



**Please rise in body or spirit.*

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, JULY 6, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FOR WORSHIP

When Jesus decides to accelerate the spread of the good news into the towns of Galilee, he doesn't send stuff. He sends staff. Not paid staff, of course, but Jesus does send people to do his work. In Luke 10:1-11, 16-20, he commissions 70 (or 72, depending on your preferred manuscript tradition) of his followers to go out and find people receptive to his mission and message. And as he sends these people out, he explicitly forbids them from carrying any stuff with them. By stripping stuff away from the disciples, Jesus forces them to rely entirely on the people they will encounter. It is a risky move. Jesus sends them out "like lambs among wolves," at the mercy of others' mercy.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

American Folk Hymn Suite

Michael Burkhardt

1. *How Firm a Foundation*
2. *Shall We Gather at the river*
3. *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Janet Linker

Janice Robison, organist

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Ben Jordan

L: Call upon the Lord! I asked for help, and I was healed!

P: We asked for freedom, and the Lord heard our pleas and answered us.

L: Sing to the Lord, all you faithful! Give thanks to God's holy name.

P: God turned our mourning into dancing and clothed us with joy!

L: Our hearts sing without ceasing!

P: O Lord our God, we will always give you thanks!

*HYMN 462

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

**1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies;
Christ, the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise;
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return
till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart,
cheer my eyes and warm my heart.**

**3 Visit then this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiance divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist Jordan

Holy God, you see us truly, including all the ways we have failed and missed the mark. We come to you in hope of being restored and healed. We have walked with our heads held high, without noticing others and their burdens. We are even blinded to our own! We keep our mouths silenced when we are full of stories to share about the good things that you have done for us. We even keep our actions silenced as we become so overwhelmed with the needs of the world that we do nothing to overcome them. Fill us with your peace and with your mercy. Free us from the destruction of our failures, and restore us to a life lived in you. 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.

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

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

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

Katie Tadlock

ANTHEM

Bist du bei mir attr. to J.S. Bach, but possibly by Gottfried Stölzel

Lauren Battin, mezzo-soprano

*Translation from German: If Thou art with me, I go with joy;
How pleasing would be my end,
If Thy dear hands are there to close my eyes.*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Jordan

God of grace: may we be hearers and doers of your word, living in the fruit of the Spirit so perfectly embodied in your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 30 (page 505 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Jordan

Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20 (page 71 in pew Bible)

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Travelling Light

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

*HYMN 415

Come, Labor On

ORA LABORA

1 Come, labor on.

**Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
"Go work today."**

2 Come, labor on.

**Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.**

3 Come, labor on.

**Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here.
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill
God's righteous will.**

4 Come, labor on.

**No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
"Well done, well done!"**

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY

The First Day of the Week
Janice Robison, organist

Missouri Harmony / Charles Ore

*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 Jordan

Gracious God, in your love you have given us the strength to stand up and continue on our journey. In your wisdom you have taken a chance on us by allowing us to be part of your holy plans and your message. Help us to use the gifts you have given us with mercy, love, and wisdom, so that we can continue to honor the trust you have put in us. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*All bread for Communion
is gluten-free.*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER INVITATION

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.

PRAYER *L: It is truly right and our greatest joy.....who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

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, forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Words of Institution

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, how can we thank you for such a gift? For you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you, and bound us to one another. Now send us out to share your love and proclaim our hope until all is finally made well. Amen.

*HYMN 369

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

**1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Setting of Early American Tune "Chester" William Billings / Robert Powell
Janice Robison, organist

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#### **Deacon of the Month of July - Harold Robison**

(740) 592-1450 or hrobison@columbus.rr.com - *A friend to phone with joys or concerns*

Communion Prep: Carolyn Allen and Kim Jordan

Communion Servers: Bobbi Conliffe, Mary Costello, and Kim Jordan

Ushers: Bobbi Conliffe and Harold Robison

Fellowship Hour: Mary Costello and Lee Gregg

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Organ Recital - Janice Robison will play an organ recital this Sunday, July 6th immediately following the worship service. The music will be a celebration of the 4th of July holiday. All are invited to attend this thirty minute recital.

Women's Book Study - The Women's Book Study will be taking a summer break. We will restart on Fridays at noon via Zoom in September as we discuss *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible* by A.J. Jacobs. For more information contact Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org

Copperheads Baseball Game - Join us on July 19th for a night of baseball, fun, and fellowship as we plan "Presbyterians at the Ballpark". The cost of the ticket which includes two Larry's Dawg House hotdogs (or veggie option), a bag of chips, and a drink is \$15.00. See Richard Nease for more information or to purchase your tickets. You can email Richard at christianed@athensfpc.org or call the church office at (740) 593-3351. Invite your friends and family to this fun event!

Presbyterian Women - Please let Martha Johnson know by August 15th if you would like a lesson booklet ordered for next year's study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. Cost is \$15.00 plus postage payable when delivered. You are invited to join the study which meets the third Wednesday of each month (except January and February). Call Martha Johnson at (740) 707-9640 for more information.

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](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.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart

CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease

Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry

Organist: Janice Robison

Choir Director: Dr. David Tadlock

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