



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 22, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Sixteenth 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.

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

Greeting

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

Prelude

The peace may be exchanged

Dan Locklair

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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

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

Come, let us worship the Lord our God,

for the Lord is our God, and we are the Lord's people.

As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our ears,

that we might both hear and heed the word of our Lord.

As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our eyes,

that we might both see and perceive the will of the Lord.

As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our hearts,

that we might understand with our hearts

and turn to the Lord for healing.

Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

* Those who are able may stand.

The focus of Hymn 487 is praise to Jesus Christ, and it is essentially a hymn of praise, not a morning hymn. Any time is the right time to praise Christ: morning, evening, work, or prayer. The original text had 14 stanzas, and hymnal editors make different choices, which creates slightly different versions in various hymnals. The tune, written for this text, has helped to make the hymn popular with its final rousing phrase for “May Jesus Christ be praised.”

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

The text of the anthem, stanzas from a much longer hymn text, offers a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God’s generosity rather than limited human tolerance. Calvin Hampton was a leading American organist and sacred music composer. Weakened by AIDS, he remained active until the final weeks before his death at the age of 45.

***Hymn 487** When Morning Gilds the Skies LAUDES DOMINI

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of compassion, we who have been taught the law of love practice instead the law of self-interest. We have passed by our neighbors in need and ignored opportunities to show them kindness. We have mocked their misery by making excuses to avoid their plight and building barriers along the path to their healing. Forgive us, we pray, and enlarge our hearts to the dimensions of your mercy.

***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.**

First Lesson Psalm 138:1-8, page 565

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

Anthem There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy

Calvin Hampton

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple we should take him at his word,
and our lives would be all sunshine in the sweetness of our Lord.
Fearful souls, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?
There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.

Second Lesson Hosea 14:1-7, page 829

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

Sermon Once Upon a Time: Hosea Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn Insert** Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us AUSTIN

***Affirmation of Faith** from The United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

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.**

Time for Children

Natalie Bishop

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Now Thank We All Our God

Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

***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 555** Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

***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

Now Thank We All Our God

Paul Manz

The text of Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us was inspired by how the prophet Hosea describes the parental nature of God's relationship with Israel (Hosea 11:1-9). The last stanza echoes Christ's teachings about love of neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40/ Mark 12:29-31) and care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:31-46).

"A New Creed" was adopted in 1968 by the United Church of Canada, a mainline Reformed denomination and the largest Protestant church in Canada.



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

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 Kitty Donnan

USHERS

Allen Crowell (head), Phyllis Crowell,
Kitty Donnan, Bruce Miller, Joe Neighbors,
Lois Neighbors

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Melinda and Don DeMaria

GREETERS

Keith Oelke, Lisa Oelke, Mary Peace,
Frank Sherrill

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Lourenço

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Abbie Elizabeth Watson and Jarrod Nowell Cone.

July Sermon Series

This morning we continue our three-week sermon series that will take us through the rest of July.

Dr. Lancaster is exploring 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 22

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 9:30 a.m. Depart for Montreat Youth Conference
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 11:05 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for George Scott, Reception Following

Sunday, July 22 - Saturday, July 28 - Montreat Youth Conference

Monday, July 23 - Thursday, July 26 - Weekday School Camp

Tuesday, July 24

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. First Friends, The National, 232 W. Hancock Ave.

Wednesday, July 25

- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, Savannah Room, 1197 S. Lumpkin St.
- 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 29

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Charles Clement, Reception Following

LOOKING AHEAD

August 5 - Senior Adult Sunday

Interfaith Service for Clarke County Schools, 5:30 p.m.
Piedmont College, 595 Prince Ave.

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

August 12 - Two Worship Services Begin

Fall Kickoff Brunch, Back-to-School Blessing

August 19 - Sunday School Begins

Honduras Shareholder Dinner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 22-28

This morning eight youth left for a week at Montreat. The theme for this year's MYC is, "Lift Every Voice." Through keynote, small groups, recreation, and worship, youth will be challenged to find and then lift up their own voices, while celebrating all the different voices in the world. Please pray for their relationships, recreation, renewal, and rest.

SUMMER CHOIR

August 5, Last day

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, but all are 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.

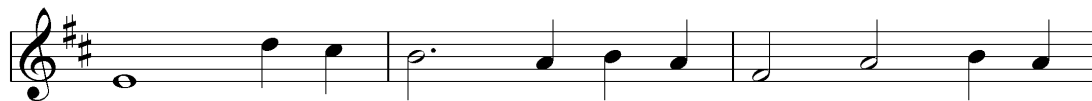
Hymn

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

AUSTIN



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us close in her de-
2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our
3 Though as chi - dren we have wan - dered, placed our trust in power and
4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our neigh - bor's hand in



light, fed us free - ly from her bod - y, God has
guide, lift - ed us and healed our sor - rows, God has
might, left be - hind our broth - ers, sis - ters, God still
love, tread the path of peace and jus - tice, God still



called us in - to - life.
walked with us in life.
calls us in - to life.
walks with us in life.

TEXT: Daniel Bechtel, 1986

MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992