



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, July 22, 2018, 10:30 A.M.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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 God's grace and Christ's giving of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

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.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In today's Old Testament passage we learn of God's command to David to build a temple as the Lord's dwelling place on earth. Our reading from Ephesians sees the radical second fulfilment of that promise in Jesus Christ – who brings the fullness of the incarnate God beyond the temple walls. Still more miraculously, in Christ we together become the living temple of the Church with God indwelling in those who believe by the Holy Spirit. In this way Jesus the good shepherd gathers his lost sheep to himself, and the holy presence of the Lord moves from a stone temple, to his living Son, and now to all those who believe in him.

PRELUDE

Fugue in C Major
Fantasy on "All Creatures of Our God and King"

G.F. Handel
Nicholas Palmer

WORDS OF WELCOME

(Please circulate the friendship forms found in the aisle seats.)

Rev. Robert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Benji Martin

L: In Christ we are a new humanity, no longer strangers but members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone.

P: We rejoice that Jesus holds us together, reconciling us to God and to one another. Let us worship!

*HYMN 466

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Steadfast God, sometimes we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others that we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We can spend so much time noting the differences between us and others that we might not notice you are embracing everyone as your child. We might run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, but you throw open your doors to the stranger in our midst. Forgive us. By your grace, help us to see the fullness of your household, your reign. 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

Kirsten Trachsel

(Children are encouraged to go downstairs for Children's Church following the Children's Moment.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

How Can I Keep from Singing? American folk song/arr. Richard Walters
Ali Taliani, soprano, and Wes Taliani, baritone

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

God of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: grow in us the love of your name, and by your Spirit open our hearts to hear from you now; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURES Ephesians 2:11-22 (pages 192, 193 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Martin

Mark 6:30-34 (page 41 in pew Bible)

Rev. Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Meditation on "Simple Gifts"

Michael Larkin

*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)

Christ, you are before us. This is what gives us courage to go on. It is you who directs. It is you who beckons. So we dedicate these gifts, we dedicate ourselves, to you and to your work in this world. Amen.

*HYMN 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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Going Deeper Bible Study and Dinner  
Tuesday, July 24th in the Church Fellowship Hall  
Dinner - 5:30 p.m. and Program - 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Going deeper in the book of Ezekiel - Ezekiel speaks from Babylon, exiled from a country that has died, its temple and capital city destroyed. Like earlier prophets, Ezekiel understands this disaster not simply as the unfortunate result of Babylon's empire-building. To him, since nothing can happen unless God allows it, Judah's people and especially their leaders brought this devastation upon themselves by their disobedience to God.

The prophet is understandably pessimistic about human goodness. He insists that individuals are utterly free to make moral choices and utterly responsible for the consequences of these choices. Each individual is given the chance to make decisions that may be life-giving or death-dealing (Ezekiel 18). Yet Ezekiel sees little evidence that Judeans will choose more wisely in the future than they have in the past. Though blessed with moral agency, they are no more able to use this faculty well than lifeless bones are able to get up and walk. This conundrum in Ezekiel's theology could have led to an unspeakable impasse.

But Ezekiel discovers divine grace instead. This grace initiated the whole human enterprise by making humans from dust and breathing into them the breath, ruah, of life (Genesis 2:7). God likewise initiated the entire Israelite project, choosing to take slaves from Egypt, giving them God's own law, and bringing them to a good land -- and doing this with minimal cooperation (Ezekiel 20:5-14). Now, Ezekiel says, God will take the initiative yet again: God's spirit will bring new life to a people dead as stone, dead as bones.

In Ezekiel 11, speaking for God, the prophet has already said of the exiles:

**I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, so that they may follow my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19-20)**

And again in Ezekiel 36:

**A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. (Ezekiel 36:26-28)**

*This new heart is nothing the people can obtain for themselves. The new spirit is not their own, but God's, a spirit enabling them to do what they could not before, to live as holy people before Holy God. The prophet spells out the divine intent in these two sayings. Divine initiative and human action are interwoven throughout this book. Only grace fills the gap between what we are made for and what we ourselves can manage.*

*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."*

**REVISED COMMON  
LECTIONARY**

*This lectionary provides a three-year series of readings for Sunday starting with the season of Advent, four weeks before Christmas Day.*

*The three year cycle is split into years – A,B, and C. For each Sunday and festival, three readings and a psalm are suggested and include: a Gospel reading, an Old Testament reading, and a New Testament reading.*

*The lectionary is a work of The Consultation on Common Texts, an ecumenical consultation*

*of liturgical scholars and denominational representatives from the United States and Canada, who produce liturgical texts for use in common by North American Christian Churches.*

*Each year of the Revised Common Lectionary centers on one of the synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke. The Gospel of John is read periodically in all three years and is especially frequent in Year B.*

**Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, July 22, 2018, the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

**First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a**  
**Psalm: Psalm 89:20-37**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22**  
**Gospel: Mark 6:30-34**

**First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-14a**

1Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." 3Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." 4But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: 5Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 12When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14aI will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

**Psalm 89:20-37**

20I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;  
21my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.  
22The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.  
23I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.  
24My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.  
25I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.  
26He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"  
27I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.  
28Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm.  
29I will establish his line for ever, and his throne as long as the heavens endure.  
30If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my ordinances,  
31if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments,  
32then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with scourges;  
33but I will not remove from him my steadfast love, or be false to my faithfulness.  
34I will not violate my covenant, or alter the word that went forth from my lips.  
35Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David.  
36His line shall continue for ever, and his throne endure before me like the sun.  
37It shall be established for ever like the moon, an enduring witness in the skies."

**Worshipping 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 until after the Children’s Moment.

**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  
CE Coordinator and Handbell Director: Kirsten Trachsel  
Administrative Assistant: Jane Baker

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart  
Organist: Janice Robison  
Choir Director: David Tadlock

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Follow FPC on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/

**Deacon of the Month - Linda Parsons**

A friend to call in time of need

**lparsons2@frontier.com      740-592-2275**

Chancel Prep - Mary Costello

Ushers - Mary Costello and Marge Shelton

Liturgist - Benji Martin

Acolytes - Alexia Gyftopoulos and Abbey Heinrich

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Church Activities for the Week

SUNDAY, July 22nd - Food Pantry Sunday

- 10:00 A.M. - Trail mix assembly, fellowship hall
- 10:30 A.M. - Worship, Sanctuary / Children's Church, classrooms
- 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. - Trail mix assembly, fellowship hall

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**MON., 23rd - Noon - August Newsletter Deadline**

Noon - Al-Anon, library

**TUES., 24th - Noon - Bible study, library**

5:30 P.M. - Going Deeper dinner and Bible Study, fellowship hall

**WED., 25th - 7:00 A.M. - AA, library**

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SUNDAY, July 29th - Youth Sunday

- 10:30 A.M. - Worship, Sanctuary / Children's Church, classrooms
- 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



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**Do you like to cycle? Would you be interested in a "Presby Peddlers" group?** Fun exercise and great fellowship. If interested, contact Paul Mullins at 740-592-4695 or pbmullins@columbus.rr.com

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Fourth Sunday Food Pantry Sunday - Fourth Sunday of each month. Canned goods, non-perishables and monetary donations are always needed and welcomed. Use the brown envelopes on the back of the pew (check Food Pantry) for monetary donations. Food donations can be dropped off at the church or church office. Contact Dan Neason (592-2823), FPC representative, for more info.

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**Trail Mix Ministry Assembly** - Snack bags are assembled the fourth Sunday of each month, 10:00-10:20 a.m. and 11:35 a.m.-Noon in Fellowship Hall. Monetary (use the brown giving envelopes and mark Trail Mix on it). In kind donations are appreciated. July's date is July 22nd.

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Christian Education Calendar

THIS Saturday, July 21st, 6:30 p.m. - Canoe Outing at Dow Lake

Tuesday, July 24th - Going Deeper Dinner and Bible Study, fellowship hall

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*August Newsletter Deadline – Monday, July 23rd*