



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!

June 15, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Trinity Sunday

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

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

LAND OF REST

**This is the day the Lord hath made;
the hours are all God's own;
let heaven rejoice, let earth be glad,
and praise surround the throne.**

Call to Worship

God, how majestic is your name! You create, and through creation, we encounter your wisdom and power.

How majestic is the name of God, our Creator!

You redeem, and through Jesus Christ, we encounter your saving love and grace.

How majestic is the name of God, our Redeemer!

You sustains us, and through your Spirit, we encounter your renewing presence.

How majestic is the name of God, our Sustainer!

Come, let us worship the Triune God!

***Hymn 138** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

NICEA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy and triune God, you alone live in perfect relationship, one God in three persons, mutual and loving, ever seeking reconciliation and unity. You have called us to live in your completion, yet we confess that our relationships are imperfect and we are incomplete without you. We are selfish and greedy. We are anxious and resenting. We feel the shame of our foolish behavior and brokenness, for we have allowed sin to drive us apart from one another and from you. Forgive us and restore us. (cont.)

**Those who are able may stand.*

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

Much of the imagery of *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* comes from Revelation 4, which its author, an Anglican bishop, knew as reading appointed for Trinity Sunday. The tune, written for this text, reinforces the Trinitarian theme by using triads.

Draw us close and bind us together in your mercy. May we long for wholeness and peace, and ay we strive toward gratitude and grace, in the saving name of your son, Jesus Christ, and by the working power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Silent Prayer**
Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response** David Ogden

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

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

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.”

All children are invited to remain in worship on Sunday mornings with family during the summer months.

Lay Reader:
Sharon Neff

The anthem is a text by Robert Herrick (1591-1674), set to music to English organist and composer Peter Hurford.

Be Still, My Soul seems to be rooted in Psalm 46, “Be still and know that I am God,” while also drawing from 1 Thessalonians 4: “we will be with the Lord forever.” The tune is named for the tone poem on which it is based.

***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

Prayer for Illumination PROSPECT
Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes; eternal power, be my support; eternal wisdom, make me wise.

First Lesson Mark 15:33-34, page 931
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Litany to the Holy Spirit* Peter Hurford
In the hour of my distress when temptations me oppress,
and when I my sins confess, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!
When I lie within my bed, sick in heart and sick in head,
and with doubts discomfited, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!
When the house doth sigh and weep, and the world is drowned in sleep,
yet mine eyes the watch do keep, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!

Second Lesson Psalm 88, page 533
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Everybody Hurts (Sometimes): Suicide Prevention* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn insert** *Be Still, My Soul-* FINLANDIA

***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, (cont.)
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. (cont.)**

**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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *When We Are in Deepest Need* Johann Sebastian Bach

***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 260** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN’ FESTE BURG

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 540, stanza 4
**God be with you till we meet again;
keep love’s banner floating o’er you,
smite death’s threatening wave before you
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Helmut Walcha

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.



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.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God is Martin Luther’s paraphrase of Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

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

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 9:00 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.

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.

“Everybody Hurts (Sometimes)”

For three Sundays in June, the Congregational Care Commission will be offering a 3-week series called “Everybody Hurts (Sometimes)”. This series is back-by-popular-demand and will focus on three unique areas of human experience that are painful and challenging – we will hear personal stories, professional perspectives, and offer resources for continued healing.

The topics this year are: Suicide Prevention (today, June 15), Caregiving (June 22), and Aging (June 29). We will meet in the Moses Waddel Room from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each of those weeks, and light breakfast items will be available. Please reach out to Whitney (whitney@firstpresathens.org) with any questions -- we hope you will plan to join us for these important conversations.

Nursery and Children’s + Youth Sunday school will be offered during that time.

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
Sharon Neff

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon (head),
John Simpson, Emily LaBoon

GREETER

Svea Bogue

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Michael Peace by Mary Peace.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Linden Eve Iler on May 22, 2025. Parents are Greer Van Dyck and Nate Iler. Grandparents are Philip and Madeline Van Dyck.

We also have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Leonard Joseph Dantzler on June 2, 2025. Parents are Courtney and James Dantzler III. Grandparents are David and Anne Dantzler.

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

JUNE FLOWER TEAM

Tootsie Adams, Susan Banister, Page Pate

TO AID IN WORSHIP

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Fellowship Outings

Summer is here! We hope you'll plan to join us for some (or all!) of these fun fellowship outings. Each of these is open to anyone who would like to attend – all ages and stages of our church family! Please RSVP to Whitney (whitney@firstpresathens.org) so we can keep a headcount and feel free to reach out with questions.

Saturday June 21 at 9:00 a.m. Kayaking on the Broad River

\$35 per person. Please e-mail Whitney to sign up *by June 16*.

Saturday, June 28 at 8:30 a.m. Biking on the Greenway

Bikers (all ages and abilities welcome!) can meet at the Sandy Creek Nature Center parking lot (205 Old Commerce Road). Bring your own bike, helmet, and water bottle. Please contact Karen Phillips if you plan to join at shutterstitch@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 19 at 6:05 p.m. Gwinnett Stripers v. Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp (Triple-A baseball), Coolray Field (Lawrenceville, GA)

\$15 per person. Please e-mail Whitney *by July 1* to claim your spot!

Thursday, July 24 at 5:30 p.m. Downtown Dinner, Creature Comforts Brewing Company (271 W. Hancock Ave)

Food truck, beverages (including n/a), and fun for everyone!

Tuesday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. Trivia at Mellow Mushroom (320 E. Clayton St)

Bring your knowledge and competitive spirit for team trivia!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 15

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Combined Children & Youth Sunday School, Children's Ministry Suite
- 11:15 a.m. Everybody Hurts Series: Suicide Prevention, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, June 16 - Juneteenth Observed, Church Office Closed

- 6:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, June 17

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

Wednesday, June 18

- 5:30 p.m. FARMRx Food Classes, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, June 19

- 5:30 p.m. FARMRx Food Classes, Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Stated Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Saturday, June 21

- 9:00 a.m. Kayaking on the Broad River, Broad River Outpost

Sunday, June 22

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Combined Children & Youth Sunday School, Children's Ministry Suite
- 11:15 a.m. Everybody Hurts Series: Suicide Prevention, Moses Waddel Room

Summer Choir

If you've ever wondered what it's like to sing in the choir, but have never done so, this may be a chance to give choir a "test drive." If you would like to sing but can't make the commitment to Wednesday night rehearsals during the regular season, this is the time to join the choir. Beginning today, **May 26, through August 18**, we will meet in the choir room at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays to rehearse music for that morning's service. Singers may join for any single Sunday or for as many as they wish, even for the whole summer. There is no obligation, but we do hope some will decide they enjoy singing in the choir enough to continue in the fall. Although this choir is made up mostly of adults, youth and children are also welcome. For more information, contact John Coble at jcoble@firstpresathens.org.

Come to the Well: Exploring God's Love Through Stories of Water

Save the date for our intergenerational VBS! All ages are welcome - there will be activities for kids, youth, and adults! Dates are July 13-16, 5:00-7:30 p.m. Dinner is provided. The cost is \$25 per person to help provide materials and resources for our mission projects throughout the week. Payment can be made via our website (firstpresathens.org/giving, please select "VBS Fund" under "select a fund") or mailed to the church office. You are invited to come to the well - all are welcome!

Please register at tinyurl.com/2025cometothewell. Questions? Contact Hannah Knight, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at hannah@firstpresathens.org.

We need volunteers! If you can help us with art, recreation, worship, dinner, check-in/out, leading our littlest ones, or other tasks as needed, we'd be so grateful! Please visit tinyurl.com/FPCVBS25 to sign up.

138 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA 11.12.12.10

Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

As in *Hymns Written and Adapted*, 1827; alt.

John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

Desc. David McKinley Williams, 1948

Descant

4. Ho - - - - - ly,

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ho - - - - - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful-ness Thy glo - ry may not see,
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - - - - - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side. Bear pa-tient - ly the
2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take to guide the fu - ture
3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has-tening on when we shall be for-

cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy God to or - der and pro- vide,
sure-ly as the past. Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
ev - er with the Lord; when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul: thy
all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the
sor - ow for - got, love's pur-est joys re-stored. Be still, my soul: when

best, thy heaven-ly Friend through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
waves and winds still know his voice who ruled themwhile he dwelt be - low.
change and tears are past all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

TEXT: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933, alt.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7

Martin Luther, 1529

Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852

Martin Luther, 1529



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth;



For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a -
 The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y



power are great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
 can en - dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 they may kill, God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Senior Pastor Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session
Whitney Booth Lockard, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2026

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

CLASS OF 2027

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

CLASS OF 2028

Steven Brooks
Courtney Dantzler
Shannon Ferguson
Edward W. (Ned) Phares
Holly Sheats
Lawton Stephens
Madeline Van Dyck
John Webster

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)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Office Administrator* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Joli Winstanley, *Administrative & Communications Assistant* (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*