



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday December 2, 2018, 10:30 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent

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

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Our Scripture readings today point to the new season of Advent, where we look to the first and second comings of Christ. Jeremiah prophesies centuries before Jesus' birth that a Savior will come from God, out of the line of David. Paul calls the Thessalonian church to live in love and holiness as they await the return of Christ. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus himself prophesies the terrifying signs that will accompany his return, and urges us to wait expectantly. Through Scripture, prayer, and song we await the Lord Jesus, who is Emmanuel – God with us.

### PRELUDE

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*  
*Variations on Sleepers, Wake!*

Richard Hudson  
Robert Lau

### WORDS OF WELCOME

*(Please circulate the friendship forms found in the aisle seats.)*

Rev. Robert Martin

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*L: The days are surely coming, says the LORD,*  
**P: when I will fulfill my promise to my people.**  
*L: Justice and righteousness will fill the land*  
**P: and all will live in peace and safety.**  
*L: Let us worship God!*

Liturgist Carl Franz

### \*HYMN 5

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Nancy Hartley and Brandon James

*L: In the beginning was the Word – spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.*  
**P: Listen and hear – God's promise is true!**  
*L: The Word was in the beginning, and through him all things come into being.*  
**P: Eternal and near at hand, already and not-yet, God's promise is the foundation of all life.**  
*L: Listen! Hear the covenant anew, giving voice to a future with hope.*

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom; we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. 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

### CRECHE PRESENTATION

Children of the Church

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 broken.

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

## ANTHEM

*People, Look East*

French Carol/arr. Stephen Caracciolo

*People, look east, the time is near for the crowning of the year;  
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table;  
People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
Furrows be glad though earth is bare; one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in time the flow'r may flourish,  
People look east, and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
Stars keep the watch when night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together,  
People look east, and sing today: Love the Star, is on the way.  
Angels announce with shouts of mirth, Him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming; with the Word the Lord is coming.  
People look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way!*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

**O Lord our God, make us watchful, and keep us faithful to your word as we await the coming of your Son; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 21:25-36 (pages 85, 86 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Franz

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (page 738 in pew Bible)

Pastor Martin

*L. This is the Word of the Lord!*

**P: Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

*The Hope We Need*

Rev. Robert Martin

### \*HYMN 332

*Live Into Hope*

TRURO

*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."*

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Robert Martin

Choral Response

### OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Charles Ore

**\*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)

**God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### The Invitation

#### The Great Thanksgiving

*L: The Lord be with you.*

**P: And also with you.**

*L: Lift up your hearts.*

**P: We lift them to the Lord.**

*L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*L: All thanks and praise be to you, most holy God, giver of all life. You made us for companionship and shaped us for love; you gave us your good earth and taught us to care; you established your law that we might learn justice and give you honor with our lives. We forgot how to love; we ceased to give care and failed to abide by your life-giving law. You sent us prophets to call us back to you and, when that was not enough, you came – Word-made-flesh, your very being – and overwhelmed us with love. And so we sing with all the saints on earth and all the angels in heaven:*

# Holy, Holy, Holy

Tim Keyes



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly; ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly; Lord God of pow'r and might;



Hea-ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry! Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est,



Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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 now and forever.*

## The Words of Institution

### The Communion

#### Prayer after Communion (unison)

**O God, through this bread and cup, you have made us one with you and with each other. May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your suffering and divided world. Help us find strength in knowing that you, the God of hope, will always be with us. Amen.**

## \*HYMN 11

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Choral Response

## POSTLUDE

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

William Henry Monk

### Worshipping 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.
- \* Ages Pre-K through 6th are invited to Sunday School downstairs following the children's moment.

### Book Shelf Books Fundraiser

Did you know that the books on the white bookshelf in Fellowship Hall are available for a donation? Only .25 a book! Do you have books you don't want, books that children have outgrown, mystery, religious, devotionals....any kind? Donate them to the book shelf! Just bring them in and place them on the white book shelf in fellowship Hall. And then look at other books that have been placed there. You might just find one you want! All book donations go toward Mission Trip expenses.

Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart

CE Coordinator and Handbell Director: Kirsten Trachsel

Organist: Janice Robison

Administrative Assistant: Jane Baker

Choir Director: David Tadlock

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Athens First Presbyterian Church Office

9 North College Street, Athens, OH 45701

Phone - 740/593-3351

Fax - 740/593-3351

E-Mail - office@athensfpc.org

Web - www.athensfpc.org

Follow FPC on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>

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

1021 on your digital box

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

**Deacon of the Month - Margaret Bourke - a friend to call in time of need - (309) 318-9043 - mbourke1953@gmail.com**

Liturgist - Carl Franz      Ushers - Helen King and Linda Parsons      Communion Preparation - Carol Perry and Helen King  
Communion Servers - Mary Costello, Carla Boyle, Linda Parsons, Carol Perry, Harrold Robison, Andrew Stuart, and  
Andrew Trachsel

**Church Activities for the Week**

**SUNDAY, December 2nd - 1st Sunday of Advent - Hope**

9:00 A.M. - All-Church Advent breakfast, fellowship hall  
9:30 A.M. - Children's Crèche rehearsal, Sanctuary  
9:45 A.M. - Chancel Choir rehearsal, choir room  
10:00 A.M. - No chime choir rehearsal  
10:30 A.M. - Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle, Communion,  
Children's music and crèche presentation during  
Worship, Sanctuary  
Following the Crèche presentation - Children's Church,  
classrooms  
11:30 A.M. - Children's crafts, classroom 3  
11:30 A.M. - Festive Tie and Sweater Fundraiser during  
Coffee and fellowship, fellowship hall

**MON., 3rd - Noon - Al-Anon, library**

6:00-8:30 P.M. - Calliope choir rehearsal, fellowship hall

**TUES., 4th - 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. - Literary Club dinner and**

meeting, fellowship hall  
Noon - Bible study, library

**WED., 5th - 7:00 A.M. - AA, library**

6:00 P.M. - Bell choir rehearsal, bell choir room  
7:00 P.M. - Chancel Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

**THURS., 6th - 2:00-6:30 P.M. - Special Group, various rooms**

**FRI., 7th - 7:30-10:00 P.M. - Athens Reading Club, fellowship hall**

**SUNDAY, December 9th - 2nd Sunday of Advent - Peace  
Music Sunday**

9:45 A.M. - Chancel Choir rehearsal, choir room  
10:00 A.M. - Children's chime choir rehearsal, classroom 3  
10:30 A.M. - Music Sunday - Lighting of the 2nd Advent  
Candle, and special music during worship, Sanctuary  
Following the Children's Moment - Children's Church,  
classrooms  
11:30 A.M. - Children's crafts, classroom 3  
11:30 A.M. - Coffee and fellowship, fellowship hall  
11:45 A.M. - Earth Justice Group meeting, library

**Christmas Poinsettias** - Poinsettia plants in various colors will grace the church sanctuary throughout the Advent season and Christmas. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by purchasing one or more poinsettias for use in the FPC worship services, please inform the church office by Monday, December 10th. The cost of each plant will be \$10.00, payable at the church office. Donors may give the plant to the Deacons for distribution, or they may pick up the poinsettia following the Christmas Eve service.



**Today during Fellowship Time  
Festive Sweater and Tie Fundraiser**

The Outreach/Mission Committee is sponsoring the "Festive Sweater and Tie" fundraiser today with the proceeds going to the next FPC mission trip. For those participating, *there will have a way for folks to vote with their wallet* for the favorite sweater or tie.

**Don't forget to vote!**

**Advent Booklets** - The 2019 Advent booklets are available in the church narthex and also the church office. Thank you to all who participated in this year's Advent booklet, "Advent Words."

**Mark Your Calendars**

Sunday, December 2nd - Children's Crèche Presentation  
Sunday, December 9th - Christmas Music Sunday  
Sunday, December 16th - Puppet Ministry during the children's moment  
Sunday, December 23rd - 5:30 p.m. - Blue Christmas Service  
Monday, December 24th - 5:00 p.m. - Family Service, 7:00 p.m. - Organ Music and 7:30 p.m. - Traditional Service

**New Church Website is Now Live!** Please take the time to check out the site at [www.athensfpc.org](http://www.athensfpc.org). A note that if you have the old site bookmarked, you will need to refresh the page to pull up the new site and erase the "memory" of the old one. Here are a few of the exciting new features of this site: online calendar of events, weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter, video archives of sermons, music, and puppet skits, Pastor Rob's blog page, and beautiful new photographs of the church building and fun candid shots from the past few years throughout the site

**There is still time to make your 2019 Pledge!**

FPC began the church year this year by handing out STARwords for the year - to guide your prayers and start a new conversation with the Divine. FPC hopes that each of you will share with others how your word works on your life this year. *The FPC stewardship campaign this year, the word is "Grateful"*

**Invitation** - Everyone is cordially invited to attend the annual Advent Lessons and Carols for Advent on this afternoon, Sunday, December 2nd at 4:30 p.m. The Church is nearing the end of project to restore its 1952 organ to like new condition. To help that project reach fulfillment, a free will offering accepted and designated for the Organ Restoration Fund. For more information contact the church at 740-592-6877 or Marsha Reilly at 740-592-2596.

Church website - [www.chogs.org](http://www.chogs.org)