



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday August 20, 2017, 10:30 A.M.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In a world of strife and division, the Psalmist affirms, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" Paul echoes this sentiment in his letter to the church in Rome, and reminds the Jewish community that God has not rejected his people, because the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.

Worship begins when the first person arrives. Please worship silently through the prelude.

The congregation reads or sings parts in bold.

**Please stand if able*

***or God*

When we stand in the light of God's goodness, we see ourselves for who we really are, including our shadows, our brokenness and our sin. We come before God in complete honesty, confessing our sins, and asking God by the grace of forgiveness, to restore what is

The Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. Having received Christ's peace, we pass it on.

We invite young children to come to the front at this time.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

*Prelude and Fugue in G Minor
God's Time Is the Best Time (Cantata # 106)*

Nicolaus Bruhns

J.S. Bach/arr. by Michael Burkhardt

WORDS OF WELCOME

Robert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist John Hauser

L. We come before you today, O God, descended from prophets and dreamers;

P. so create in us a holy imagination.

L. We come filled with life and gifts that are yours, not ours to be hoarded;

P. so give us the ability to love without agenda.

L: We come surrounded by sisters and brothers who are not free,

P: groaning under the weight of violence and oppression;

L: so give us voices, loud and quick, to speak out for those who suffer.

P: Trusting in your power to make all these hopes reality,

L: we come with hearts full of love to worship you today.

*HYMN 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God. We pray in Jesus' name. 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 the Peace and Greetings

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rob Martin

(Children are encouraged to go downstairs for music time after the Children's Moment. Younger children thru K may remain in the nursery and older children will return to the worship service.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Believe/Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod)

*Drake/Graham/Shirl/Stillman, arr. Beard & Tucker
Alli Purcell, soprano, and Alexandra Bruno, mezzo-soprano*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, inspire us by your word and revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong, and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURES Psalm 133 (page 575 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Hauser

Genesis 45:1-15 (page 42 in pew Bible)

Rev. Martin

L: This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Letting the Tears Flow

Rev. Robert Martin

*HYMN 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

OFFERING / OFFERTORY *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now*

J.S. Bach

*Doxology - 592

**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 (in unison)

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we might increase in our awareness of the ways in which you are present and at work in our lives. By our offering and our actions, may the story of your redeeming love be made known to the world around us. Amen.

*HYMN 379

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Finale

Francesco Manfredini

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

Doxology literally means "words of glory."

Doxologies have long been used by Jews and Christians to praise God. Here we honor and thank God "from whom all blessings flow."

Worshiping With Children

- * AFPC welcomes children in the worship service, whether in the pews or in the Children's Corner.
- * Nursery is available for infant thru age 6 downstairs.
- * Please tell childcare staff about any allergies.
- * Bathrooms are located at the top of the stairs to the overflow area and in Fellowship Hall.
- * Changing tables are located in the nursery and upstairs restroom.
- * All children are welcome to attend the church service with their families or the childcare staff

The three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and festivals was produced by the ecumenical Consultation on Common Texts in 1992. This lectionary provides scripture readings for proclamation in worship, following the Sundays, festivals, and seasons of the Christian year (or liturgical calendar). Four scripture passages are given for each Sunday and festival: (a) the First Reading, usually from the Old Testament, but replaced by a reading from Acts during the season of Easter; (b) a Psalm; (c) the Second Reading, an Epistle or other New Testament writing; and (d) the Gospel Reading, from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The three-year lectionary cycle (Years A, B, and C) focuses on different sections of scripture each year, notably the Gospel of Matthew in Year A, Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C (the fourth gospel, John, is prominently featured at certain times in each year).

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, August 20, 2017, the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading
Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

Second Reading Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

1I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2aGod has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ... 29for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, 31so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. 32For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Gospel Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

10Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: 11it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." 12Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" 13He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." 15But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." 16Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." 21Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." 23But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." 24He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." 26He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 27She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Deep and Wide

Christian Education Theme: 2017-2018

Where do we stand in a world of shaky theology and uncertain intentions? We cast out our nets of love as wide as possible, but how deep is our understanding? This year we will explore the theme of "Deep and Wide" by returning to our biblical roots. Join us as we seek to deepen and widen our knowledge and faith.



You can watch a broadcast of FPC Worship service on Athens Community Television.

Schedule

*9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday
and
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.*

Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin
Choir Director: David Tadlock
Organist: Janice Robison

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
CE Coordinator and Handbell Director: Kirsten Trachsel
Administrative Assistant: Jane A. Baker

Athens First Presbyterian Church Office
9 North College Street, Athens, OH 45701
Phone - 740/593-3351 Fax-740/593-3351

Email - office@athensfpc.org

Web - www.athensfpc.org

Deacon of the Month - Linda Parsons
(740) 592-2275 **lparsons2@frontier.com**
A friend to call in time of need.

Liturgist - John Hauser

Chancel Preparation - Harold Robison (*Dale Hoffman, flowers*)

Ushers - Josh Bodnar and Kim Jordan

Acolytes - Nicky Jordan and Andersen Trachsel

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**Church Activities for the Week**

**SUNDAY, August 20th**

10:30 A.M. - Worship, Sanctuary

Following Children's Moment - Children's Church, classrooms

11:30 A.M. - Children's crafts, classroom 3

11:30 A.M. - Coffee and fellowship, fellowship hall

1:00-1:30 P.M. - Lindley Inn hymn sing, The Plains

1:00-5:00 P.M. - Celebration of Life Service for Ruth Nostrant, OU Inn

6:00 P.M. - Earth Justice potluck picnic, home of Danny Moates. All interested Presbyterians are invited to attend.

**MON., 21st** - Noon - Deadline for September newsletter

Noon - Al-Anon meeting, library

**TUES., 22nd** - Noon - Bible study, library

**WED., 23rd** - 7:00 A.M. - AA, library

7:00 P.M. - Chancel Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary

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SUNDAY, 27th - RALLY DAY / Food Pantry Sunday

9:30 A.M. - Sunday School for all ages, various rooms

10:00-10:30 A.M - Trail mix assembly, fellowship hall

10:30 A.M. - Puppet ministry during Worship, Sanctuary

Following Children's Moment - Children's Church, classrooms

11:30 A.M. - Children's crafts, classroom 3

11:30 A.M. - Coffee and fellowship, fellowship hall

11:35 A.M.-Noon - Trail mix assembly, fellowship hall

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**You won't want to miss**

**RALLY DAY 2017 - NEXT Sunday, August 27th**

This year's theme "*Deep and Wide*"

Puppets and activities for all ages

Children's Church, craft time, chime choir, and adult

Sunday School will resume that Sunday

**After Worship Lunch and Book Study** - "Protestants: The Faith That Made the Modern World" by Alec Ryrie. **On Sunday, September 24th,** there will be an after worship lunch and book study. Harold Robison will be leading a discussion on Alec Ryrie's "Protestants". The church has purchased several copies of this lengthy account of the history and character of Reformation-inspired Christians. Please see Kirsten Trachsel if you would like to borrow a copy of the book. This event will be the first in our 2017-2018 education theme of "Deep and Wide". We will begin the education year celebrating and learning about the Reformation on it's 500th anniversary! We will spend the year deepening our knowledge of our faith and exploring the wideness of God's love and mercy.

**Thank You** - Clarice Swisher wishes to thank Rev. Martin and the Church family for their prayers, visitations, and cards while she was at Kimes.

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Reading the Bible in a Year - Many of us have thought, "I should really read the Bible from cover to cover." But most of us who try eventually find the task daunting. You are invited to join our First Presbyterian community as together we embark on the journey of reading the entire Bible in a year. The reading list consists of manageable portions for each day, generally two chapters from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament for each day.

In-depth "Going Deeper" Bible studies, will be offered periodically throughout the year on Tuesday evenings and will provide an opportunity to discuss and dig deeper and wider into the texts for the week. Each study is optional and will be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and includes a meal. The first study will be Tuesday, October 3rd.

The sign up sheet for the Read the Bible in a Year program is available downstairs in fellowship hall or by emailing Kirsten Trachsel (ktrachsel1@gmail.com). Program booklets are available in hardcopy or as a PDF. Please mark your preference when signing up. Contact Kirsten Trachsel or Pastor Rob for more information.

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**Church Office Volunteers** - Would you like to be a church office volunteer? Basically the only duty is someone in the office to answer the phone and take messages. You can volunteer for a whole day or a half day (mornings 8:30-Noon and afternoons 1:00-5:00). If you would be interested, please phone Jane at the church office (593-3351) or email (office@athensfpc.org) to sign up as a volunteer or just to get some more info.

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Trail Mix Ministry Assembly - Snack bags are assembled every 4th Sunday, 10:00-10:20 a.m. and 11:35 a.m.-Noon in Fellowship Hall. Monetary (*use brown giving envelopes, mark Trail Mix on it*) and in-kind donations are appreciated.

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**Did you know** that you can find recordings of the sermons, music, and puppet skits each week on the church's Facebook page. It is a public site so you do not have to be a Facebook user to access the recordings and content.

Simply go to: <https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>

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Bookshelf Mission Fundraiser - The Bookshelf Mission Fundraiser is managed by the Session Mission/Outreach Committee. There are books for sale (.25 each) beside the piano in fellowship hall, beside the piano. There is a container there to place your quarters for the books. Money raised will go toward mission projects. You are also invited to donate a book(s). To donate a book(s), just bring and place on one of the shelves.