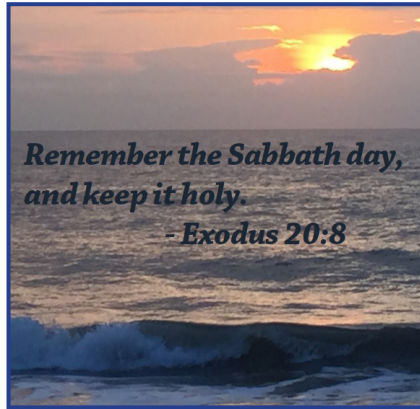


First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Photograph by Bruce Lancaster

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!

March 18, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Lent

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.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Little Prelude and Fugue in C

Johann Sebastian Bach

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

TALLIS' CANON

**The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

Call to Worship

A fruit of the Spirit is generosity.

We come with our songs of praise, prayers of hope, and words of faith.

We come with our lives open to receive God's grace and mercy.

Together, let us worship the Lord of love!

*Those who are able may stand.

Hymn 487 is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different times of the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

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 at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - grade 2, are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite.

***Hymn 487** When Morning Gilds the Skies LAUDES DOMINI

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of Grace, we confess that the church, which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and one calling, has become a broken community in a broken world. In our fear, we have deserted not only our Lord, but also one another. In our pride, we have fought one another for places of power and prestige. Forgive our sin as we commit ourselves anew to seeking and showing the unity of the body of Christ.

***Silent Prayer**

***Congregational Response**

Healey Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

***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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Psalm 34:1-10, page 497

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem Prayer of St. Patrick Mark Schweizer

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Second Lesson Philippians 4:4-9, page 1073

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

Sermon Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Feast

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 155** Rejoice, the Lord Is King DARWALL'S 148TH

***Affirmation of Faith** from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Johann Sebastian Bach

***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 540, Stanza 1

**God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude Improvisation on ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

John Coble

Each stanza of the enthronement text of Rejoice, the Lord is King prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4. "Lord" is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune captures the mood well.

In 1983, the PC(USA) was formed by the re-union of what were the Northern and Southern streams of the Presbyterian denominations in the USA. A Brief Statement of Faith was written to articulate the common identity Presbyterians share. This creed is arranged in a trinitarian framework that is meant to be used in worship. This excerpt is from the section on God.

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 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.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 11:00 a.m. service, please go through the Atrium to Fellowship Hall. A Children's Church teacher will meet you there.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist:

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland

Acolytes:

11:00 a.m. Chase Parker, Jackson Parker

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Bill Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Scott Collins (head),
Mary Peace, James Seagraves

11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney (head),
Ed Ferguson, Terry McRae,
Robert Simmons, Laura Toney

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carla Buss, Carroll Gaillard,
Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Carol McKay, Julie Sanks,
Lawton Stephens

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Meghan Bawcum

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Steve Whiten

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium.

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 to the church office, 706-543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the fellowship pads.

Vacation Bible School Registration Now Open

Maker Fun Factory!

Tuesday, May 29 - Friday, June 1

A link to details & online registration can be found on the home page at firstpresathens.org.

This program is open to children entering Pre-K through 5th grade in fall 2018.

We need your help! To volunteer, please contact Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM SUNDAY

March 25

Everyone is invited to join the palm procession at 10:40 a.m. in the upper parking lot. The St. Andrew's and Cherub choirs will be singing during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

PRAYER STATIONS

March 25 - April 1, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to spend time in The PIT exploring prayer stations based on the Holy Days leading up to Easter.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Dinner & Service, March 29, 5:30 p.m.

Dinner (donations accepted) in Fellowship Hall, with worship around the tables beginning at 6:30 p.m., including a short drama and the Lord's Supper. Please RSVP on the fellowship pad, at the church website, or to the church office by Monday, March 26 to help us plan. Nursery will be provided for infants and toddlers.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE **March 30, 7:00 p.m.**

We will host this year's Good Friday Presbyterian Community Service, a Tenebrae Service led by area clergy and choirs. Meaning "darkness" or "shadows," the service of Tenebrae was first practiced in medieval times. It later became an important part of worship during Holy Week.

EASTER EGG HUNT & PICNIC

March 31, 12:00 p.m.

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt at The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket, picnic basket with lunch, and blanket for your family. Please RSVP to Natalie.

EASTER

**April 1, Worship Services 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Brunch 9:30 a.m.**

Please join us for the celebration of the risen Christ. Instead of Sunday School we will all gather as a church family for our annual Easter Brunch in Fellowship Hall.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

April 1

A gift to OGHs on Easter enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and empowerment to the poor and oppressed. Thank you for giving generously!

SUMMER CAMPS & WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS, WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Looking for a fun activity for your preschooler this summer? Registration is now open for "Wonderful Wednesdays" June 6 - August 1 and two camp weeks, June 18 - 21 and July 23-26. Please check the Weekday School page on the church website for details and registration.

PTP Trip to Columbia Theological Seminary

March 23, 8:30 a.m.

The Primetime Presbyterians will visit Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur. Meet at the Kohl's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to take the church van. We will attend Chapel at 10:00 a.m., followed by an information session about CTS and a walking tour of the campus. We will have lunch at the Refectory on campus and return to Athens after lunch.

Please RSVP by Monday, March 19 to Judy Howell at jhowell@uga.edu or 706 549-2888.

New Member Class

If you are interested in learning more about Presbyterianism and discipleship at FPC, we invite you to attend our New Member class.

Sunday, April 8, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Informational class led by Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Moses Waddel Room
Child care provided (with reservation)

Sunday, April 15, 4:00 p.m.

New Member Tea, home of Lawton & Mary Stephens, the Session will receive those wishing to join

Sunday, April 22, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service, new members introduced to the congregation

Please contact Lucy in the church office at lbell@firstpresathens.org by April 4.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Volunteer & Staff Coordinator: Jennifer Abbott

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.

Children's Sunday Morning Music: Garland Ryder

Pre-Kindergarten - 5th Grade

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

Pre-Kindergarten - Kindergarten • Room 127

Godly Play Guides: Susan Ferguson, Karen Phillips, Heather Roberts, Dan Trier

1st Grade - 2nd Grade • Room 126

Godly Play Guides: Jennifer Abbott, Mary Elizabeth McConnell, Carmen Meadows

3rd Grade • Room 125

Godly Play Guides: Greta Covington, Madie Fischetti, Cathi Lancaster, Chuck Roberts

4th Grade - 5th Grade • Room 124

Godly Play Guides: Jody Corry, Denise Horton, Matt Jones

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Christian Issues • Room 310

Study of the book, The Twelve Disciples by Douglas Connelly.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

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

- March 18 - Practicing Sabbath series
- March 25 - Practicing Sabbath series

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

Living on a Prayer • Room 303

Study of the book, Vanishing Grace by Philip Yancey. Socials outside of class.

Facilitators: Bryans, Holloways, McConnells

New Voices • Room 308

Study of Practicing Sabbath series.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Christine Register

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

Study of the book of Romans.

Led by: Richard Stone

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Study of the Gospel of Matthew.

Teacher: John Kipp

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Study of the book of Hebrews.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAYS in The PIT

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness, Youth Interns: Nettie Jester and Jordan Osborne

The youth are fortunate to have their own special space, lovingly called "The PIT," located on the basement level. The PIT features small group break-out rooms, a kitchen, pool tables, and comfortable couches to just hang out.

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us for an informal time of fellowship and fun including donuts and devotion. **Confirmation Class** also meets during this time. This class gives students an opportunity to deepen and confirm their faith in Jesus Christ, learn the basic theology of the Christian faith, and what it means to identify with the PC(USA). Led by: Robbie Bryan, Erik Ness

SUNDAY EVENINGS

On Sunday evenings, we come back together to explore our faith through activities focused on mission, discipleship, and lots of fun!

THIS MORNING

No Sunday School or Confirmation Class due to Spring Break.

TONIGHT Our Middle and High School youth groups will continue their study of Holy Week using the Seven Days of Glory. Tonight, we focus on "God's Friday."

Typical Sunday Evening Schedule:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 5:00-5:30 | Celebration Singers choir rehearsal |
| 5:30-6:30 | Middle School youth group |
| 6:30-7:00 | Combined youth dinner |
| 7:00-8:30 | High School youth group |

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 18

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:00 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, March 19

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, March 20

- 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Coordinating Meeting, Room 308
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Vault Work, Room 127

Wednesday, March 21

- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 3:30 p.m. Knit for Kids & More, Bride's Room
- 4:15 p.m. Gentle Yoga, Room 310
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 22

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Talmadge Terrace, 801 Riverhill Dr.
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. St. Joseph's, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Friday, March 23

- 8:30 a.m. Primetime Presbyterians Trip to Columbia Theological Seminary, Meet at Kohl's parking lot, 1991 Epps Bridge Pkwy.

Sunday, March 25 - Palm Sunday

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

Easter Lily Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, March 26**. Each dedication is \$12. You may place your completed form and check in a pew pad envelope and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications.

Each dedication will be listed in the April 1 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Bruce Lancaster, Moderator Richard Lane, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

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
Greta Covington
DeeAnn Cox
Mary Havick
Bob Glasscock
Joe Hermanowicz
Richard Lane
Mary Peace
Lawton Stephens
Dan Trier

CLASS OF 2020

Jeff Bangle
Meghan Bawcum
Bob Burton
Julie Hayes
Sydney Jackson
Avery McLean
Jeanne Nadenicek
Carl Nichols
Tom Reigle
Judy Scanlon

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
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, Administrative Assistant for
Congregational Care & Membership
Ms. Nan Powell, Communications Specialist
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Laura McHugh, Accountant
Mrs. Tiffany Greene, Weekday School Administrative Assistant
Ms. Jennifer Abbott, Nursery Volunteer & Staff Coordinator
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, Children's Music Assistant
Mr. Willie "Buc" Collins, Sexton
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, Parish Nurse

STUDENT INTERNS

Ms. Jordan Osborne, Youth Ministry Intern
Ms. Yamini Pulusu, Website Technician
Ms. Yuxin Ni, Church Music Intern

WADDEL FELLOWS

Mr. Wesley Bowden, Congregational Care
Ms. Stacey Bowden, Children's Ministry
Mr. Christian Cordon, Mission & Outreach
Ms. Nettie Jester, Youth Ministry

**PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.**