



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 15, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Fifteenth 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 the service. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin, or large-print hymnal.

Greeting

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

Prelude

Passacaglia

Dietrich Buxtehude

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.**

Call to Worship

In the mystery and majesty of justice and mercy,
we see the face of God.

In the community of caring and serving and sacrifice,
we know the love of Christ.

In the heights and depths of life and death,
**the Spirit of God is moving among us.
Let us praise God.**

The congregation is invited to speak or sing the liturgy in **bold** type.

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

The Song of Gathering is the first stanza of a hymn based on Psalm 95, often called Venite from its first word in Latin, which has long served as an opening canticle in the worship of Western Christianity. John Calvin found here two reasons to praise God: for sustaining the created world and for adopting the church into a gracious relationship.

* Those who are able may stand.

The original French text of Hymn 457, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for Calvin. Yet this text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

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.

***Hymn 457** I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art TOULON

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

We claim to be your people, O Holy One, chosen and called to proclaim your gospel. We are symbols of hope, yet we often succumb to despair. We are blessed beyond measure, yet we often allow greed to shape our generosity. We are uncommonly free, yet we often bind ourselves to yesterday's failures. We are gifted and graced as a people of faith, yet we often fail to let our light shine. In these moments of shared silence, redeem us to release our fears, to reclaim our hopes, and to give ourselves to your deep love.

***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.

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.**

Time for Children

Dr. Carol Strickland

First Lesson

Psalm 78:1-8, page 526

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

Anthem

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may bide with you forever, e'en the spirit of truth.

Second Lesson

Amos 5:18-24, page 839

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

Sermon

Once Upon a Time: Amos Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 449

My Lord! What a Morning

African-American spiritual

*Affirmation of Faith

from The Belhar Confession

We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

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 KINGSFOLD

John Coble

*Doxology

**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.**

Hymn 592

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 434

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

**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.**

Hymn 535

Postlude

Toccata

Eugene Gigout

Hymn 449 reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes in Matthew and Mark. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Today's Affirmation of Faith comes from The Belhar Confession, first written in Afrikaans in 1982 in response to apartheid in 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.

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 Leslye Queen

USHERS

Stephen Covington (head), Jay Bangle,
Don DeMaria, Margaret Johansen,
Andy Osborne, Luke Osborne

GREETERS

Jayne Bailey, Carroll Gaillard, Diane Hartzell

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Susan and Wes Clarke

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Michael Peace by Mary Peace.

We welcome Geneva Stonecipher as our guest organist this morning. Geneva is a 2017 graduate of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia and our former Music Intern. She and her husband Chris Overbaugh have moved to Bloomington, Indiana where Geneva will begin a masters program in organ performance at Indiana University in the fall.

July Sermon Series

This morning we begin a three-week sermon series that will take us through the rest of July. Dr. Lancaster will explore the Old Testament stories of Amos, Hosea, and Jonah. Even though these stories are thousands of years old, they still speak to us today. In them we see ourselves, our world, and the overwhelming grace of God.

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 15

- 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 17

- 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, July 18

- 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

Sunday, July 22

- 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

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.

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY

August 5, 10:00 a.m.

The theme of worship will be "Stories of the Faithful" and will include three speakers: Diane Adams, Ray Schofield, and John Simpson. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated by Dr. Bruce Lancaster and Dr. John Kipp and a reception will immediately follow the service. Please join us as we honor our senior adult members.

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Confidential! That's what Stephen Ministry is. Everything a person tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strict confidence. People are often afraid that if they tell someone what is troubling them, word will get around and others will look down on them. But a Stephen Minister keeps everything a care receiver shares confidential, and through the sharing, God works miracles of healing and peace. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, please contact Dawn Frisch (914-255-3447), Larry Gray (706-202-1005), or Carol Strickland (706-543-4338).