



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 25, 2022, 10:30 A.M.

### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to First, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here. At First, it is our hope that all who enter find a home.

#### FOR WORSHIP

*It is with the authority of the risen Jesus that we see Paul declaring his apostleship and his charge to proclaim the one true Gospel of Christ. Paul begins this section of text with a clear statement of his central theological affirmation: "... we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ."*

#### PRELUDE

*My Jesus Leadeth Me  
O God, Thou Faithful God  
Janice Robison, organist*

Johannes Brahms  
Johannes Brahms

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Robert Martin

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Andrea Frohne

*L: We come as people on the way, finding our true life in the Living God.*

**P: We come to worship and bow down.**

*L: We come to learn of Christ's path of discipleship, following with eyes fixed on him.*

**P: We come with ready hearts.**

*L: We come waiting for the Holy Spirit to move us to action, challenging us to live the Good News.*

**P: We come with joy to meet the ever-present Triune God.**

#### \*HYMN 263

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

**1** Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

**2** Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

**3** To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

**4** Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Liturgist Frohne

Gracious and loving God,  
we confess before you and this faith community  
that we have failed to live up to all you have created us to be.  
You alone know that we have wandered to a far country,  
hiding from you, O God, because of our sin.  
We are sorry. By your loving mercy,  
guide us back from the far country into your abiding presence  
so that we can be fully who you know us to be, through Christ. 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.*

*In the presence of a holy God,  
we become aware of the ways  
we fall short of God's best  
hopes for us, and the ways we  
have hurt others. We turn to  
God in prayer, asking for  
forgiveness.*

*We express gratitude that  
through God's grace and  
Christ's giving of himself on  
the cross we are forgiven and  
restored to God and one  
another.*

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Puppet Ministry

### ANTHEM

*The Road Home*

Music by Stephen Paulus, Poetry by Micheal Dennis Browne

Lara Suer, soprano soloist

*Tell me, where is the road I can call my own, That I left, that I lost so long ago?*

*All these years I have wandered, Oh when will I know, There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?*

*After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,*

*Through the air there's a calling from far away, There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.*

*"Rise up, follow me, come away," is the call, "With the love in your heart as the only song;*

*There is no such beauty as where you belong; Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home."*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Liturgist Frohne

**God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in righteousness: send your Spirit to illuminate your holy word now; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (page 548 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Frohne

Galatians 2:19-20 (page 188 in pew Bible)

Rev. Martin

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

**P: Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

*Destination*

Rev. Robert Martin

### \*HYMN 383

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OLIVET

**1 My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray;  
take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
be wholly thine!**

**2 May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!**

**3 While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day;  
wipe sorrow's tears away;  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.**

**4 When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love,  
fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
a ransomed soul!**

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

**Choral Response #585:** *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

### THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*Blessed Ye Who Live in Faith Unswerving*

Johannes Brahms

Janice Robison, organist

*The sermon is a reflection on the day's scriptures, suggesting implications for our faith and life.*

#### **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.*

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

**\*DOXOLOGY** *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** (unison) Liturgist Frohne  
**O God, through the abundance of your steadfast love, we are able to come into your house with gratitude and praise. Accept our gifts – our money, our time, our very selves. May they help forge your beloved community here on earth. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 307** *Fight the Good Fight* DUKE STREET  
**1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally.**

**2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**3 Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.  
God's boundless mercy will provide.  
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.  
God changeth not, and thou art dear.  
Only believe, and thou shalt see  
that Christ is all in all to thee.**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**Choral Response #586:** *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

**POSTLUDE**

*The St. Anthony Chorale*

Johannes Brahms

from Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Janice Robison, organist

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**Deacon of the Month - Mary Costello - a friend to phone in time of need**

740-592-3444 or mbcostello@hotmail.com

Chancel Prep - Bobbi Conliffe

Fellowship - Helen King

Ushers - Debbi Orr-Roderick and Harold Robison  
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**Weekly Worship  
Service can be seen live  
on Sunday Morning**

You can access them directly on the FPC YouTube channel and on the church web site under Worship Archive.

Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchAthensOH/>

**Habitat for Humanity  
Scrap Metal Drive - October 1st**

Habitat is conducting a scrap metal drive on Saturday, October 1st from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Athens County Fairgrounds. The drive is in conjunction with the Athens Hocking Solid Waste District's Fall Recycle Day, so you are invited to bring, in addition to scrap metal, appliances, cell phones, clothing and textiles, furniture, mattresses, books, and batteries. For a small fee you can also bring drop-off TVs, fluorescent tubes, and bulbs. For 50 cents each, you can also bring tires (max 10 tires per person, \$4.00 for tires with rims; tires must be free of fluids). All proceeds from the sale of the scrap metals go to the construction of Habitat's next house.

**World Communion Sunday  
Peacemaking Offering - Sunday, October 2nd**

Help celebrate Christ's peace that extends throughout all creation. Celebrate togetherness at the table, in God's house. Peace is active, not passive. Peace is doing, not waiting. Celebrate that which is offered to continue the work of building the household of God with active peacemakers here at home and around the world. As a shared offering, giving on World Communion Sunday to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, supports peacemaking in the local community, local region and places around the world.

*For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.*

**CROP Walk - Sunday, October 2nd** - Next Sunday, October 2nd beginning at 2:00 p.m.. Walkers gather at 1:45 p.m. at the bike path behind the Community Center. Support FPC's partner in worldwide missions, Church World Service, which has staff and materials all around the world to help people in times of disaster, bad water supply, too little food, and political displacement, just to name a few. FPC has six walkers this year (see below). If you don't see one of them in person, please mail one of them a check. It helps if the check is made out to CWS/CROP. Many thanks for your support, Danny Moates

Margaret Bourke, 203 Altamonte Drive, Athens, OH 45701

Helen King, 6773 Beechwood Drive, Athens, OH 45701

Danny Moates, 26 Meadow Lane, Athens, OH 45701

Carol Perry, 3275 Connopher Lane, Albany, OH 45710

Janice Robison, 12 Eden Place, Athens, OH 45701

**Blessing of the Animals - Saturday, October 8th** - The blessing will take place at West Side Park Shelter, near the Bike path. All furry, feathered, and scaly friends are invited with their guardians. Starting time is 11:00 a.m.

**Libby's Pumpkin Patch in Albany - Sunday, October 9th.** After the morning fellowship, Pastor Martin and Barb will invite children and adults to travel to the pumpkin patch to purchase pumpkins for the congregation to decorate and to enjoy other attractions at the farm. Visit [libbyspumpkinpatch.com](http://libbyspumpkinpatch.com) for more info. FPC will pay for admission for all children. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend and/or need transportation.

**Decorating Pumpkins - Sunday, October 16th during Fellowship time.** Everyone is invited to decorate pumpkins. There will be stickers, paint, ribbon, and other items. Participants may decorate pumpkins in the Fellowship Hall or take materials home to decorate. A pickup time can be arranged if you are unable to come in person. Please let us know if you would like a pumpkin.

**Uptown Trick-or-Treat - During the week of October 23rd.** First Presbyterian Church participates in the uptown trick-or treat night and volunteers are needed to help pass out the treats on the church steps. Please let the church office know if you want to help (740-593-3351 or [office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)).

**Children's Church Curriculum** - Lessons for 3-5 year-olds are titled *Growing in Grace and Gratitude*, and have some great activities. Lessons for 6-10 year-olds are titled *Welcome*. All from the *Follow Me* series. The Christian Education Committee and FPC are excited about these new ideas and hope your children will enjoy them. If you would like to lead a class or more, please contact Barb Martin at [barbaramartin729@msn.com](mailto:barbaramartin729@msn.com) or phone the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans will be provided for all volunteers. Class sizes are usually small in number.

**After-Worship Fellowship Time** - Are you willing to host Fellowship Time after the church service some Sunday? If so, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. During the week prior to your Sunday, you will receive a letter with full instructions. No cooking skills are required. Simple snacks will be fine. You may turn in your grocery store receipt to the FPC office to be reimbursed for your expenses. Thank you!

**Women's Book Study - Fridays 12:00 Noon via Zoom** - Join Women's Book Study on Fridays at noon as we discuss *What Do Our Neighbors Believe? Questions and Answers on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (second edition)*. For more information or to join, please contact the church office at 740-593-3351 or [office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org) or Joan Nease at [christianed@athensfpc.org](mailto:christianed@athensfpc.org).

Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart

CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease

Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary: Jane Baker

Handbell Director: Tyler Thress

Organist: Janice Robison

Choir Director: David Tadlock

Creative and Digital Media Administrator: Linnea G. Stevens

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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](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)

Web - [www.athensfpc.org](http://www.athensfpc.org) Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/fpcathensoh>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/fpcathensoh/>

Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchAthensOH/>