



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!

March 3, 2019

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Transfiguration of the Lord

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

Passacaglia

Dietrich Buxtehude

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 229, Stanza 1

**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

Call to Worship

We gather because we have heard God's voice in mighty thunder,
and in sighs too deep for words.

God called Jesus "Beloved" on a mountaintop,
and God has called our names.

We have seen. We have heard.

God is here. Let us worship God together!

*Hymn 460

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

*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 us to 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.**

FPC 2nd Graders are our Communion Helpers. Bringing in the bread and cup at the 11:00 a.m. service are Nathan and Daniel Baer.

The early church hymn *Te Deum Laudamus* is one of great praise, creed, and supplication. Hymn 460 is an English translation of a German paraphrase of the *Te Deum* written for a German Catholic hymnal. It became equally loved by Protestants. The hymn was played as President Kennedy's casket was carried out of St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

**Those who are able may stand.*

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

After passing the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - grade 1, are invited to Children’s Church held in the Children’s Chapel in the Tinsley Stern building.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***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

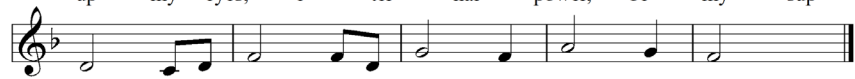
PROSPECT



E - ter - nal light, shine in my heart; e - ter - nal hope, lift



up my eyes; e - ter - nal power, be my sup -



port; e - ter - nal wis - dom, make me wise.

First Lesson

Luke 9:28-36, page 946

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

Second Lesson

Mark 8:27-38, page 921

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

Sermon

Positive Identification

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 101**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory

Adoro te devote

Charles Callahan

11:00 a.m. Offertory

Christ upon the Mountain Peak

Paul Bouman

Christ upon the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing.
Let us, if we dare to speak, with the saints and angels praise him – Alleluia!
Trembling at his feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the Law shout through them their joyful greeting – Alleluia!
Swift the cloud of glory came, God, proclaiming in his thunder
Jesus as his Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder – Alleluia!
This is God’s beloved Son. Law and prophets fade before him,
first and last and only One. Let creation now adore him! – Alleluia!

***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**

Hymn 101 has been called the finest hymn in the English language. It was included in Isaac Watt’s hymns “for the Holy Ordinance of the Lord’s Supper,” but its theme is larger than the sacrament. Our gaze is fixed entirely on the cross, but stanza two warns us not to glory in ourselves. In stanza three, we see the unveiling of the heart of God, filled with sorrow and love for us. When we feel something of the crucifixion we are confronted with the demand of the cross: “my soul, my life, my all.”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

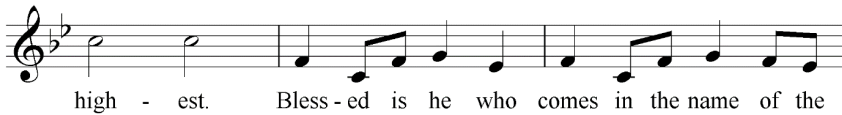
Lift up your hearts.

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:"



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



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



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

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

8:45 a.m. – Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward to receive the bread and dip it into the cup.

11:00 a.m. – 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 371** *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you;

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

***Postlude** *Postlude on Lift High the Cross* David Cherwien

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 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

To pick up your child from Children's Church after the 11:00 a.m. service, please go to the Church Library across from the Children's Chapel on the second floor of the Tinsley Stern building.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists

8:45 a.m. Carol Strickland

11:00 a.m. Carol Strickland, Harper Havick

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Jimmy Bishop, Wright Cook

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove

11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Randy Dudley (head),
Terry Caven

11:00 a.m. Bruce Miller (head),
Cynthia McCullers, Carmen Meadows,
Arlene Shirley, Pat Tritt

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles,
Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Jayne Bailey, Susan Landrum,
Tom Landrum, Melinda Miller

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Fellowship & Evangelism Commission

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is on Facebook.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARDI GRAS MISSION GALA

Today! 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Come enjoy a cajun lunch prepared by our youth, silent auction, and treasure island. A live auction of extra-special items will begin at 1:00 p.m. Adult tickets are \$15 at the door. Have fun while supporting our next Honduras mission trip!

VBS 2019: ROAR! Register Now!

Register online for Vacation Bible School, Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, May 31. At ROAR, we will explore God's goodness and learn how a ferocious faith will help power them through this wild life. Please contact Natalie to volunteer, natalie@firstpresathens.org. We need you!

FPC WOMEN'S RETREATS

Details and registration for both retreats are on the church website.

One-Day Retreat in Athens, April 13

At Brita and Bill Barry's beautiful garden. Led by the Rev. Amy Baer. Cost is \$25. Scholarships for child care are available

Weekend at Montreat, August 9-11

Keynote speaker will be Valarie Kaur with special guest artist Amy Grant. Register for the Women's Connection Conference on the Montreat website. FPC has reserved use of the Georgia Lodge at Montreat. Cost for two nights at the Georgia Lodge is \$60.

Ash Wednesday

March 6

Worship, 12:00 & 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for a traditional service including communion and imposition of ashes. The ashes will be prepared by the youth.

Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

\$8/adult, \$5/child (12 and under), \$20 max per family. Please make reservations for dinner on the Fellowship Pad, online, or by contacting the church office **by Monday, March 4 at 12:00 p.m.**

Wednesday Lenten Suppers & Study

Beginning March 13, Fellowship Hall

Supper: 5:45 p.m.

\$8/adult, \$5/child (12 and under), \$20 max per family. Please make reservations for dinner on the Fellowship Pad, online, or by contacting the church office **by Mondays at 12:00 p.m.**

Study: 6:30-7:30 p.m, "What's the Deal with Presbyterians?" led by Dr. Ryan Baer

March 13 - *How did we get here?*

March 20 - *Do Presbyterians really believe in predestination?*

March 27 - *Presbyterians: doing church decently and in order for 500 years.*

April 3 - *Why isn't the Presbyterian pastor's picture on a freeway billboard?*

April 10 - *Do Presbyterians really believe in "total depravity?"*

New Member Class

If you are interested in learning more about Presbyterianism and discipleship at FPC, we invite you to attend our New Member class.

Sunday, March 24, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Informational class led by Dr. Ryan Baer, Moses Waddel Room
Child care is available (with reservation)

Sunday, March 31, 4:00 p.m.

New Member Tea, the Session will receive those wishing to join

Sunday, April 7, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service, new members introduced to the congregation

Please contact Lucy Bell Johnson in the church office, lbell@firstpresathens.org, by March 20.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 Coordinator: Rita Raines

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 • Children's Ministry Suite

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

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.

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.

- March 3 - Ron Bogue will speak on the history of FPC
- March 10 - Ron Bogue will continue his talk on the history of FPC

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann, Carla Buss, Larry Jones

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 1 Corinthians 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, & Jordan Osborne

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! TODAY: Join Chuck Toney for the final session, *Asking the Hard Questions*.

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." TODAY: Confirmation Class will meet in the Kitchen to prepare lunch for the Mardis Gras Mission Gala.

*During 11:00 a.m. worship, youth will be helping to set up and prepare lunch for the Mardis Gras Mission Gala.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

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

TONIGHT

It's time for the 5th annual Frozen Chosen Cup! We'll meet at Athens Skate Inn from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for a friendly competition between FPC, OPC, Madison and Covenant Pres.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 3 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Mardi Gras Mission Gala Silent Auction begins, Fellowship Hall
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Mardi Gras Mission Gala, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Frozen Chosen on Wheels, Athens Skate Inn, 295 Commerce Blvd.

Monday, March 4

- 10:00 a.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 7:15 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Dawgs, Tuckston UMC, 4175 Lexington Rd.

Tuesday, March 5

- 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 Judy Scanlon, 155 Deerhollow Rd.
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn, 425 Southview Dr.

Wednesday, March 6 - Ash Wednesday

- 11:55 a.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread, First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St.
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Ballet, Children's Ministry Suite
- 3:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare's *Henry V*, Room 308
- 5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 7

- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Bentley Assisted Living, 50 Sumner Way, Jefferson
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Softball begins, Bishop Park, 705 Sunset Dr.

Sunday, March 10 - Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time begins

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

March 11-15 - Weekday School Spring Break

March 13 - Lenten Suppers & Study begin

March 22-23 - Session Retreat

March 24 - Confirmation Sunday & Reception

March 24, 31 & April 7 - New Member Class

April 13 - FPC Women's One-Day Retreat

April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 14-21 - IHNA Host Week

April 18 - Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service

April 19 - Community Good Friday Service, Covenant Presbyterian Church

April 20 - Easter Egg Hunt & Picnic

April 21 - Easter Services & Brunch

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Richard Lane, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2019	CLASS OF 2020	CLASS OF 2021
Robbie Bryan	Jeff Bangle	Jennifer Walden Abbott
Greta Terrell Covington	Meghan Bawcum	Sandy Boyles
DeeAnn Cox	Bob Burton	Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Bob Glasscock	Julie Hayes	Elizabeth Earl
Mary Havick	Sydney Jackson	Ed Ferguson
Joe Hermanowicz	Avery McLean	Rob Haire
Richard Lane	Jeanne Nadenicek	Grace Lu
Mary Peace	Carl Nichols	Chris Pope
Lawton Stephens	Tom Reigle	Mixon Robinson
Dan Trier	Judy Scanlon	Rosemary Stancil

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Kipp, *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. Rita Raines, *Nursery 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.**