



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 1, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Thirteenth 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

Prelude on THAXTED

David M. Cherwien

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering Come, Worship God 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.

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

Call to Worship

We come for God's creating word, trusting God's promise.

Let our lives be changed as God welcomes us in!

Let our minds be filled with God's wisdom.

Let our hearts be filled with God's grace!

Let the Spirit open our lives to the joy of faithful living.

Let our worship reveal Christ's peace given to the world!

***Hymn 262** God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Living and gracious God, hear our prayer. Our guilt is great.

Forgive us our wars, our hatreds, our attacks against one

another. Rescue us from the greed, anger, and fear that

destroys families and tears the very fabric of our nation.

Deliver us from the worship of power and glory and

restore us to the truth that accepts responsibility for the

welfare and peace of humankind.

Hymn 262 was generated by 19th-century centennial celebrations: the words of the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in this hymn of praise and prayer for peace.

* Those who are able may stand.

***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**

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

***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 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

Hebrews 12:14-17, page 1100

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

Today's anthem was written specifically for the melody THAXTED in 1982. This tune is normally associated with the patriotic song "I Vow to Thee My Country," which was sung at both Princess Diana's wedding and her funeral. This anthem was written in response to a call for alternative words that would be more appropriate for Christian worship.

Anthem

O God, Beyond all Praising

Gustav Holst

arr. Richard Proulx

O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown –
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ the man from heaven from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.
Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King:
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to praise you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:8-16, page 1107

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

Sermon

Uncommon Decency

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 438** Blest Be the Tie That Binds DENNIS

***Affirmation of Faith** from The Belhar Confession

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another...

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Time for Children Natalie Bishop

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 Improvisation on FINLANDIA John Coble

***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 Insert** This Is My Song FINLANDIA

***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 Toccata on THAXTED David M. Cherwien

Today's Affirmation of Faith was first written in Afrikaans in 1982 in response to apartheid South Africa. In 2016, the General Assembly voted to add The Belhar Confession to the PC (USA) Book of Confessions as a witness to unity, reconciliation, and justice, helping us to speak and act with similar clarity at a time when we face division, racism, and injustice.



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

The first two stanzas of This Is My Song were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

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 8:45 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 Bill Woolbright

USHERS

Jim Dove (head), Carla Buss, Randy Dudley,
Carrol Gaillard, Robert P. Simmons,
Robert W. Simmons

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Susan and Wes Clarke

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

GREETERS

Margaret Johansen, Carol McKay,
Dan Nadenicek

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Rachel Short's passing ten years ago, by Stan Short & Laura Hartley.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Lily Grace Everett on June 19, 2018. Lily is the daughter of Megan and Dustin Everett and the great-granddaughter of Pat and Faye Marshall.

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.

Summer Office Hours

The church office will close at 2:00 p.m. on Friday afternoons through August 3. Our office hours are: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday.

If you need assistance on Friday afternoons, please refer to the Church Life App or your membership directory to contact Dr. Lancaster.

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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 1 - 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. Fellowship, Atrium

Tuesday, July 3

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, July 4 - Closed for Independence Day Holiday

Sunday, July 8

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

LOOKING AHEAD

July 11 & 25 - Bookless Book Group

July 22-28 - Montreat Youth Conference

July 23-26 - Weekday School Camp

August 5 - Senior Adult Sunday

August 5-12 - Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens Host Week

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IHNA HOST WEEK

August 5-12, Sign-up begins today!

Please sign-up in the Atrium today for our next Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens host week. You may also check the online calendar or email Patty Whiten (pattywhiten@windstream.net) to volunteer. We thank God for the opportunity to serve those in great need and, in serving, we are immeasurably blessed.

IHNA TRAINING

Today, 12:00 p.m.

This afternoon there will be an IHNA training session at Athens Church of Christ, 3720 Mars Hill Rd, Watkinsville. Everyone who would like to volunteer is encouraged to attend a training session.

MONTREAT WOMEN'S CONNECTION, August 10-12

"Through the Valley" is the theme from Psalm 23 for this women's conference with featured speaker Kate Bowler. Visit montreat.org for more information and registration. Carol Strickland and Cathi Lancaster are going and hope more FPC women will join them. Cathi is offering lodging at a family home for any who wish to stay there.

FOSTER CARE TEAMS

Chosen for Life Ministries is a local organization dedicated to supporting foster families. One of the many ways they help is by building care teams who support a single foster family with a variety of services. These include delivering meals, babysitting, providing care packages, prayers, and simply being there when that family needs help. Learn more at chosenforlifeministries.org or contact Mary Elizabeth McConnell at marye.mem314@gmail.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Often people suffer silently when going through difficult situations like grief, terminal illness, job loss, relocation, empty nest, retirement, loneliness, and many other stresses. Our church's Stephen Ministry can provide care so that you don't have to go it alone. Stephen Ministers are trained compassionate church members who meet confidentially, one-on-one with persons facing challenges. Could you or someone you know benefit from receiving God's care through the gifts, skills, and calling of a Stephen Minister? To find out more, please contact Dawn Frisch (914-255-3447), Larry Gray (706-202-1005), or Carol Strickland (706-543-4338).

Recommendations for Ruling Elders

The Nominations and Elections Committee encourages your participation in the process for nominating Ruling Elders. Ruling Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian Gospel, both within the church and in the world at large.

Please return this form to the Nominations and Elections Committee by placing it in one of the boxes in the Narthex, Atrium or church office, or by placing it in the collection plate. You may also mail it to the church office or email the church office at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org by July 9.

Current Ruling Elders: (Not eligible for recommendation)

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

I prayerfully recommend the following for Ruling Elder:

Name	_____	Reasons	_____
Name	_____	Reasons	_____
Name	_____	Reasons	_____
Name	_____	Reasons	_____
Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee are DeeAnn Cox (chair), Phyllis Crowell, Richard Lane, Andy Osborne. and Leslie Trier.