



Worship begins when the first person arrives. Please worship silently through the prelude.

The congregation reads or sings parts in bold.

*Please stand if able
**or God

When we stand in the light of God's goodness, we see ourselves for who we really are, including our shadows, our brokenness and our sin. We come before God in complete honesty, confessing our sins, and asking God by the grace of forgiveness, to restore what is

The Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. Having received Christ's peace, we pass it on.

We invite young children to come to the front at this time.

This anthem, based on an ancient liturgical chant from the 9th Century, is often used as an Advent song.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday September 24, 2017, 10:30 A.M.

FIFTHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Today's scriptures portray the people of God grumbling against God. In Exodus, the Israelites have been released from slavery, but in the midst of the desert wilderness they long for the security and routine of their life in Egypt. In Matthew, Jesus tells the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, each of whom is paid the same daily wage despite having worked a different number of hours. In both readings, God meets the frustration of the people with generosity and provision, as God rains manna on the Israelites and reminds the laborers that their anger grows out of his generosity, not any injustice they themselves have received.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Variations on "Oh, Worship the King"

Michael Burkhardt

WORDS OF WELCOME

Robert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Carl Franz

L: God of the past who has fathered and mothered us,

P: we are here to thank you.

L: God of the future who is always ahead of us,

P: we are here to trust you.

L: God of the present here in the midst of us,

P: we are here to praise you.

L: God of life beyond us, within us,

P: we rejoice in your glorious love!

L: Let us worship God!

*HYMN 313

Come Down, O Love Diving

DOWN AMPNEY

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, for the things we have done that we regret, forgive us. For the things we have failed to do that we regret, forgive us. For all the times we have acted without love, forgive us. For all the times we have reacted without thought, forgive us. For all the times we have withdrawn care, forgive us. For all the times we have failed to forgive, forgive us. For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid, for unfinished tasks and unfulfilled hopes, God of all time, forgive us and help us to lay it all down and begin again. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri - 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen and Amen.

*Passing the Peace and Greetings

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Kirsten Trachsel

(Children are encouraged to go downstairs for music time after the Children's Moment. Younger children thru K may remain in the nursery and older children will return to the worship service.)

ANTHEM

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR/arr. John Scott

Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light, O Jesu, Savior of us all, regard thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry of all creation doomed to die, Didst come to save a ruined race with healing gifts of heav'nly grace.

Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to eveningtide, Proceeding from a virgin shrine, the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

At thy great name, majestic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow, And things in heav'n and earth shall own, that thou art Lord and King alone.

To thee, O Holy One, we pray, our judge in that tremendous day, Preserve us, while we dwell below, from ev'ry onslaught of the foe.

All praise, Eternal Son, to thee, whose advent sets thy people free, Whom with the Father we adore, and Spirit blest, forevermore. Amen.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURES Exodus 16:2-15 (pages 62, 63 in pew Bible)
Matthew 20:1-16 (pages 21, 22 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Franz
Rev. Martin

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Comparison is the Thief of Joy" Teddy Roosevelt

Rev. Robert Martin

*HYMN 411

Arise, Your Light is Come

FESTAL SONG

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION (Teen Institute)

Reggie Robison

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

Choral Response

OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

Wilbur Held

*Doxology - 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 (in unison)

Holy One, take these gifts as symbols of our devotion. Take our lives and knit them into your own. Take our hearts and breathe your hope into them. May we be your new people this day. Amen.

*HYMN 261

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O QUANTA QUALIA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Choral Response

*POSTLUDE

Ferland's Recessional

William Rowan

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**Today, September 24th**  
**Following the Worship Service - Called Congregational Meeting**

**Following the Congregational Meeting - Confirmation Class Fund Raising luncheon**  
**and "Protestants" book study**  
*(see back page for more details)*

## Worshiping With Children

- \* AFPC welcomes children in the worship service, whether in the pews or in the Children's Corner.
- \* Nursery is available for infant thru age 6 downstairs.
- \* Please tell childcare staff about any allergies.
- \* Bathrooms are located at the top of the stairs to the overflow area and in Fellowship Hall.
- \* Changing tables are located in the nursery and upstairs restroom.
- \* All children are welcome to attend the church service with their families or the childcare staff until after the Children's Moment.

*On behalf of the congregation, the Pastor expresses the corporate prayers of the congregation. These prayers are for world, local and personal concerns.*

*Doxology literally means "words of glory."  
Doxologies have long been used by Jews and Christians to praise God. Here we honor and thank God "from whom all blessings flow."*

### "Deep and Wide" Fall Events

**Today, September 24th - "Protestants" luncheon and book study, following worship**

Tuesday, October 3rd - "Going Deeper" Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 29th - Reformation 500th Anniversary Celebration luncheon and movie, following worship

Tuesday, November 14th - "Going Deeper" Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 28th - Advent Celebration, 5:30 p.m.

The three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and festivals was produced by the ecumenical Consultation on Common Texts in 1992. This lectionary provides scripture readings for proclamation in worship, following the Sundays, festivals, and seasons of the Christian year (or liturgical calendar). Four scripture passages are given for each Sunday and festival: (a) the First Reading, usually from the Old Testament, but replaced by a reading from Acts during the season of Easter; (b) a Psalm; (c) the Second Reading, an Epistle or other New Testament writing; and (d) the Gospel Reading, from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The three-year lectionary cycle (Years A, B, and C) focuses on different sections of scripture each year, notably the Gospel of Matthew in Year A, Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C (the fourth gospel, John, is prominently featured at certain times in each year).

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, September 24, 2017, the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

**First Reading** Exodus 16:2-15  
**Psalm** Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
**Second Reading** Philippians 1:21-30  
**Gospel** Matthew 20:1-16

**Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45**

- 1 O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
  - 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.
  - 3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
  - 4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.
  - 5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
  - 6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
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- 37 Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.
  - 38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.
  - 39 He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.
  - 40 They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
  - 41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.
  - 42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.
  - 43 So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.
  - 44 He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
  - 45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!

**Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30**

21For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. 27Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 28and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — 30since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Deep and Wide*

**Christian Education Theme: 2017-2018**

Where do we stand in a world of shaky theology and uncertain intentions? We cast out our nets of love as wide as possible, but how deep is our understanding? This year we will explore the theme of "Deep and Wide" by returning to our biblical roots. Join us as we seek to deepen and widen our knowledge and faith.



**You can watch a broadcast of FPC Worship service on Athens Community Television.**

**Schedule**  
 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.  
 Monday through Friday  
 and  
 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.  
 Saturday and Sunday.

Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin  
 Choir Director: David Tadlock  
 Organist: Janice Robison

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart  
 CE Coordinator and Handbell Director: Kirsten Trachsel  
 Administrative Assistant: Jane A. Baker

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Athens First Presbyterian Church Office  
 9 North College Street, Athens, OH 45701  
 Phone - 740/593-3351 Fax-740/593-3351  
 Email - office@athensfpc.org Web - www.athensfpc.org

**Deacon of the Month – Josh Bodnar**  
**(740) 593-9145      bodnar@ohio.edu**

*A friend to call in time of need*

Liturgist - Carl Franz    Chancel Preparation - Harvey Ballard  
Ushers - Harvey Ballard and Carol Perry  
Acolytes - Abbey Heinrich and Noah Heinrich

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Church Activities for the Week

SUNDAY, September 24th - Food Pantry Sunday

9:30 A.M. - Sunday School for all ages, various rooms
9:45 A.M. - Chancel choir rehearsal, choir room
10:00 A.M. - Children's chime choir rehearsal, classroom 3
10:00-10:20 A.M. - Trail mix assembly, library
10:30 A.M. - Minute for Mission during Worship, Sanctuary
Following Children's Moment - Children's Church, classrooms
11:30 A.M. - Children's crafts, classroom 3
11:30 A.M. - Coffee and fellowship, library
11:35 A.M.-Noon - Trail mix assembly, library
11:30 A.M. - Called Congregational meeting, Sanctuary
11:45 A.M. - Confirmation Class benefit luncheon and with the book study, fellowship hall (*see next column*)

MON., 25th - Elevator work to begin....

Noon - Al-Anon meeting, library
5:45 P.M. - Calliope choir rehearsal, fellowship hall

TUES., 26th - 10:00 A.M. - Combined Presbyterian Women's Circle meeting, Wyngate Club House, The Plains

Noon - Bible study, library

WED., 27th - 7:00 A.M. - AA, library

11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M. - College lunch and fellowship, fellowship hall

6:00 P.M. - Bell choir rehearsal, bell choir room

7:00 P.M. - Chancel choir rehearsal, Sanctuary

FRI., 29th - 7:00-8:00 P.M. - 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Sanctuary (*see below more into*)

SAT., 30th - 5:00 P.M. - Combined Church Choir Concert, First United Methodist Church, 2 South College

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**SUNDAY, October 1 - World Communion/Peacemaking Offering Sunday**

9:30 A.M. - Sunday School for all ages, various rooms  
9:45 A.M. - Chancel choir rehearsal, choir room  
10:00 A.M. - Children's chime choir rehearsal, classroom 3  
10:00-10:20 A.M. - Trail mix assembly, library  
10:30 A.M. - Communion, Minute for Mission and Peacemaking offering during Worship, Sanctuary  
Following Children's Moment - Children's Church, classrooms  
11:30 A.M. - Children's crafts, classroom 3  
11:30 A.M. - Thai presentation during coffee and fellowship, fellowship hall  
11:45 A.M. - Confirmation Class, Betty Lowe's farm

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Airship Athena Presents Music of the Nautilus - a musical celebration of Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea on Friday, September 29th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Step into Captain Nemo's cultural salon and enjoy an 1860's evening of music and song, featuring Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor (Janice Robison, organ), and a program of singers and readers under the direction of Mindy King of Airship Athena and Dr. David Tadlock.

TODAY - After Worship Lunch and Book Study -

After Worship Lunch - Help those who are hungry by staying for lunch after worship on Sunday, September 24th. **The Confirmation Class** is hosting the meal of shepherd's pie, salad, and apple pie for dessert. All donations will go to the Athens City School's Food Pantry location. The book study led by Harold Robison will follow the luncheon

Book Study - "Protestants: The Faith That Made the Modern World" by Alec Ryrie. Harold Robison will lead a discussion on Alec Ryrie's "Protestants". The church has purchased several copies of this lengthy account of the history and character of Reformation-inspired Christians. Please see Kirsten Trachsel if you would like to borrow a copy of the book. This event will be the first in our 2017-2018 education theme of "Deep and Wide". We will begin the education year celebrating and learning about the Reformation on it's 500th anniversary! We will spend the year deepening our knowledge of our faith and exploring the wideness of God's love and mercy.

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**CROP Walk** benefits Church World Service, an international relief agency. This year the walk is on **Sunday, October 8th**. Your walkers this year are Mary Costello, Helen King, Benji Martin, Danny Moates, Harold and Janice Robison, and Anderson Trachsel. They carry an envelope for donations to Church World Service. Please show your support for Church World Service by making a donation to one or more of these walkers.

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College Lunch and Fellowship - FPC's college lunch continues into its 4th decade. All students are welcomed and will enjoy a good meal. Volunteers are needed to provide these appreciative young people with hot home cooked meals. If you would like an opportunity to join in as a food provider or helper, please contact Jane Baker (740-593-3351, office@athensfpc.org or Lee Gregg - tleegregg@gmail.com.

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**Reading the Bible in a Year** - The "Read the Bible in a Year" program started on Friday September 1st. Reading guides are still available in Fellowship Hall. It's not too late to join! The first discussion group study will be Tuesday, October 3rd, 5:30 p.m. in fellowship hall. Contact Kirsten Trachsel or Pastor Rob for more information.

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Did you know that you can find recordings of the sermons, music, and puppet skits each week on the church's Facebook page. It is a public site so you do not have to be a Facebook user to access the recordings and content.

Simply go to: <https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>

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**Church Office Volunteers Needed** - Would you like to be a church office volunteer? Basically the only duty is someone in the office to answer the phone and take messages. You can volunteer for a whole day or a half day (mornings 8:30-Noon and afternoons 1:00-5:00). If you would be interested, please phone Jane at the church office (593-3351) or email (office@athensfpc.org) to sign up as a volunteer or just to get some more info. It is easy, really!