



*\*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, AUGUST 31, 2025

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

#### FOR WORSHIP

*This morning's Scripture readings show the radically different principles of the Kingdom of God. The prophet Jeremiah warns Israel against self-reliance and dependence upon the idols we create. The author of the letter to the Hebrews urges us to extend hospitality to strangers and to reject striving after money. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus teaches us to take the lowest place and to humble ourselves.*

#### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

##### PRELUDE

*Highland Cathedral  
All My Hope on God Is Founded  
Janice Robison, organist*

Charles Callahan  
Michael Burkhardt

##### WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin

##### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Mary Costello

*L: This is the house of God, and we are, by grace, the guests.*

**P: Sing to God, who is our strength!**

*L: Shout and cheer the God of deepest joys!*

**P: This is the house of God, and we are, by grace, the guests.**

*L: Let us worship God!*

##### \*HYMN 473

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

**1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:**

**Refrain:**

**Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**2 For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)**

**3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)**

**4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)**

**5 For thyself, best gift divine  
to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)**

##### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist Costello

**Merciful One, forgive us when we think too highly of ourselves, and forgive us when we don't think we are worthy of your love. Forgive us when we forget you are our strength, and forgive us when we assume we have to make it through this life on our own. Open us up to your Spirit. Help us to learn from and serve all people. Teach us to walk in your way of mercy and grace. 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.*

## 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

Puppet Ministry

### ANTHEM

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies;  
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.  
For the beauty of the hour, of the day and of the night;  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.  
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise  
For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given;  
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn, our joyful hymn of praise.*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Costello

**Lord God, the source of truth and love: keep us one in joy and simplicity of heart, and send your Spirit now to illuminate your holy word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16 (page 227 in pew Bible)  
Luke 14: 1, 7-14 (page 77 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Costello

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

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

**P: Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

*Showing Hospitality*

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

### \*HYMN 358

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

BARONITA

**1 Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted,  
and meant to love and live.**

**2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may become.**

**3 Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;**

to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness,  
and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us; make us one!

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.

## **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

**Choral Response #570:** *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*



John Weaver

### **THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY** *Adagio from Partita on "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"* Paul Manz 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 Costello  
**Blessed are you, God of all creation: through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your reign. Amen**

**\*HYMN 538** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* SICILIAN MARINERS

1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, thy love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us,  
O refresh us,  
traveling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration  
for thy gospel's joyful sound;  
may the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful,  
ever faithful  
to the truth may we be found.

3 So that when Thy love shall call us,  
Savior from the world away,  
let no fear of death appall us,  
glad thy summons to obey.  
May we ever,  
may we ever  
reign with thee in endless day.

### **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**Choral Response #583:** *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*



Marty Haugen

## POSTLUDE

*You Shall Go Out With Joy!*  
Janice Robison, organist

Douglas Wagner

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Deacon of the Month of August - Mary Costello  
(740) 592-3444 or [mbcostello@hotmail.com](mailto:mbcostello@hotmail.com) - A friend to phone with joys or concerns  
Chancel Prep: Ellen Sostarich  
Ushers: Harold Robison and Ellen Sostarich  
Fellowship Hour: Lee Gregg  
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**Women's Book Study** - The Women's Book Study 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](mailto:christianed@athensfpc.org)

**Church Directory Updates** - We are currently working on updating our church directory of members and friends. Please take a moment to fill out a form found on the narthex table if you have any changes such as new address, phone number, email, etc., or if your information was not included in the last directory. Place the completed form in the box on the table.

**Presbyterian Women** - You are invited to join the study group beginning the third Wednesday of September as we study *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. Call Martha Johnson at (740) 707-9640 for more information.

**Volunteer Opportunity** - We are looking for volunteers to answer the church office phone and take messages occasionally when the secretary is absent from the office. Usual office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you might be available to fill in from time to time please let Debbie Perry know or call the church office at (740) 593-3351.

**Cultivating Kindness** - As part of our theme "Cultivating Kindness", everyone is invited to write a brief description of a time they experienced kindness, either as a giver or a receiver, onto the paper flowers provided by the ushers. Please drop your flower into the offering plates or return them to Joan Nease. She will be using them as part of her bulletin board design downstairs.

**College Lunch Fall Edition** - College Lunch will resume on September 4th. Please see Lee Gregg if you are interested in providing a main course or dessert during fall semester. Cooking not your thing? Stop in and visit with the students from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or help with set up or clean up afterwards. For more information contact Lee Gregg at (740) 592-3622.

### **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.

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Minister: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin  
CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease  
Organist: Janice Robison  
Bell Choir Director: Dr. Peter Haley  
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Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart  
Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry  
Choir Director: Dr. David Tadlock

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