



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.

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday September 17, 2017, 10:30 A.M.

FIFTHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Some of the questions around living together in Christian community are thorny – there may be different rituals, understandings, and convictions around various practices even within the body of Christ. In today's lesson from Romans, Paul seeks to acknowledge the differences that may persist, even among faithful followers. In his context, rituals around food were of particular importance as the early Church learned to navigate the presence of Gentiles within the early Church.

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

#### PRELUDE

A Litany of Praise

Franklin Ashdown

Adagio in E Major

Frank Bridge

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

Robert Martin

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Penny Shelton

L. We come to this place

**P. in the name of the God who creates life,**

L. in the name of the Savior who loves life,

**P. in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life!**

L: Let us worship God.

#### \*HYMN 470

O Day of Radiant Gladness ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELLEN

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Lord God, forgive us. Unlike the psalmist, when we walk through the shadow of death, we sometimes fear evil. Unlike the Apostle Paul, we are not always sure that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Unlike the poet John of Patmos, in the midst of injustice, we do not always see a new heaven and a new earth. Forgive again, we pray, our feeble use of the faith you give, and restore us to the hope of trust and the trust of your hope. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. 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

Puppet Ministry

(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.)

#### ANTHEM

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

arr. by Mark Hayes

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; There's a kindness in His justice which is more than liberty. There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good; There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in His blood. For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more simple, we would take Him at His Word; and our lives would be all sunshine, in the sweetness of our Lord.*

# PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: as you inspire us by your word, remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, and give us thankful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIPTURES** Exodus 14:19-31 (page 61 in pew Bible)  
Matthew 18:21-35 (page 20 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Shelton  
Rev. Martin

*L: This is the Word of the Lord!*  
**P: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*The Numbers Game*

Rev. Robert Martin

## \*HYMN 347

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

DETROIT CM

*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."*

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**MINUTE FOR MISSION** (Appalachian Peace and Justice)

Mara Giglio

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**  
Choral Response

Rev. Martin

**OFFERING / OFFERTORY** *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Kevin Norris

### \*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)

Gracious God, thank you for the opportunity to offer what we have, what we are, back to you. Stir us toward outrageous generosity. And may our giving and our sharing open the world and make room for justice and mercy. Amen.

## \*HYMN 430

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy*

DARWALL'S 148TH

## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Choral Response

## \*POSTLUDE

*The Rejoicing*

Charles Callahan

### "Deep and Wide" Fall Events

NEXT Sunday, September 24th - "Protestants" luncheon and book study, following worship  
Tuesday, October 3rd - "Going Deeper" Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday, October 29th - Reformation 500th Anniversary Celebration luncheon and movie, following worship  
Tuesday, November 14th - "Going Deeper" Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, November 28th - Advent Celebration, 5:30 p.m.

### **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 until after the Children's Moment.

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, September 17, 2017, the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Exodus 14:19-31</b>
<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Psalm 114:1-8</b>
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Romans 14:1-12</b>
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Matthew 18:21-35</b>

**Psalm 114:1-8**

- 1 When Israel went out from Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary,  
Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea looked and fled;  
Jordan turned back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams,  
the hills like lambs.
- 5 Why is it, O sea, that you flee?  
O Jordan, that you turn back?
- 6 O mountains, that you skip like rams?  
O hills, like lambs?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 who turns the rock into a pool of water,  
the flint into a spring of water.

**Second Reading Romans 14:1-12**

1Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 2Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. 4Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. 5Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. 7We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." 12So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*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

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**Deacon of the Month - Josh Bodnar**  
**(740) 593-9145 bodnar@ohio.edu**

*A friend to call in time of need*

Liturgist - Penny Shelton

Chancel Preparation - Marge Shelton

Ushers - Harold Robison and Marge Shelton

Acolytes - Noah Heinrich and Nicky Jordan

Puppeteers - Neal Nesbitt and Becky Pankratz

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**Church Activities for the Week**

**SUNDAY, September 17th**

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

9:45 A.M. - Chancel choir rehearsal, choir room

10:00 A.M. - Called Session meeting, library

10:00 A.M. - Children's chime choir rehearsal, classroom 3

10:30 A.M. - Puppets and Minute for Mission 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

11:45 A.M. - Organ recital, sanctuary (*see below*)

11:45 A.M. - Confirmation class, lounge

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

**MON., 18th** - Noon - Al-Anon meeting, library

6:00 P.M. - Calliope choir rehearsal, fellowship hall

**TUES., 19th** - Noon - Bible study, library

3:30-7:00 P.M. - Presbytery meeting, Waverly FPC

**WED., 20th** - 7:00 A.M. - AA, library

11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M. - College lunch and fellowship,  
fellowship hall

6:00 P.M. - Bell choir rehearsal, bell choir room

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

**THURS., 21st** - 6:30 P.M. - Church Community Committee  
meeting, library

7:30 P.M. - Session meeting, fellowship hall

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**SUNDAY, September 24th - Food Pantry Sunday**

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

9:45 A.M. - Chancel choir rehearsal, choir room

10:00 A.M. - Children's chime choir rehearsal, classroom 3

10:00-10:20 A.M. - Trail mix assembly, library

10:30 A.M. - Minute for Mission 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, library

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

11:45 A.M. - Confirmation Class benefit luncheon and with  
the book study, fellowship hall (*see next column*)

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**Following Today's Worship Service**

After Worship organ recital by Janice Robison is today following the worship service. The program will be music of the British Isles, not church music, but pieces based on folk tunes of Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and the more ceremonial music of England, as well as some British musical humor. All are invited to stay for this thirty-minute recital.

**College Lunch and Fellowship** - FPC's college lunch continues into its 4th decade. All students are welcomed and will enjoy a good meal. Volunteers are needed to provide these appreciative young people with hot home cooked meals. If you would like an opportunity to join in as a food provider or helper, please contact Jane Baker (740-593-3351, office@athensfpc.org or Lee Gregg - tleegregg@gmail.com.

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**Reading the Bible in a Year** - The "Read the Bible in a Year" program started on Friday September 1st. Reading guides are still available in Fellowship Hall. It's not too late to join! The first discussion group study will be Tuesday, October 3rd, 5:30 p.m. in fellowship hall. Contact Kirsten Trachsel or Pastor Rob for more information.

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**After Worship Lunch and Book Study** -

**After Worship Lunch** - Help those who are hungry by staying for lunch after worship on Sunday, September 24th.

**The Confirmation Class** is hosting the meal of shepherd's pie, salad, and apple pie for dessert. All donations will go to the Athens City School's Food Pantry location. The book study led by Harold Robison will follow the luncheon

**Book Study** - "Protestants: The Faith That Made the Modern World" by Alec Ryrie. Harold Robison will lead 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.

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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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**Church Office Volunteers Needed** - 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. It is easy, really!