



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!

May 26, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Ascension 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

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Alec Wyton

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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

Moment for Mission

Stephen Ministry

Drew Marshall

Song of Gathering

DIX

**Make a joyful noise to God!
All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed,
unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name,
ages old, yet still the same.**

Call to Worship

from Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
sovereign over all the earth.
God has gone up with a shout,
The Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

*Hymn 142

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

The 18th-century text of, *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*, celebrates the sovereignty of Christ. It has been through several changes before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

* *Those who are able may stand.*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Faithful God, you are devoted to us. Forgive us when we are not devoted to you. We would rather be secure than brave. We would rather be in control than be faithful. We know that you call out for us to follow, but we look for you in all the wrong places. Forgive us, God of mercy. Heal us from our self-centeredness. Empower us to know the depth of your grace, and lead us to share that grace with the world.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***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 - lia, 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.

Children's Church will not meet over the summer. Children are invited to remain in worship.

Commissioning of Vacation Bible School Volunteers

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 support; e - ter - nal wisdom, make me wise.

First Lesson

Luke 24:44-53, page 967

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

King of Glory, King of Peace

J. S. Bach
arr. William H. Harris

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
and that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.
Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.
Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is in this poor sort to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

The anthem is a text by George Herbert, set to the music of Johann Sebastian Bach in an arrangement by English organist and composer William Henry Harris. Harris served St. David's Cathedral in Wales (at the age of 14), Christ Church, Oxford, and St. George's Chapel, Windsor. His choristers affectionately called him "Doc H."

Second Lesson

Acts 1:1-11, page 993

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Witnesses

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 151

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

The text of *Crown Him with Many Crowns* is so familiar that it is easy to miss its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating royal sound.

The Nicene Creed was the first official doctrinal statement of the whole church. It developed from the work of the first two ecumenical councils, Nicea in 325 and Constantinople in 381, and was accepted as definitive by the Council of Chalcedon in 451 after two centuries of struggle to clarify the relationship of Jesus Christ to God and humanity. It is the only creed accepted and used by all three major branches of Christendom: Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *HYFRYDOL* David Cherwien

***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 144** *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* HYFRYDOL

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Martyr Haugen



Postlude *HYFRYDOL* Ralph Vaughan Williams

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 9:00 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

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Liturgist

Carol Strickland

Lay Reader

Leslye Queen

USHERS

Allen Crowell (head), Judy Burch,
Phyllis Crowell, Jerris Hayes, Julie Hayes

GREETERS

Kathy Bangle, Diane Hartzell, Keith Oelke,
Lisa Oelke

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Sandy Boyles & Shirley Chambliss

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and to honor the men and women who have served our Armed Forces and in memory of James W. Dudley, Sr. and Jr., Major Bruce Coleman, and Colonel John Duane, by Randy Dudley.

Summer Schedule

Sunday School and Children's Church will not meet over the summer. Children are invited to remain in worship. Watch for the church mouse in your bulletin starting June 9 with "A Time for Children."



THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 26

10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

11:05 a.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, Bride's Room, Tinsley-Stern Building

11:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, May 27 - Church Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, May 31, Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, May 28

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304

5:00 p.m. Lay Callers' Meeting, Staff Conference Room

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

6:00 p.m. First Friends, Taqueira Tsunami, 320 E. Clayton St.

Wednesday, May 29

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary

2:00 p.m. Bridge, Room 302

4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Sunday, June 2 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching

LOOKING AHEAD

Sundays, June 2-23 - History of the Church by Ron Bogue

June 5 - Weekday School Wonderful Wednesdays begin

June 9 - Pentecost - Wear Red!

Pentecost Offering

Books for Keeps Book Drive dropoff deadline

June 9-15 - Youth Mission Trip to Heifer Ranch

June 10-13 - Weekday School Camp

June 12 & 16 - Bookless Book Group

June 23-29 - Montreat Worship & Music Conference

July 8-11 - Weekday School Camp

July 10 & 24 - Bookless Book Group

Summer Office Hours

The church office will close at 2:00 p.m. on Friday afternoons through July 26. 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 to contact Dr. Baer.

Summer Choir Begins June 2

All interested singers are invited to join us in the choir room at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays to rehearse music for that morning's service. Our Chancel Choir will be 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD SUNDAY

June 2

On Sunday, June 2 we will collect items for the Athens-Area Emergency Food Bank. This month they request **saltine crackers, boxes of instant oatmeal packets, and pork & beans.**

Thank you for donating 717 items in May!!!

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH WITH RON BOGUE

Sundays, June 2, 9, 16, 23

Everyone is invited to the Moses Waddel Room after worship at 11:30 a.m. on the first four Sundays in June for Ron Bogue's popular series on the history of FPC.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

We would like to honor our college graduates in the June/July issue of our *Columns* newsletter. To recognize someone, please send their name, school, degree, future plans, and a picture to Nan Thomas, nan@firstpresathens.org, by June 3.

PENTECOST OFFERING, June 9

Your gift helps the church develop and support its youth and also addresses the needs of at-risk children. Sixty percent goes to support our denomination's Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program, national youth ministries, and child advocacy. Forty percent stays locally to provide scholarships for the Barrow Elementary After-School program.

Vacation Bible School - Roar!

Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, May 31, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Church doors will open each morning at 8:45 a.m. and VBS Fun will begin at 9:00 a.m. sharp in Fellowship Hall. Please walk your child into the church Tuesday - Friday at the Weekday School Entrance at the back of the church. Pick-up/Car Line will begin at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday.

Friday, parents and families please enter through the Atrium doors at the front of the church and join the children in Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m. for our closing program. We are looking forward to a wonderful week together!

“Go Forth Sharing the Love of Christ”

Our Stephen Ministry program helps us fulfill our mission. Stop by the Atrium table or learn more at a brief meeting in the Bride's Room in the Tinsley-Stern Building today at 11:05 a.m. or June 9 at 9:15 a.m. if you are interested in receiving training to become a Stephen Minister. Applications are in the Atrium, church office, and on our website. The next class will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning August 20.

Books for Keeps Book Drive Through June 9

This year marks 10 years that BFK has been giving away books to Athens-area students. Eight thousand students at 18 elementary schools in Georgia will receive 95,000 books this year, surpassing half-a-million books given away!

FPC has become a large supporter of Books for Keeps with our annual book drive. You can help make sure no child in our community goes a summer without great books to read. Please bring your used books to the bins in the Atrium or church office. Books of all kinds will be accepted, then sold by Books for Keeps with proceeds used to buy new children's books. Learn more at booksforkeeps.org. Thank you!

Weekend Retreat at Montreat Women's Connection Conference “The Greatest of These Is Love” Friday, August 9 - Sunday, August 11

Keynote speaker will be civil rights activist, faith leader, and founder of the Revolutionary Love Project, Valarie Kaur with special guest artist Amy Grant. Register for the Women's Connection Conference on the Montreat website. Conference cost is \$236 until June 28.

FPC has reserved use of the Georgia Lodge at beautiful Montreat. Cost for two nights at the Georgia Lodge is \$60. Meals are extra. Please register on the FPC website by June 28 to stay with FPC friends at the Georgia Lodge or stop by the Atrium table today.