



# 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 5, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 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. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin or hymnal.*

### Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

### Prelude

*Prelude on THAXTED*

David M. Cherwien

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

*Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.*

### Song of Gathering

Hymn No. 489, Stanza 1

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there.**

**Where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;**

**O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.**

### Call to Worship

Psalm 96

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord;

**People: sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Leader: Say among the nations: "The Lord reigns."

**People: Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!**

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

**\*Hymn No. 464** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

\*\*\**Latecomers may be seated.*

The well-known melody of *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* was created to provide a choral setting for J.C.F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

\* Those who are able may stand.

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, according to your will, our Lord Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins, to set us free from the present evil age. Yet despite his supreme sacrifice we have sought human approval, failed to trust your authority, and thus hobbled our faith.

Forgive our double-mindedness, O Lord; graciously heal us, and grant us competence in worship and in witness to your revelation. Amen.

### \*Assurance of Pardon

### \*Congregational Response

CELTIC ALLELUIA

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

### \*Passing of 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.**

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

The lovely and joyous baptismal text *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* was written by Ronald S. Cole-Turner for the Baptism of his child. It celebrates the love and joy surrounding the new life of the child, while acknowledging that this child comes from God, is given back to God in Baptism, and is indeed God's child.

Children, age four through grade two, may come forward for a message and then leave for Children's Church located in the Children's Ministry Suite. To pick up your child after the service, please go through the Atrium and down the stairs.

### Sacrament of Baptism

Receiving the sacrament of baptism is Mary Dodson Doornbos, daughter of Jason and Andrea Doornbos.

#### \*Question to Congregation

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Dottie by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ? Do we? **We do.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**      *The Apostles' Creed*      Hymnal, p.14

**Baptism Hymn No. 498**      *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*      KINGDOM

### A Time for Young Children

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

**Congregational Prayer for Illumination**      Hymn No. 321, Stanza 1  
**Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;  
Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

**First Lesson**      Hebrews 12:1-2, page 1099

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

**Anthem***O God, Beyond All Praising*

Richard Proulx

O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today  
 and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
 for we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
 at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
 we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
 we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.  
 The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,  
 its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;  
 but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown –  
 though small in mortal stature, to heaven’s garden grown:  
 for Christ the man from heaven from death has set us free,  
 and we through him are given the final victory.  
 Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
 that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
 and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
 we’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to praise you still:  
 to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
 and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

The anthem is a setting of the hymn *O God, Beyond All Praising*. The hymn tune is by English composer Gustav Holst, based on the middle section of Jupiter from the orchestral work *The Planets*. The text was written by Michael Perry in 1982. It was sung at the funeral of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in 2016.

**Second Lesson** Ecclesiastes 9:7-11, page 608This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.****Sermon***The Race Is Not to the Swift*

Dr. Doak

Text: Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift.  
 Ecclesiastes 9:11

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD****Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

Hymnal, p. 16

. . . **forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.** . . .**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings***Every worshiper, young and old, is encouraged to offer a gift out of gratitude to God.***Offertory***For All the Saints*

Flor Peeters

**\*Doxology**

Hymn No. 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 No. 526***For All the Saints*

SINE NOMINE

**\*Benediction****\*Congregational Response**

Hymn No. 535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
 through this and every coming day,  
 that in your Spirit strong and true  
 our lives may be our gift to you.**

The broad and sweeping tune with which *For All the Saints* is so closely identified was created to be sung during a reverent but dramatic procession at the beginning of an All Saint’s Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring “fellowship divine” celebrated by this text.

Following worship, all are invited for a time of conversation and refreshments in the Atrium.

**Called Congregational Meeting****Postlude***Postlude (Toccata) on THAXTED*

David M. Cherwien