



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.

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.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 22, 2023, 10:30 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FOR WORSHIP

Today's lessons emphasize following the way of the Lord. Isaiah writes of how those who had walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light that shined on their paths broke the yoke of their burden and the bar of their oppressors. In the gospel lesson, Matthew emphasizes that Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of the light shining on those who sat in darkness. Then Matthew tells the story of Jesus calling his first disciples to leave their former ways of living to follow after him as he proclaims the good news of the kingdom.

PRELUDE

The Call

Raymond Weidner

"Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men"

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

Dale Wood

Janice Robison, organist

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Robert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Lee Gregg

L: God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, you have created us all in your image and in your likeness,

P: and so we have the courage to dream the impossible.

L: You spoke into the darkness and created light,

P: and so we have the courage to dream the impossible.

L: You have delivered your people through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time, right up until this present moment,

P: and so we have the courage to dream the impossible.

L: God, you have been the guiding light along the paths of hope and love, leading toward a beloved community where all are fully seen and loved,

P: and so we still have the courage to dream the impossible.

*HYMN 478

Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

**1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.**

**2 Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**3 Fatherlike, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.**

**4 Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Liturgist Gregg

Almighty God, you call us to serve you. You call us to follow faithfully. But we confess that we are occupied with our own concerns. We strive to hold on to what we have. We nurse our hurts from injustices of the past. O God, there is so much we don't

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.

understand about ourselves or about one another. And there is so much we don't want to admit about the justice you desire. Forgive us, O God, for the ways in which we choose not to hear and not to act and not to change. We pray in the name of the One who calls us forward, Jesus, our 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.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Puppet Ministry

ANTHEM

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

William Moore/arr. Stephen Dombek

*Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.
Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other too;
Let us love and pray for sinners, 'til our God makes all things new.
Then he'll call us home to heaven, at his table we'll sit down;
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.
Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Gregg

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: as we hear your word, transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and make known your heavenly glory in our lives; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:1-4 (page 638 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Gregg

Matthew 4:12-23 (pages 3, 4 in pew Bible)

Rev. Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

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

SERMON

Leaving the Nets Behind

Rev. Robert Martin

*HYMN 377

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

**1 You have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wise nor for wealthy;
you only wanted that I should follow.**

Refrain

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have called out my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.
Now with you I will seek other seas.**

**2 You know that I own so little;
in my boat there's no money for weapons;
you'll only find there my nets and labor. (Refrain)**

**3 You need the caring of my hands,
through my tiredness, may others find resting.
You need a love that just goes on loving. (Refrain)**

**4 You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my dear and good friend, as thus you call me: (Refrain)**

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

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

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*
Janice Robison, organist

Robert Powell

***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 Gregg
Loving God, as we hear your call, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. May the act of giving this offering help to pry open our hearts and our minds to your steadfast presence, and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.

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 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.

***HYMN 442** *The Church's One Foundation* AURELIA

**1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.**

**3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

**4 Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore:
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

**5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
may live eternally.**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Thornbury"
Janice Robison, organist

Charles Callahan

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**Deacon of the Month For January - Wendy Toadvine**

740-590-3279 or wtoadvine@gmail.com

*A friend to phone in time of need.*

Chancel Prep - Wendy Toadvine

Ushers - Helen King and Harold Robison

Fellowship - Becky Pankratz  
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Game Night - Friday, January 27th - Come and play board games with friends in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. Some games will be provided; players may bring games to share. If interested in participating or in case the need to cancel arises due to weather or pandemic conditions, please contact Richard or Joan at christianed@athensfpc.org.

College Lunch and Fellowship to Resume Thursday, January 26th, 11:30 a.m-1:00 p.m. - First Presbyterian Church is resuming it's mission work for OU college students with the College Lunch. At a time when so many young people are struggling with financial and mental health issues, this work is more important than ever. So many students have told the Lunch Bunch how much it means to be in such a welcoming environment and have home made food! Current needs food, main dish (usually casseroles or soup) and/or dessert (often cake or cookies), for Thursdays March 23rd through April 27th. This is a great way to support this FPC mission in the comfort and safety of your own home! Contact Lee Gregg by phone, 740 592 3622 or email, tleegregg@gmail.com, to volunteer or for more information.

2023 Per Capita Remains at \$40.00 - For 2023, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley per capita will remain unchanged at \$40.00 per member. This \$40 is allocated as follows: General Assembly's share is \$9.82, Synod's share is \$3.25 and Presbytery of Scioto Valley is \$26.93.

Women's Book Study - Join Women's Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom as participants discuss *If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans* by John Pavlovitz. For more information or to join, please contact the church office at 740-593-3351 or office@athensfpc.org or Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org.

Children's Sunday School - 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 *Practicing Generosity* from the Follow Me series. The Christian Education Committee is excited about these ideas and hope children will enjoy them.

Prayer Concern Requests and Visitation - Prayer request slips are available in the narthex. If you would like others in the church to pray for a person or for a concern near to your heart, place the slips in the Prayer Request box in the narthex. If you or someone you know would enjoy a visit from Pastor Rob and a Deacon, or appreciate receiving communion at home, contact the office 740-593-3351 or office@athensfpc.org

Presbyterian Women meet the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Wyngate. (UNLESS schools are closed.)

Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin
CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease
Handbell Director: Tyler Thress
Choir Director: David Tadlock
Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary: Jane Baker
Organist: Janice Robison
Creative and Digital Media Administrator: Linnea G. Stevens

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

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

*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/>