



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!

January 6, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Epiphany

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

As with Gladness Men of Old

Wilbur Held

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, and check in on Facebook.

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 470, Stanza 1

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
this day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God triune.**

Call to Worship

Before time, our God named us.

Through time, our God redeems us.

God gives us time to love one another.

Let our worship celebrate an eternity of God's love!

*Hymn 63

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

The first three stanzas of Hymn 63 use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. The tune was named for the author of the text, William Chatterton Dix.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Most holy and most loving God, we confess to you and each other that we are creatures who either through foolishness or wilfulness, often lock the door to your new creation. As we begin this new year together, we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions, our short-sighted stupidity and our pompous wisdom, and our apathy towards change and renewal. Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: "Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us."

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Those who are able may stand.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Jacques Berthier

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

*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 327, Stanza 1

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

First Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1-4, page 706

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

Second Lesson

Romans 5:1-5, page 1029

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

Sermon

A Church of All Doors

Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 326

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
for to worship God with, this happy New Year.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
open you the West Door and turn the Old Year go.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

*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

The text of the anthem is from Tom Tiddler's Ground by Walter de la Mare. There are different interpretations of the words, including traditions of children collecting fresh water from a well on New Year's Day to sprinkle on passers-by while singing the carol. The words "levy dew" may come from the Welsh "llef y Dduw" meaning "a cry to God," or the French phrase "levez à Dieu," meaning "raise to God," which may refer to the raising of the communion elements in the Christian liturgy.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

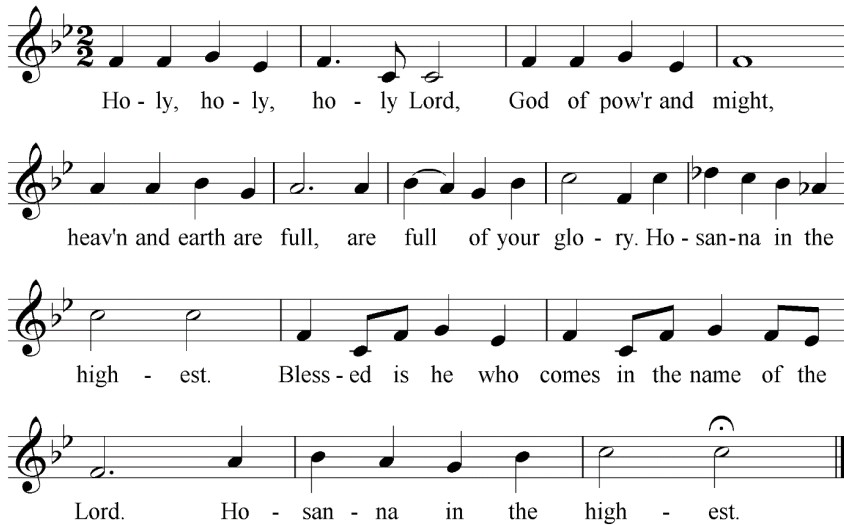
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

"...with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name singing:"



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical setting of the communion liturgy was written by American composer Hal Hopson.

"...Great is the mystery of faith:"



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

"...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever."



A - men, A - men, A - men.

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Please partake as you are served.

The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten-free bread.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 313** Come Down, O Love Divine DOWN AMPNEY

Called Congregational Meeting

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 68, Stanza 4

**To God the Father, God the Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in one,
may every tongue and nation raise
an endless song of thankful praise**

***Postlude** In You Is Gladness

Johann Sebastian Bach

Guests are welcome to stay and observe the congregational meeting.

Following the congregational meeting, 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 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 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

Allen Crowell

USHERS

Tommy Jackson (head),
David Cole, Scott Collins, Don Hill,
Sydney Jackson, Patti Reed

GREETERS

Jayne Bailey, Kate DeMaria,
Melinda DeMaria, Terry Nestor

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

Mary and Lawton Stephens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Chuck Hunt

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mary Lena Sullivan by Mary Ben and Bill Woolbright.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium.

Available in the narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the fellowship pads.

Called Congregational Meeting Today, 11:00 a.m.

The Session has called a Congregational meeting for this morning, immediately following the service, to act on a recommendation from the Pastor Nominating Committee. A brochure with information about the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff candidate to be presented by the PNC will be available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FELLOWSHIP@FIRST: PIZZA NIGHTS

January 9 & February 6, 5:45 p.m.

Join us for pizza in Fellowship Hall! Chip in and enjoy fellowship with your church family. Please make reservations online or with the church office for January 9 by January 7.

2019-20 WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Registration Begins January 15

Please call our director, Elaine Johnson, at 706-206-8180 to schedule a tour. Our Weekday School is celebrating 52 years of serving Athens children, ages infant through 5 years.

AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Forms due January 15

Can you donate an item, service, or experience for the silent auction at our Mardi Gras Mission Gala on March 3? Perhaps a treasure in your attic, an hour of professional services, cooking for a dinner party, or a weekend at your vacation home? Donation forms are online, in the Narthex, and church office. Deadline is January 15.

PROJECT SAFE WORK DAY

January 21

Please join our team from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. sorting clothes and other items for sale to benefit victims of domestic violence. To volunteer or for questions please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com. The Project Safe Thrift Store is located in the Bell's Shopping Center, 955 Hawthorne Ave.

IHNA HOST WEEK

February 10-17, 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 and email Susan Boatwright and Frank Sherrill at ihnafirstpresathens@gmail.com to volunteer.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

2019 offering envelopes are available for pickup in Fellowship Hall. If yours are not there and you would like them, please contact Roger or Laura in the church office at 706-543-4338.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY UPDATE

Thank you to all who have made a financial commitment for 2019. We depend on the generosity of everyone to support our ministries and missions. If you have not yet made your commitment, please do so the Session can plan the 2019 budget. You may turn in your pledge in the offering plate, in the church office, or online at firstpresathens.org/home/giving.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING UPDATE

In December, FPC gave \$2,461 to the Christmas Joy Offering. This annual special offering assists church workers in their time of need and students in their time of promise. Thank you for your generosity!

Annual Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ecumenical Observance Sunday, January 20, 5:00 p.m.

Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens and the Athens Area Human Relations Council invite all to this service at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 1931 Old West Broad St. Guest speakers will be the Rev. Stacy Pardue, First Christian Church, Athens and the Rev. Ronnie Gantt, Maple Springs Baptist Church, Dewey Rose, Georgia.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Monday, January 21, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

As a celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and commitment to service, Athens-Clarke County is committed to making Monday, January 21, "A Day On, Not A Day Off." The Kick-Off Celebration will be 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Cedar Shoals High School gymnasium, and volunteers will work from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at one of more than twenty sites in our community.

To see the complete list of participating organizations and details, visit uga.givepulse.com/group/118913-Athens-MLK-Day-of-Service. You may register there to help organizers plan. You can also sign up with the individual agencies or on the day of the event at Cedar Shoals High School.

For many years, FPC members have helped at the Project Safe Thrift Store, so please join fellow members there if you would like. However you sign up, please list your FPC affiliation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 13

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants - 5th Grade

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Volunteer & Staff Coordinator: Jennifer Abbott

Infants • Nursery Baby Room

Room Lead: Rita Raines

Toddlers - Preschoolers • Nursery Playroom

Room Lead: Mary Smith

Our toddler and preschooler curriculum is Group Publishing's Play-n-Worship. It is filled with music, activities, and storyboards that encourage little ones to interact with Bible stories.

Pre-Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Our elementary aged children will experience Godly Play during Sunday School. Godly Play helps children to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language, and to grow their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

The children will begin all together each Sunday morning in the Children's Ministry Suite with Holy Moly (short animated Bible Story videos). Immediately following Holy Moly, the children will head to their Godly Play Rooms.

Pre-Kindergarten - Kindergarten • Room 126 in Children's Ministry Suite

1st, 2nd, 3rd Grade • Children's Ministry Suite

4th Grade - 5th Grade • Godly Play Room #1, Tinsley Stern Building (across from library)

Godly Play Guides: Jennifer Abbott, Natalie Bishop, Jody Corry, Greta Covington, Susan Ferguson, Madie Fischetti, Julie Hayes, Denise Horton, Sydney Jackson, Matt Jones, Mary Elizabeth McConnell, Carmen Meadows, Heather Roberts, Dan Trier, Gail Wilfong

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Christian Issues • Room 308

Study of the book, Mark: Follow Me by James Hoover.

Coordinator: Sandy Boyles

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies.

- January 13 - LaTrena Stokes, Scholarship Program Manager at the Jeannette Rankin Foundation
- January 20 - Mark Farmer, speaking on "The Population Boom and the Future of Humanity"

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss

Living on a Prayer • Room 303

Devotionals based on scripture, led by different class members. Sandwich project on first Sundays.

Coordinator: Karen Burg

New Voices • Room 310

Study of the book, Radical Forgiveness: God's Call to Unconditional Love by Brian Zahnd.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins, Christine Register

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

Study of Romans with other books of the New Testament to follow.

Led by: Richard Stone

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Study of the Joseph saga, Genesis 37-50.

Teacher: John Kipp

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Study of Hebrews.

Teacher: Wanda Wilcox

SUNDAYS in The PIT

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

College Interns: Nettie Jester & Kathryn Kent

The youth are fortunate to have their own special space, lovingly called "The PIT," located on the basement level. The PIT features small group break-out rooms, a kitchen, pool tables, and comfortable couches to just hang out.

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:45 - 10:40 a.m.

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a time of fellowship and devotion in The PIT. Each month, a different member of the congregation will lead a 3-week series on topics ranging from the Old Testament to Disney movies!

Confirmation Class, open to 9th graders, also meets during Sunday School in the Staff Conference Room. This year, we will be using the new Presbyterian curriculum called, "Big God Big Questions."

SUNDAY EVENINGS

On Sunday evenings, we come together to explore our faith through activities focused on mission, discipleship, and lots of fun!

TONIGHT

Youth Sunday Planning Begins: MS (4:30-5:30) and HS (6:15-8:00)

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 6 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Called Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 11:30 a.m. Mardi Gras Mission Gala Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir, Room 203
- 4:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 5:30 p.m. Celebration Singers, Room 202
- 6:15 p.m. High School Youth Group & Dinner, The PIT

Monday, January 7

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Resumes
- 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, January 8

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Carol Strickland, 1141 Nona Dr.
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship & Evangelism Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training & Supervision, Moses Waddel Room, Rooms 308, 309, 310

Wednesday, January 9

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 11:30 a.m. Bookless Book Group, White Tiger, 217 Hiawasse Ave.
- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 5:45 p.m. Fellowship@First: Pizza Night, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, January 10

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, January 13 - Sunday School Resumes

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

January 16 - Wed@First Classes Resume

January 17 - Josephine Paine Bible Study Resumes

January 20 - Ecumenical Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 5:00 p.m.

January 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Project Safe Volunteer Work Day

Church Office Closed

January 23 - Bookless Book Group

January 27 - Ruling Elder Ordination & Installation

Annual Congregational Meeting & Lunch

February 3 - Youth Sunday

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 6 - Fellowship@First: Pizza Night

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Bruce Lancaster, Moderator Richard Lane, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

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 Terrell 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

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
Mrs. Nan Thomas, 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

COLLEGE INTERNS

Ms. Nettie Jester, Youth Ministry
Ms. Pavani Gadde, Website Technician
Ms. Jordan Osborne, Youth Ministry

WADDEL FELLOWS

Ms. Kathryn Kent, Youth Ministry
Ms. Annabel McSpadden, Congregational Care
Ms. Leighton Parker, Mission & Outreach

PLEASE SEE FIRSTPRESATHENS.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.