



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!

August 6, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Eighteenth 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 both services. 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

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

James Biery

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

O QUANTA QUALIA

**Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!
You are the rock of your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.**

Call to Worship

God is great and greatly to be praised!

We praise the awesome name of God!

Our God is mighty and deserving of our obedience!

Holy is our God! Let our worship honor God's name!

*Hymn 488

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, our Ruler and our Deliverer: You have loved us and put faith in us, and we have disappointed you. We have forgotten your good works on our behalf and failed to trust your promises. Our world shows little of the justice and righteousness you love. O Lord, be gracious and show mercy to us. Lead us and sustain us by your presence so that we may daily reflect your living word.

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, The God of Abraham Praise conveys the essence of the Yigdal, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith often used in synagogue worship.

*Those who are able may stand.

***Silent Prayer**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



***Assurance of Pardon**

***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.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Recognition of Ms. Wendi Finch, Nursery Coordinator

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

○ WALY WALY

**Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
eternal power, be my support; eternal wisdom make me wise.**

First Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5, page 1040

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

Second Lesson Exodus 3:1-12, page 49

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

Sermon

Why Do We Pass the Buck? Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 426**

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBURY

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

***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**

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

After the Recognition of Ms. Wendi, children ages Pre-K - grade 1 are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Minstry Suite.

Two great truths inform the text of Hymn 426: first, that the testimony of experience is powerful and persuasive; and second, that no one should venture to minister on one's own strength rather than God's. The tune reflects a 19th-century practice of adapting piano pieces as hymn tunes.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

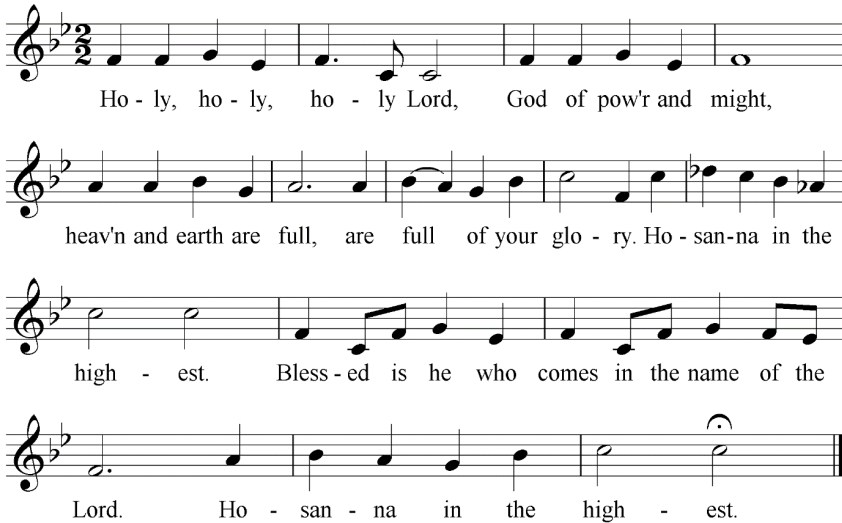
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical setting of the communion liturgy is by American composer Hal H. Hopson.

"...Great is the mystery of faith:"



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."



A - men, A - men, A - men.

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten-free bread

Please partake as you are served.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 101** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross HAMBURG

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you;

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

***Postlude** Improvisation on LEONI John Coble

Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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Following the service, all are invited to a reception in Fellowship Hall in honor of Ms. Wendi Finch, who is retiring after almost ten years as our Nursery Coordinator.

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. This morning Children's Church is being held in the Children's Ministry Suite.

PW BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

Rescheduled to Today

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Join Dr. Carol Strickland in the **Moses Waddel Room** 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.

CAN YOU HELP?

Our upcoming pictorial directory will be a valuable tool for our new Senior Pastor. The photo sessions are August 8-12, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. During the sessions we need volunteers to greet our members in the Atrium in 2-hour shifts as they arrive for their appointments. Please contact Jennifer at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org to volunteer. Thank you!

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. Rehearsals are Mondays, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and begin August 14.

BOOKS FOR KEEPS SALE

August 3-6, 12-13

The books collected at our drive in the spring, along with thousands of others, are on sale! Homewood Village, 2405 Jefferson Road (former Vision Video). Details at booksforkeeps.org.

IHNA TRAINING

Anyone interested in volunteering with Inter-faith Hospitality Network of Athens is encouraged to attend a training session. Upcoming sessions are available at Union Christian Church, Watkinsville: August 8, 13, 15, and 28.

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. For questions contact Mary Burton at 706-543-9619.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

Carol Strickland

Lay Reader:

Bill Woolbright

USHERS

Tommy Jackson (head), Michael Earl,
Dan Horton, Denise Horton, Sydney Jackson,
Terry McRae

GREETERS

Melinda DeMaria, June De Nadai,
Keith Oelke, Mary Peace

FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Geneva Therese Stonecipher and Christopher William Overbaugh, who were married in our sanctuary on Saturday, August 5.

RECEPTION HOSTS

Robbie Bryan, Sarah Bryan

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, the Atrium is equipped with video and sound for your worship needs.

Available in the narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted by phone to the church office, (706)543-4338, through the Prayer Request link on our church website (www.firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the pew pads.

Fall Kickoff Brunch

August 13, 9:45 a.m.

Join us next Sunday in Fellowship Hall as we resume two worship services and look forward to the beginning of our fall activities. Information about adult Sunday School classes will be available.

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.

Bearing Fruit: Ways to Serve Forms

You may have already received your 2017-2018 Ways to Serve form in the mail. If not, look for it to arrive soon. There are also extra forms available in the Narthex and Atrium. There are instructions and a video on the church website (FirstPresAthens.org) telling how to fill out the form online. You may also bring it to church with you on August 13 for the Fall Kickoff Brunch, where volunteers will assist you with entering your form online.

We hope you will choose many ways to be involved in the life of the church.

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series
presents

Music for Organ and Brass

**John Coble, Organist with
The Georgia Brass Quintet and
The Bulldog Brass Quintet**

Sunday, August 20, 4:00 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
Sanctuary**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Resumes August 20, 9:45 a.m.

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants - 5th Grade

Infants • Nursery Baby Room

Room Lead: Rita Raines

Toddlers - Preschoolers • Nursery Playroom

Room Lead: Mary Smith

Our toddler and preschooler curriculum is Group Publishing's Play-n-Worship. It is filled with music, activities, and storyboards that encourage little ones to interact with Bible stories.

Pre-Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Our elementary aged children will experience Godly Play during Sunday School. Godly Play encourages children to explore their faith through story, helps them gain religious language, and grows their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

***Parents and Children, please join us on August 20 at 9:45 a.m. in the Children's Ministry Suite.** Once children have met their new Godly Play Guides and are engaged in fun activities with their Sunday School friends, parents are invited to join Ms. Natalie to take a tour of the Godly Play Rooms. We will also share more about our Sunday morning routine and schedule, the many ways children can serve in worship and be a part of the outreach mission of the church, as well as upcoming events for children and families.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Christian Issues • Room 310

Study of the book, Half Truths by Adam Hamilton.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Connections • Room 303

Discussion of various topics using "The Thoughtful Christian" curriculum led by rotating team of teachers.

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living.

- August 20 - DVD, The Other Side of History
- August 27 - Aging Gracefully – what to do for yourself & your parents Trippe Ross, ACCA.

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

New Voices • Room 308

Study of the book, Short Stories by Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Christine Register

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

Study of John with other books of the New Testament to follow.

Led by: Richard Stone

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Study of Matthew with an introduction and then continuing with chapter 8.

Teacher: John Kipp

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Study of Micah, one of the minor prophets, followed by a study of Hebrews.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH - The PIT

MIDDLE SCHOOL – re:form

Lounging on bean bags, our MS class will use the re:form curriculum - creative, funny animated videos and group activities - to engage in tough faith questions.

Teachers: Jordan Osborne, Erik Ness

9th GRADE CONFIRMATION – CnC (Confirm not Conform)

This year we are using a confirmation program that celebrates questions and choices. Together, we will create a space where youth can explore the breadth of the Christian tradition, ask questions, express doubts, and discover what they truly believe. This is a year-long class with Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

Teacher: Kim Ness

HIGH SCHOOL – d365

The demands of high school can feel overwhelming, but finding just a few minutes each day to connect to God can help lighten the load. D365.org is an app that sends daily devotions to your phone encouraging you to pause-listen-think-pray-go on a different verse from scripture. On Sundays, we'll look back to see how they impacted our week, and dig a little deeper into the scripture.

Teacher: Megan Bawcum

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 6 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 11:05 a.m. Reception honoring Ms. Wendi Finch, Fellowship
- 11:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Bible Study Overview, Moses Waddel Room
- 11:45 a.m. Godly Play Guides Meeting, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Monday, August 7

- 5:00 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, August 8

- 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
- 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Wednesday, August 9

- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, The White Tiger, 217 Hiawasse Ave.
- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Thursday, August 10

- 8:30 a.m. Jubilee Partners Remodeling Project, 427 Jubilee Rd., Comer
- 3:30 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Pastor's Conference Room
- 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Friday, August 11

- 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Saturday, August 12

- 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Pictorial Directory Photos, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area

Sunday, August 13

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

- August 13** - Two Worship Services Resume, Fall Kickoff Brunch
IHNA Open House
Confirmation Class Information Meeting

August 13-20 - IHNA Host Week

August 15 - FPC hosts Presbytery Meeting

August 20 - Sunday School Resumes

Stephen Leader Commissioning

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents Music for Organ & Brass

Youth Kickoff at The Hill

August 26-27 - Confirmation Retreat

August 27 - SAM Sunday

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Bruce Lancaster, Moderator Jerris Hayes, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Interim Senior Pastor
Dr. Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor
Dr. John Kipp, Parish Associate
The Reverend Bob Googe, Parish Associate
Dr. John Coble, Director of Music and Organist
Mrs. Kim Ness, Director of Youth Ministries
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, Director of Children's Ministries
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, Director of Weekday School
Mr. Roger Burbage, Church Administrator
Ms. Lucy Bell, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Nan Powell, Communications Specialist
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Laura McHugh, Accountant
Mrs. Tiffany Greene, Weekday School Administrative Assistant
Mr. Chuck Hunt, Sunday Morning Manager
Mr. Willie "Buc" Collins, Sexton
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, Parish Nurse

STUDENT INTERNS

Ms. Jordan Osborne, Youth Ministry Intern
Ms. Yamini Pulusu, Website Technician

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.