

First Presbyterian Church of Athens



Photograph by Rick Simpson

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 25, 2018
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday

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.

As the choir and children enter, please stand, wave your palm frond, and join in singing the Processional Hymn.

The stanzas of Hymn 88 have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. The tune is a 17th-century German chorale adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

Greeting

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

Prelude

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
Johann Sebastian Bach

***Processional Hymn 88** All Glory, Laud, and Honor
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Call to Worship

Psalm 118:26; Zechariah 9:9

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Hosanna! Blessed is the one

who comes in the name of the Lord!

*Those who are able may stand.

The anthems are sung by the Cherub and St. Andrews Choirs.

11:00 a.m. Anthems Wave Your Branches Thomas Pavlechko
Wave your branches, wave them high, Jesus now is riding by.
Wave your branches, shout and sing loud hosannas to your King.
Wave your branches, wave them now with Jerusalem's cheering crowd.
Wave your branches, shout and sing, loud hosannas to your King.

Hosanna to the Son of David Carol McClure
Shout, "Hosanna!" to the Son of David, King of kings, God's royal Son!
See him riding on a donkey; blessed is the King who comes!
Shout, "Hosanna!" to the Son of David, King of kings God's royal Son!
All Jerusalem is shouting, "blessed is the King who comes!"
Shout, "Hosanna!" to the Son of David, King of kings, God's royal Son!
Wave your palms and sing his praises; blessed is the King who comes!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, we confess that we are spectators of faith. As Jesus Christ rides through our world, even though we have not called for his death, neither have we shouted of his greatness, nor expressed delight in the salvation he has won for us. Help us to see your glory in his humility, so that we will be joined to the fullness of life as faithful and joyful disciples of our Lord and Savior.

Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response** Hymn 89, Stanza 3
**"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.**

***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 at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - grade 5, are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite.

Hymn 76, written when only psalm singing was permissible, moves to a more personal expression of emotions. Beginning with the Incarnation, it moves directly to the events of Holy Week. The Savior's love is defined by his life and death and the writer defines our response in continual praise.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Philippians 2:5-11, page 1071
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson Matthew 21:1-11, page 900
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Donkey – Riding King Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 76** My Song Is Love Unknown LOVE UNKNOWN

***Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA)

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

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

8:45 a.m. Offertory My Song Is Love Unknown Michael Burkhardt

11:00 a.m. Offertory God So Loved the World John Stainer
God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved.

***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 91** Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! ST. DROSTANE

***Benediction**

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 Jesus.

Today's anthem is one movement from an oratorio, The Crucifixion, composed by John Stainer in 1887 for Holy Week. The familiar text of John 3:16 in this piece falls near the middle of the larger story of Jesus' passion.

Hymn 91 is better understood as the reflections of someone standing outside the event rather than as coming from those participating in the actual procession. This poignant text is set to a tune written especially for it later in the same century.

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

***8:45 a.m. Congregational Response** Hymn 540, Stanza 4
**God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

***11:00 a.m. Choral Response** Christ, We Do All Adore Thee
Théodore Dubois
Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever,
for on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.

Postlude The Royal Banners Forward Go Wilbur Held

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:

Carol Strickland

Lay Readers:

8:45 a.m. Knox Huff

11:00 a.m. Madison Smith

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. Carroll Gaillard, Diane Hartzell,
Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. Kathy Bangle, Melinda Miller,
Jo Carol Nessel-Sale, Lawton Stephens

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Brenda Glasscock

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Chuck Hunt

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Marian Carr and Andrew S.C. McKay, by Carol McKay.

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.

Pictorial Directories are Here!

If you had your picture taken for our new pictorial directory, please stop by the Atrium today, or the church office during the week, to pick up your copy. We have also printed out copies for church members who were not able to have their pictures taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM SUNDAY

Today

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

Today - 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!

FOOD SUNDAY

April 1

Next Sunday we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they are requesting **Hamburger Helper, pork & beans, and bagged dry beans.** Thank you for donating 365 items in March!

FPC Women's Retreat

Friday, April 20 - Sunday, April 22

Take some sabbath time and treat yourself (or a woman you love) to a soul-nourishing weekend away as we explore receiving the gift of order amid the chaos of our lives. We will be on beautiful Lake Greenwood in SC. Cost is \$165. Carpooling & scholarships available. Register by April 8. See our website, firstpresathens.org, or Carol Strickland for details.

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

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 25 - Practicing Sabbath series concludes
- April 1 - Easter brunch; Sunday School will not meet.

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

Meet in the Staff Conference Room to help stuff Easter eggs.

TONIGHT

Our Middle School and High School youth groups have completed a 6-week study called Seven Days of Glory. Each week we explored a different day of Holy Week. This week, we will revisit the days leading up to Easter through prayer stations set up throughout The PIT.

Reminder: No Sunday School or youth group next week due to Easter.

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 25 - Palm Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Stations open, The PIT
- 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
- 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 26

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Palm Sunday/Easter Chapel, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, March 27

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 6:00 p.m. Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, Akademia Brewing Company, 150 Crane Dr.

Wednesday, March 28

- 11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, Bone Island Grillhouse, 2055 Oconee Connector
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 29 - Maundy Thursday

- 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Living Hope, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.
- 7:30 p.m. Men's Softball vs. Rhema Christian, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Friday, March 30 - Good Friday

- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae Service, Presbyterian Community Service, Sanctuary

Saturday, March 31 - Holy Saturday

- 12:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic, The Hill, 1800 Crescent Lane

Sunday, April 1 - Easter, Food Sunday, Communion 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.**