Christians, a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

Following worship, all are invited for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Atrium in honor of the Presbyterian Women.

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 30

- 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. Presbyterian Women Bible Study Overview, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Monday, July 31

- 4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Nominations & Elections Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, August 1

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

Wednesday, August 2

- 9:00 a.m. Wonderful Wednesday, Weekday School
- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St.
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga, Room 310
- 5:30 p.m. IHNA Volunteer Planning Meeting, The PIT

Thursday, August 3

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer

Sunday, August 6 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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
Confirmation Class Information Meeting

August 13-20 - IHNA Host Week

August 20 - Sunday School Resumes, Stephen Leader Commissioning
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

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Carol Strickland

Lay Reader: Lisa Oelke

USHERS

Leslye Queen (head), Jim Dove, Mary Havick, Steve Havick, Chris Pope, Jody Pope

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Carol Bachman, Cheryl Gazlay

GREETERS

Terry Caven, June De Nadai, Faye Marshall, Keith Oelke

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Jane Scott, given by the George Scott family.

PW BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

Today, 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.

IHNA TRAINING, Today, 1:30 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1080 Julian Drive in Watkinsville, will host IHNA training today. Other upcoming training sessions at Union Christian Church, Watkinsville: August 8, August 13, August 15, and August 28.

FOOD SUNDAY, August 6

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

- pork & beans
- dry beans
- diced tomatoes

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class for all 9th graders begins August 20 during Sunday School. An **informational meeting** for parents and youth will be held **Sunday, August 13, 5:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall.

HANDBELL CHOIR OPENINGS

The handbell choir has positions open for two ringers. If you love music and are interested in ringing bells, please contact John Coble at jcoble@firstpresathens.org.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & HONORING MS. WENDI FINCH

August 6, 10:00 a.m.

We invite all of our children to bring their backpacks to be blessed in worship.

Also, Ms. Wendi Finch is retiring as our Nursery Coordinator. We will recognize her in worship, with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.

FALL KICKOFF BRUNCH

August 13, 9:45 a.m.

Join us for brunch in Fellowship Hall as we resume two worship services and look forward to the beginning of our fall activities. There will also be an **IHNA Open House** in The PIT from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Come see how we welcome our guests.

MUSIC FOR ORGAN AND BRASS

August 20, 4:00 p.m.

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series will present Music for Organ and Brass in our sanctuary. John Coble will be joined by The Georgia Brass Quintet and The Bulldog Brass Quintet in a festive concert that will include music by Eugene Gigout, Jean Baptiste Loeillet, and Sigfrid Karg-Elert.

INTERNATIONAL CRAFT FAIR

November 3 & 5

Please share your talents by contributing items to be sold such as knitting, pottery, or even services. The money raised supports our church's missions. Questions? Contact Mary Burton, 706-543-9619