

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!

June 17, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Eleventh 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.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Pastorale

Alexandre Guilmant

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 229, Stanza 1

**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends.



Over the summer, the children will be learning about different parts of worship. The children are invited forward where they find the church mouse.

Time for Children

Natalie Bishop

Call to Worship

Our God is a God of wonder and glory!
We praise God who created our world.
Our God is a God of justice and peace!
We praise God who gives us life.
Our God is a God of grace and mercy!
We praise God who always loves us.

The well-known melody of Hymn 464 was composed by Ludwig van Beethoven for his Ninth Symphony to give a choral setting for J.C.F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy). The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

*Hymn 464

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

* Those who are able may stand.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of mercy, we pray forgiveness for when we take credit for your miracles in our lives by saying that it is by our hard work; for when we promise to trust you but turn to our own way because you don't act soon enough or in the way we expect; for when we have opportunities to forgive, but we refuse. Help us to live as your redeemed and forgiven people to the glory of your name.

***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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Thatcher Ramsey Padgett, son of Beth and Thad Padgett.

***Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Thatcher by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Baptism Hymn 498 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

KINGDOM

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

Hymn 498, addressed to a newly-baptized child, begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person instead of the entire congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 321, Stanza 1
**Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

First Lesson Philipians 2:12-18, page 1071
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
arr. Virgil Thomson
My shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways.
He leads me for his mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay.
One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Thy hand in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread.
My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head.
The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days,
O may thy house be my abode and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come,
no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

Second Lesson Psalm 23:4 page 491
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Psalm 23: Your Comfort and God's Protection
Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 392** Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord HALL

Commissioning of Massanetta Conference Patricipants

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 RESIGNATION Wilbur Held

***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

Psalm 23 has inspired numerous paraphrases and hymn texts, including today's anthem by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Watts included it in his large 1719 collection of psalm paraphrases, The Psalms of David Imitated.

MASSANETTA PARTICIPANTS

YOUTH
Abigale Bishop
Anna Cruz
Rachel Huff
Kate MacMillan
David Magrino
Ben Ness
Katherine Queen
Isabelle Seward

ADULTS
Susan Huff
Kim Ness

SENDING IN THE NAME OF 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

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|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| *Hymn 145 | Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! | MARION |
| *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 | Festal Flourish | Gordon Jacob |

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 8:45 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.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist

Carol Strickland

Lay Reader

Chuck Toney

Baptismal Elder

Carol Robinson

USHERS

Kitty Donnan (head), Stephen Covington, Joe Neighbors, Chuck Toney, Laura Toney, John Walden

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Shirley Chambliss

GREETERS

Marie Ledford, Tim Ledford, Faye Marshall, Mary Peace

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Margaret Ann Coyne and Andrew Jeffreys Payne.

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/Admin. Assistant

Mrs. Laura McHugh, Accountant

Mrs. Tiffany Greene, Weekday School Admin. 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 Intern:

Ms. Yuxin Ni, Church Music Intern

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 17

- 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, June 18 - Thursday, June 21 - Weekday School Camp

Tuesday, June 19

- 10:30 a.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, June 20

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Wonderful Wednesday
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:15 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310

Thursday, June 21

- 6:00 a.m. Depart for Massanetta Middle School Conference

Saturday, June 23

- 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Jack Razor, Reception Following

Sunday, June 24

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 9:00 p.m. Massanetta Middle School Conference Participants Return

LOOKING AHEAD

June 24-30 - Montreat Worship & Music Conference

June 26 - First Friends, Ted's Most Best

June 27 - Bookless Book Group, Heirloom Cafe

July 11 & 25 - Bookless Book Group

July 22-28 - Montreat Youth Conference

July 23-26 - Weekday School Camp

Summer Choir

All interested singers are invited to join us for Summer Choir. We meet in the choir room at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays to rehearse music for that morning's service.

Our Chancel Choir is the foundation of this group. Singers may join us for any single Sunday or for as many as they wish, even for the whole summer.

Adults, youth, and children are all welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASSANETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

June 21-24

FPC is partnering with Covenant Presbyterian Church to take fifteen middle school youth (8 FPC, 5 CPC) for our first time at Massanetta. Hundreds of youth come together every summer for this special middle school conference that many liken to Montreat. The theme this year is, "Y'all Are Mine: created, claimed, called."

PC(USA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 16-23, St. Louis, MO

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) meets biennially in even-numbered years. It consists of commissioners elected by each of its 173 presbyteries. The assembly acts on hundreds of items of business, which it receives through the reports and recommendations of various assembly entities, and through overtures from synods and presbyteries. Please pray for our denomination as our representatives gather this week.

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

Welcome Home!

Our missionaries came home last night after a week of service and learning in Honduras. We look forward to hearing all about the trip! Please welcome them home and continue to keep them in your prayers as they process their experience.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

What exactly is a Stephen Minister? Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are there after the phone call you hope you'd never get, after the divorce papers are served, after the funeral is over and everyone has left, after the pink slip, after the nursing home director says, "Welcome to your new home." Stephen Ministers come alongside you to provide comfort and support for as long as needed. For more info, contact Dawn Frisch (914-255-3447), Larry Gray (706-202-1005), or Carol Strickland (706-543-4338).

Wonderful Wednesdays

Looking for a fun activity for your preschooler this summer? A few spots are left! Registration is open for "Wonderful Wednesdays" through August 1. Please contact the Weekday School at wds@firstpresathens.org.

June Sermon Series: Psalm 23

Athanasius, a powerful figure in the early church, wrote: "Most scripture speaks to us, while the psalms speak for us." Nowhere is this more true than in Psalm 23, most everyone's favorite.

How does this psalm of just over 100 words...three thousand years old, drawn from a primitive historic context, set in a rural scene...speak with such power today? The secret is this: times change but our needs do not. More than ever we need God **to provide, to lead, to protect, to sustain**, and every day we need to affirm what David proclaimed, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

Our sermon series for June is moving us through the six verses of Psalm 23, exploring the depth of God's never-changing care for us, leading us to move from a stance of depending on ourselves to depending on God.