



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!

February 9, 2025
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after 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.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

DUKE STREET

**Let every voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

Call to Worship

We come to Jesus for healing,
Whether or not we feel worthy.
Jesus sees our faith and loves us,
We are healed and made whole.

*Hymn 481

Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show

LLANFAIR

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of light, you reveal yourself to us, but we do not see. You call to us, but we do not hear. You reach out to us, but we do not feel. Instead we live as though you are not our God. We act in ways that bring disunity, oppression, and pain to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world. Forgive us for our constant wandering. Draw us back into your loving arms and re-direct our steps onto your path of love, justice, and healing, for the sake of all that you have made.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).

Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show, a paraphrase of Psalm 150, was slightly shortened when set to the present tune with recurring Alleluias. The Welsh tune bears a name meaning "the church of St. Mary."

**Those who are able may stand.*

At "The Peace," worshipers are invited to greet each other by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you."

After the Passing of the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - 2nd Grade, are invited to Children's Church held in the Children's Ministry Suite on the first floor.

Lay Reader:
11:00: Dan Nadenicek

O Christ, the Healer, a prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit, considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of widespread need, worshiping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles' Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.

*Congregational Response

David Ogden



*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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 454, stanza 1
**Blessed Jesus, at your word we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your teachings true and holy,
drawn from earth to love you solely.**

First Lesson Psalm 119:105-107, page 557
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Teach Me, O Lord* Thomas Attwood
Teach me, o Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it to the end.

Second Lesson Luke 7:1-17, page 942
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Remote Work* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn insert** *O Christ, the Healer* O WALY WALY

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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.**

Emma Lou Diemer



*You may mail your check,
set up an automatic gift
through your bank, or
donate online using this
QR code or at
firstpresathens.org/
giving. Thank you for
your generosity.*

*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 280** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound was written by John Newton to accompany his sermon on I Chronicles 17, preached on January 1, 1773. It was not paired with the now-familiar tune until 1835.

*Charge and Benediction

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
OneLicense.net #A-714861*

Postlude

Grand Choeur

Théodore Dubois

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:10 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.

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.

Children, Pre K – 2nd Grade, are invited to Children’s Church during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Children’s Church will be held downstairs in the Children’s Ministry Suite. We will depart for Children’s Church following the Passing of the Peace. To pick up your child after the service, please go to the church courtyard entrance of the Children’s Ministry Suite.

Souper Bowl of Caring
Today, February 9

Join us in helping our community this Super Bowl Sunday! The youth will be standing outside the Sanctuary today after services with empty pots, asking you to help us fill them! 100% of your donation will go towards hunger relief in Athens.

Campus Ministry Sunday

Sunday, February 16

Join us next Sunday, February 16 at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. as the students and staff of The Table (formerly Presbyterian Student Center at UGA) will lead us in worship with the theme “The Possibility of Offense.” For more information about The Table, please visit their website at tableuga.org.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw

11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Richard Lane, John Turner

GREETERS

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue, Diane Hudgins

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

FEBRUARY FLOWER TEAM

Susan Baldwin, Terry Nestor, Gail Wilfong

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of our “Sunday Morning Crew” who always make it happen! Given by Lewis and Diane Hudgins.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and online on Facebook and YouTube.

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 9

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

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments

12:00 p.m. Youth Group Lunch & Bowling, Fellowship Hall

12:15 p.m. Young Adult Sunday Brunch

4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203

4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

4:00 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Monday, February 10

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

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 12

9:15 a.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village of Athens

4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Class, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)

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

Thursday, February 13

9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children’s Ministry Suite

2:00 p.m. Mellows, Bentley Center for Adult Day Health

5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

5:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, February 16 - Campus Ministry Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Will Norman preaching

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments

12:15 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

5:00 p.m. Officer Training Orientation, Staff Conference Room

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Hannah Knight
Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Nursery Play, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children's Playroom • Infants – 4 Year Olds

Little ones are invited to Nursery Play during worship and Sunday school. Children will enjoy playtime, Bible stories, and a light snack with church friends.

Godly Play, 9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

Children's Ministry Suite • Pre-K – 5th Grade

Children are invited to Godly Play during the Sunday School hour. Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children “discover” who God is rather than being “told” who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offer children a safe and nurturing space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

Children and Worship, 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

All children are welcome to remain in worship with their families every Sunday. Children's bulletins, Bibles, and books are available at the children's tables located in the Narthex and on both sides of the choir loft.

Children's Church, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Children, Pre-K – 2nd Grade are invited to Children's Church after the passing of The Peace. We will continue worshipping together in the Children's Ministry Suite by listening to God's Word, praying to God, and responding through art and worship.

**No Children's Church on the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday. All children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on this special Sunday to take part in worship and Communion with family.*

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Hannah Knight
The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) – offered for both middle and high school

Both middle and high school groups will be using the Living the Word curriculum, that closely follows the narrative lectionary that guides our worship each week. Middle and high schoolers will be split into separate rooms in the PIT for a time of study, discussion, and response.

Youth Group (5:30–7 p.m.)

Sunday night youth group is a safe space for youth to come as they are! We will begin with dinner together in the fellowship hall (please volunteer to provide a meal at tinyurl.com/FPCYouthDinner2024). At 6:00, both middle and high school groups will move down to the PIT where there will be games, Bible study, creative response time, and lots of laughs as we spend an intentional hour together. The theme for this year is “In Every Season,” rooted in Ecclesiastes 3:1–8. We will spend time diving into what it looks like to trust & see God in every season, and learning to be okay with asking questions about our faith.

For any questions, please contact Hannah at hannah@firstpresathens.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Bible Basics • Moses Waddel Room

Bible Basics is a new intergenerational adult class designed to improve basic Bible knowledge and familiarity. This year, we are “walking through the Bible” – Genesis to Revelation – in an effort to lay a solid foundation for future Bible study. The class is appropriate for all experience levels from “Biblical neophytes” to those looking for a refresher.

Contacts: David Dantzler (jdaviddantzler@gmail.com) and Elaine Johnson (elaine@firstpresathens.org)

Builders • Room 301

This class is a space for all parents of children and youth to gather and share in the complexity of family life. Our time together will offer a blend of fellowship, parenting support, Bible study, and service.

Contacts: Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org) or Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org)

HYBRID (in person and over Zoom)

Del Dunn Sunday School Class • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture, offering a collegial environment and welcoming all who seek to enrich their understanding of the Bible and its application to our daily lives.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)
Zoom ID: 380 330 5940, PW: 245449

New Voices • Room 310

The New Voices class is a discussion based class that is currently studying the parables of Jesus. This study is based on the book *Parables from the Backside*, by J. Ellsworth Kallas. All are invited to come study God's holy word with us!

Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)
Zoom ID: 674 533 8902

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

The class features open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity. This year, the class will have a study and discussion of the course *Jesus and His Jewish Influences*, by Dr. Jodi Magness, professor at UNC Chapel Hill.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com),
Jim Scanlon (jjtscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show 481

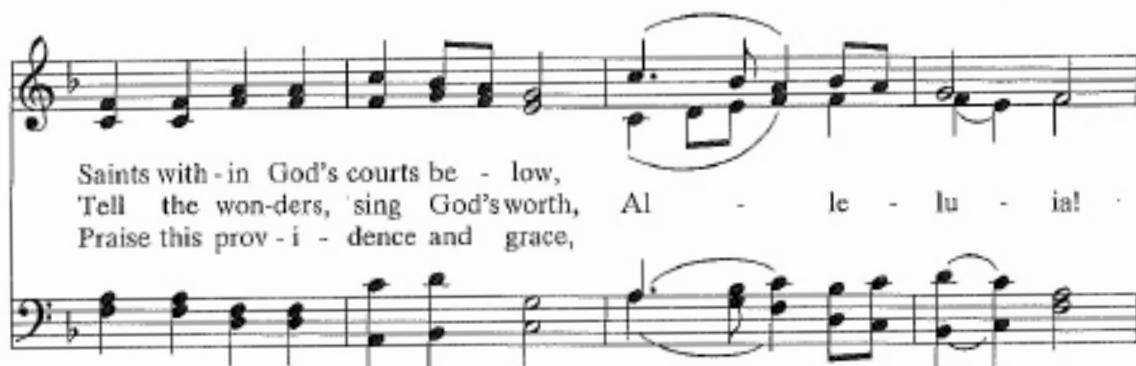
LLANFAIR 7.7.7.7 with alleluias

Robert Williams, 1817
Harm. David Evans, 1927

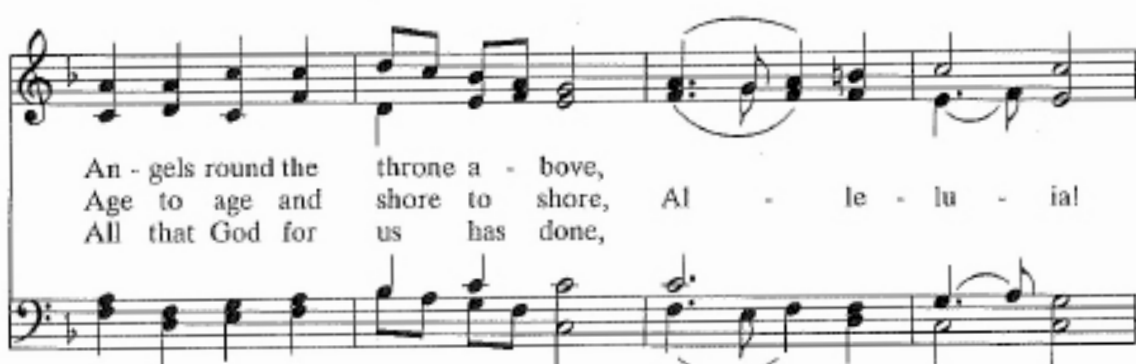
Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; alt.



1. Praise the Lord, God's glo - ries show,
2. Earth to heaven and heaven to earth, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Praise the Lord, great mer - cies trace,



Saints with - in God's courts be - low,
Tell the won - ders, sing God's worth, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise this prov - i - dence and grace,



An - gels round the throne a - bove,
Age to age and shore to shore, Al - le - lu - ia!
All that God for us has done,



All that see and share God's love.
Praise God, praise for - ev - er - more! Al - le - lu - ia!
All God sends us through the Son.

Hymn

O Christ, the Healer

O WAILY WAILY



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
 2 From ev - ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be re -
 clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we would con -
 knowl - edge of our-selves! Re-lease in us those heal - ing
 nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de - clares our
 mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing



stored, when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.
 truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 280

AMAZING GRACE CM

Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1779

Stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

Virginia Harmony, 1831

Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.

5. When we've been there ten thousand
 years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's praise
 Than when we'd first begun.

Choctaw

Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 Hatak ilbusha pia ha
 Is pi yukpalashke

Kiowa

Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy he tsow'haw
 Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy hee.
 Bay dawtsahy taw, gaw aym ow thah t'aw,
 Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy h'ee.

Cherokee

Ooh nay thla nah, hee oo way gee'.
 E gah gwoo yah hay ee.
 Naw gwoo joe sah, we you low say,
 E gah gwoo yah ho nah.

Creek

Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 Ah non ah cha pa kas
 Cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 Um e ha ta la yus.

Navaho

Nizhóníígo jooba' diits' a'
 Yisdáshítinígíí,
 Lah yóóíiyá, k'ad shénáhoosdzin,
 Doo eesh'jǫ da áít'éé.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrup, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2025

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Neff
Bruce Middendorf
Randy Riner
Chuck Toney

CLASS OF 2026

Lindsay Griffeth
Dan Nadenicek
Karen Phillips
Ethelyn Simpson
Jeffrey Trapnell
Pat Tritt
John Turner
Pat Waldrup

CLASS OF 2027

Susan Baldwin
Bill Bushnell
Amy Cowsert
Matt Crim
Jay Holloway
Tom Lane
Joan Pinson
Paige Simmons

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor* (whitney@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Hannah Knight, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries* (hannah@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Office Administrator* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Director of Communications* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Joli Winstanley, *Receptionist* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotteposs@gmail.com)
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*
Mr. Wayne Brock, *Sexton*
Mr. Justin Winstanley, *Sunday Morning Manager*