



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 28, 2023, 10:30 A.M.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

Fifty days after Easter, the Church celebrates the festival of Pentecost. Echoing the ancient Jewish festival of Shavuot, which remembers God's giving of the law on Mount Sinai, Pentecost celebrates God's giving of the Holy Spirit, itself a fulfillment of ancient prophecy. In our Scripture readings, the disciples are gathered in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit descends upon them in tongues of flame. The disciples are given miraculous ability to speak in many languages, and boldly proclaim to the people that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus shall be saved

PRELUDE

*Veni, Creator Spiritus
Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire
Janice Robison, organist*

Marcel Dupre
Wilbur Held

WORDS OF WELCOME

Richard Nease

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Harvey Ballard

L: Praise to God our creator, source of life, and the wellspring of all.

P: Praise be to God!

L: Praise to Jesus, whom God made flesh to dwell among us.

P: Praise be to Jesus our Lord!

L: Praise to the Holy Spirit, fiery light and rushing wind!

P: Praise be the Spirit!

L: Let us worship the God of creative grace, Jesus our guide, and the Holy Spirit that beckons and equips.

*HYMN 128

On Pentecost They Gathered

MUNICH

1 On Pentecost they gathered
quite early in the day,
a band of Christ's disciples,
to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing,
filled all the swirling air,
and tongues of fire aglowing
inspired each person there.

2 The people all around them
were startled and amazed
to understand their language,
as Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message,
what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen
to vanquish all our fear.

3 God pours the Holy Spirit
on all who would believe,
on women, men, and children
who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit,
bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming,
responds in every hour.

4 O Spirit, sent from heaven
on that day long ago,
rekindle faith among us
in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen
and tongues aflame with praise,
so folk of every nation
glad songs of joy shall raise.

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 of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

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

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Liturgist Ballard

Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Helen King

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Lost Chord

Arthur Sullivan

Tyler Thress, baritone

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Ballard

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, and come now to illuminate your holy word; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-21 (page 119 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Ballard

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 (page 174 in pew Bible)

Richard Nease

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Butterfly Effect

Richard Nease

by Andy Andrews

*HYMN 525

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM

**1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.**

Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Richard Nease

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY In Memoriam from *An American Tribute*

Robert Powell

Janice Robison, organist

*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 Ballard

You have blessed each of us with gifts to serve and share, Most Generous God. May the offerings we present today be used to further your kingdom and build your beloved community. Amen.

*HYMN 320

The Lone Wild Bird

PROSPECT

**1 The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
Is still with Thee, nor leaves Thy sight.
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.**

**2 The ends of earth are in Thy hand,
The sea's dark deep and far off land.
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.**

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Built on the Rock
Janice Robison, organist

Robert Hobby

Deacon of the Month For May - Mindy King

740-856-6522 or tswgprez@gmail.com - A friend to phone with joys or concerns

Chancel Prep: Ellen Sostarich

Ushers: Joyce Beauvais and Ellen Sostarich

Fellowship: Danny Moates

Pentecost Offering

TODAY, Sunday, May 28th

The Pentecost Offering provides support to young people and inspires them to share their faith, in a church-wide effort, with ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come - children, youth, and young adults.

Mission Outreach Committee Diaper Project - The Mission Outreach Committee met and recently decided to start a Diaper Project for some of the Mission Partners here in Athens: Athens County Food Pantry and Cat's Cupboard. There will be a box in the Narthex for your donation of a package(s)

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

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.

Weekly Worship Service can be seen live on Sunday Morning

FPC's worship services can be found on YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/athensfpc/search?query=sermon>.

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

of diapers. Many donate food, but the Committee realizes that diapers can be expensive when a person is food insecure.

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

Outdoor Worship and All-Church Potluck Picnic - Sunday, June 11th - Outdoor worship service at the Bulldog Shelter at Stroud's Run State Park. Followed by "All Church Potluck Picnic" First Presbyterian invites the community to it's outdoor worship service and picnic on Sunday, June 11th. The event will be held at the Strouds Run State Park at the Bulldog Shelter House. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. and Potluck Picnic to follow. The Bulldog Shelter is the first shelter as you come into the park off County Road 20. It is a 40' x 40' open shelter with paved floor, 12 picnic tables (Be sure and bring a lawn chair) and 30 parking spaces. The church will provide lunch meats, bread, buns, condiments, and drinks. Please bring lawn chairs and your table service.

If your last name begins with: A-H, please bring a salad
I-P, please bring a side dish
Q-Z, please bring a dessert

Look for more information in upcoming bulletins, Facebook page, and weekly email blasts.

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 Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org.

From the Board of Deacons - Each Sunday a "Deacon of the Month" is listed in the bulletin, and you are encouraged to contact that person with any needs a Deacon might be able to help with. Deacon members strive to be aware of congregational members who have challenges or concerns, and try to check on those people. Deacons also are aware that there may be congregational members, with or without particular needs, who would appreciate a phone call, a visit, or prayers. All Deacons welcomes any opportunity to provide contact, care, and assistance to church members and friends.

Presbyterian Women meet the third Wednesday of each month. All women of the church are invited. Contact Lillian Dinos for more info - l_dinos@yahoo.com

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

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