



# 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 8, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Fourteenth 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

Morning Has Broken

Robert J. Powell

### 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

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**maker of heaven and earth.**

This is the day the Lord has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness.**

**Come into God's presence with singing!**

### \*Hymn 469

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

The 20th-century text of Hymn 469 was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

\* Those who are able may stand.

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

**\*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."



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

**\*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.

**Time for Children**

John Coble

**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**

Genesis 1:1-4a, page 1  
and Malachi 4:5-6, page 875

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

**Anthem**

Christ Hath a Garden

Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground, chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness. Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand; by Eden's gracious streams, that flow to feed their beauty where they grow. Awake, O wind of heaven and bear their sweetest perfume through the air: stir up; O south, the boughs that bloom, till the beloved Master come: that he may come, and linger yet among the trees that he hath set; that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

**Second Lesson** 2 Timothy 3:14-17, page 1087

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

**Sermon**

The Old Testament in Twenty Minutes

Dr. Carol Strickland

The anthem is a text by Isaac Watts, edited by Robert Bridges, set to an English Folk Song in an arrangement by contemporary American composer Gerald Near.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

**\*Hymn 330**      Deep in the Shadows of the Past      SHEPHERDS' PIPES

**\*Affirmation of Faith**      from A Declaration of Faith, PCUS 1977

**The Bible is the written Word of God. Led by the Spirit of God the people of Israel and of the early church preserved and handed on the story of what God had said and done in their midst and how they had responded to him. These traditions were often shaped and reshaped by the uses to which the community put them. They were cherished, written down, and collected as the holy literature of the people of God. Through the inward witness of the same Spirit we acknowledge the authority of the Bible.**

**We accept the Old and New Testaments as the canon, or authoritative standard of faith and life, to which no further writings need be added. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are necessary, sufficient, and reliable as witnesses to Jesus Christ, the living Word.**

**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 SHEPHERDS' PIPES      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 291**      O God of Earth and Altar      LLANGLOFFAN

**\*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**      Grand Chœur      Théodore Dubois

The vivid text of Hymn 330 reminds us of two truths we often forget: how deeply our faith is rooted in God's enduring covenant with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and how much we can learn from their story. The tune began life as the setting for a family Christmas card.

The Affirmation of Faith is an excerpt from a contemporary statement of faith which the church adopted as "a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration."

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.

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## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

**Liturgist** Harry Shuford

**Lay Reader** Allen Crowell

### USHERS

Tommy Jackson (head), Bob Bostrom,  
Sydney Jackson, Diane Hudgins,  
Lewis Hudgins, Terry Nestor

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Ann and Del Dunn, Diane Hartzell

### GREETERS

Jim Dove, Carroll Gaillard, Melinda Miller,  
Courtney Pittman

### SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

### FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jane and George Scott's 66th wedding anniversary.

The Narthex flowers are given in honor of Kathleen Wilfong's 104th birthday, by the Wilfong family and in honor of Virginia Shields' 100th birthday, by Pat, Bob, and Sally Shields.

We have a rosebud celebrating the birth of Nora Kate Bawcum on June 27, 2018. Nora Kate is the daughter of Brett and Meghan Bawcum.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 8

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching  
11:05 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium

### Tuesday, July 10

- 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  
6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Group Supervision, Moses Waddel Room, Rooms 308, 309, 310

### Wednesday, July 11

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Wonderful Wednesday  
11:30 a.m. The Bookless Book Group, South Kitchen + Bar, 247 E. Washington St.  
12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary  
3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302  
4:15 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310  
7:00 p.m. Foster Care Team Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

### Sunday, July 15

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

## LOOKING AHEAD

**July 22-28** - Montreat Youth Conference

**July 23-26** - Weekday School Camp

**July 25** - Bookless Book Group

**August 5** - Senior Adult Sunday

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IHNA HOST WEEK

#### August 5-12, Sign-up 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.

### HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

Twenty-six FPC members have returned from a week of service and learning in Honduras. Thank you for your prayers, notes of encouragement, and support. They had a wonderful trip! Read about it on FPC's Facebook page.

### Team Reflections

Our team wrote notes of gratitude and reflection as their journey came to an end. You can read their notes on the bulletin board in the church office reception area.

### Holy Joe Coffee

Jittery Joe's house blend coffee is on sale in the church office during the week. All proceeds will benefit future mission trips.

### 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](http://montreat.org) for more information and registration. Carol Strickland and other FPC women are attending and hope more can join them.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12). Stephen Ministers have special gifts for caring which they put to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it. If you or someone you know are facing chronic illness, grief, job loss, long-term disability, spiritual crisis, transition, or another life challenge and would like to have a Stephen Minister to walk alongside you, 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](mailto: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.