



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 28, 2024, 10:30 A.M.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

FOR WORSHIP

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus heralds the coming Kingdom of God by teaching with astonishing authority. A demon that has possessed a man cries out to Jesus in fear, revealing its knowledge of Jesus' eternal identity as the Son of God. Jesus rebukes the unclean spirit, commanding it to leave the man. The demon has no choice but to obey Jesus, and so departs from the man. The crowds who witness this are amazed, and Jesus' fame begins to spread throughout the region.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Jesu Meine Freude
Janice Robison, organist

Johann Walther

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.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Becky Pankratz

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

P: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed to us.

L: The light that enlightens human beings has brought radiance and hope.

P: Nations shall come to this light, and rulers to the brightness.

L: Lift up your eyes and look around.

P: The Light of the world is among us!

*HYMN 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Liturgist Pankratz

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and to save the lost, but we confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We have been misled by our pride, seeing ourselves as blameless, even when we are to blame, and seeing ourselves as great, when instead we are small. We have failed to love more widely, neglected justice for those who are oppressed, and ignored your truth. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and forgive our sin. Return us to your paths, through 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.*

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

For Deacons

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

For Ruling Elders

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Richard Nease

ANTHEM

Footsteps

Craig Courtney

I see His footsteps in the way, and follow them through darkest night.

Unafraid, I stumble not; in the glow of perfect light, I see.

I walk in footsteps of His love, and find His light leads on before;

Then, He gently turns to me; softly whispers, "Trust Me more." I walk.

Then as I follow in His way, my path ahead will brightly shine,

For in His path of guiding light, I find His footsteps first, then mine.

(Jonathan Cook)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Pankratz

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:21-28 (page 35 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Pankratz

I Corinthians 8:1-13 (page 171 in pew Bible)

Rev. Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Love Builds Up

Rev. Robert Martin

*HYMN 376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.**

**2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,**

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

nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
Bell Choir

arr. by Kevin McChesney

***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 Pankratz
**With all that we have and all that we are, we give you thanks and praise, Most Holy God.
Make us instruments of your love for all your children, and may the bounty of these gifts
extend your light into the dim places of this world, which you love so very much; through
Christ we pray. Amen.**

***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, unshaking, 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!**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet March
Janice Robison, organist

Jean-Baptiste Lully

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**Deacon of the Month of January – Nancy Hartley**

740-677-3104 - angelcollector56@gmail.com - *A friend to phone with joys or concerns*

Ushers: Kim Jordan and Wendy Toadvine

Chancel Prep: Bobbi Conliffe  
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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 on the FPC YouTube channel and on the church web site under Worship Archive.

Per Capita for 2024

At the November Presbytery 2023 meeting, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley approved the 2024 Presbytery budget. The budget was approved with NO increase to per capita which will remain at \$40 per member for the coming year. Your financial support makes a difference. It is a vital part of the connectional church.

The FPC Valentine's Breakfast is on the calendar for 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 11th.

The Church Community Committee needs food contributions, setup helpers, and cleanup helpers. Setup starts at about 8:00 a.m. Leftovers and cleanup happen after Worship Service. Are you willing and able to assist? Please contact Anne Kemmerle at 740-591-2145 or annekemmerle@gmail.com to offer your help. Thank you!

Women's Book Study - Join the Women's Book Study on Fridays, noon via Zoom for discussion on *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contact Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org for more info.

Mission Outreach Committee Diaper Project - This Diaper Project will benefit some of the Mission Partners here in Athens: Athens County Food Pantry and Cat's Cupboard. There is a box in the Narthex for donations of diapers. Monetary donations can be made by placing in the brown envelopes and marking "diapers".

Court Street Clothesline Donations for Winter Needs - The Christian Education Committee is inviting everyone to donate new winter gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, and socks for the Winter Clothesline. A collection box is placed by entryway. The items will be hung from a clothesline along the railing on the Court Street side of the church for people in need during cold weather.

College Lunch - Would you like to participate in some mission work without leaving home? One answer is to provide food for the College Lunch (January 25th-April 25th). AFPC is providing home cooked meals for OU students on most Thursdays during the academic year. Whether you're willing to provide a main dish (usually a casserole or soup), salad or dessert, it will be so appreciated by the students and the College Lunch bunch. A big thank you to the regular providers! One can contact either Jane Baker at the church office, or [Lee Gregg, tleegregg@gmail.com](mailto:tleegregg@gmail.com).

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.

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.

Children's Sunday School - Grade school and pre-school children are invited to attend Sunday School during Worship. If you have questions or would like to help with a class, please contact or Barb Martin at barbaramartin729@msn.com or the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans and materials will be provided for all volunteer teachers. Class sizes are usually small in number.

Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin
CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease
Organist: Janice Robison
Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary: Jane Baker
Bell Choir Director: Anna Crum
Choir Director: David Tadlock

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