



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday October 15, 2017, 10:30 A.M.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*The Bible often portrays the fickleness of humanity. Too often the people of God fail to recognize the precious gift of the invitation God extends. In Exodus, Moses comes down from Mount Sinai and then God speaks the words of the Ten Commandments. In Matthew's gospel, a king has extended a gracious invitation to an abundant wedding banquet, but having no sense of the value of the invitation, the guests do not come.*

*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 broken.*

*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

*Psalm 19: The Heavens Declare  
Before Thy Throne I Now Appear*

Benedetto Marcello  
J.S. Bach

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

Robert Martin

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Becky Pankratz

*L: "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*

**P: Before the mountains were brought forth,**

*L: or ever you had formed the earth and the world,*

**P: from everlasting to everlasting you are God."**

#### \*HYMN 488

*The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

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

**God of mercy, we confess that we fail to be good stewards of your grace. Like the Prodigal Son, we squander our inheritance. Like the jealous older sibling, we seek to privatize your grace and control your unconditional love. Remind us that we are not you, O God, and that your ways are not our ways. Startle us with the depths and bounds of your forgiveness. Show us a grace so faithful and sincere that we cannot help but turn our hearts to you, and to all our neighbors, in loving gratitude. 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 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

*The Road Home*  
Soprano solo: Alli Purcell

Stephen Paulus

*Tell me where is the road I can call my own; that I left-- that I lost-- so long ago?*

*All these years I have wandered, oh when will I know: there's a way, there's a road, that will lead me home?*

*After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake from a dream in the gold of day,*

*Through the air there's a calling from far away; there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.*

*"Rise up, follow me, Come away," is the call, "With the love in your heart as the only song;*

*There is no such beauty as where you belong; Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home."*

# PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: as your word comes alive in our midst, deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIPTURES** Psalm 19 (pages 498, 499 in pew Bible)  
Matthew 22:1-14 (page 24 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Pankratz  
Rev. Martin

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

## SERMON

*"The Invitation"*

Rev. Robert Martin

## \*HYMN 487

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

*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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

Choral Response

## OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*Our Father Who Art in Heaven*

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)

**O God, be in the ministries and mission for which these gifts are given, and bless those who give them, that we may dedicate ourselves as well. Teach us again and again the power of generosity and love. May we be a part of your creative work of healing in this world. Amen.**

## \*HYMN 145

*Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart*

MARION

## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Choral Response

## \*POSTLUDE

*Tocatta in E Minor*

Johann Pachelbel

### "Deep and Wide" Fall Events

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.

### 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.

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).



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.

## Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, October 15, 2017, the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

**First Reading**  
**Psalm**

**Exodus 32:1-14**  
**Psalm 19**

**Second Reading**  
**Gospel**

**Philippians 4:1-9**  
**Matthew 22:1-14**

### First Reading Exodus 32:1-14

1When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." 2Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." 3So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" 5When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." 6They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. 7The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" 9The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." 11But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" 14And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

### Second Reading Philippians 4:1-9

1Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. 2I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## 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.

**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/>

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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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 - Wanada Baxter-Potter**  
**(740) 589-5679 twbp@shermanarts.com**

*A friend to call in time of need*

Liturgist - Becky Pankratz Chancel Preparation - Kim Jordan  
Ushers - Kim Jordan and Patrick Tegge  
Acolytes - Noah Heinrich and Nicky Jordan

**Church Activities for the Week**

**SUNDAY, October 15th**

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

10:30 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. - Chili Cook-off Fund Raiser (see below) during  
coffee and fellowship, fellowship hall

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

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

**MON., 16th** - Noon - Al-Anon meeting, library

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

**TUES., 17th** - Noon - Bible study, library

**WED., 18th** - 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., 19th** - 6:30 P.M. - Church Community Committee  
meeting, library

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

**FRI., 20th** - 6:00-11:00 P.M. - Athens Reading Club,  
fellowship hall

**SUNDAY, October 22nd - 2018 Stewardship Campaign begins**

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 A.M. - Trail mix assembly, fellowship hall

10:30 A.M. - Bells and Stewardship 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. - Pumpkin decorating for kids of all ages during  
coffee and fellowship, fellowship hall

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

**Chili Cook Off Fund Raiser - TODAY, October 15th during**  
**Coffee and Fellowship time** - Who has the best chili? The

Church Community Committee invites everyone to join in the annual Chili Cook-Off. You will be a judge. There will be cups placed in front of each chili into which you can place your money to vote for your favorite chili. For those providing chili, please place a list of ingredients by your chili for those who may have a food allergy — but no names of who made the chili. The purpose is to raise funds for FPC various mission opportunities. Bring your appetite...lunch is free, but donations are welcome for the Mission trip. Bring your friends ....the fun is entertaining, and delicious!

**Pumpkin Decorating will be NEXT Sunday, October 22nd -**

Pumpkin decorating for ALL ages will follow the worship service during coffee and fellowship time in fellowship hall. Pumpkins and the materials for pumpkin decorating will be provided. Everyone is welcome to participate!

**Thank You** - Dale Hoffman would like to thank everyone for the get well and birthday cards, for the Presbyterian Women's prayer shawl and for all the thoughts, prayers and visits. All is appreciated!

**Advent Devotional Contributors Needed!** Planning for the

2017 Advent Devotional is in progress and we need your help! This year's devotional will include stories that share how individual lives have been expanded and/or understanding has been deepened by walking with God. Do you have an experience to share? How have you grown over the years in your faith? What childhood perceptions did you hold that have been changed or expanded in the years since? How has your Advent/Christmas experience developed throughout your life? How does Advent/Christmas deepen your relationship with Jesus and God? Contact Kirsten Trachsel to sign-up. ktrachsel1@gmail.com or 740-590-5934.

**College Lunch and Fellowship** - Thank you to all the people

who have signed up to provide lunch for the college lunch. The Lunch Bunch have filled all this semester's dates, but would be happy to hear from anyone who wants to volunteer for next semester. Anyone who wants to volunteer can contact Jane at the church office or Lee Gregg.

**Earth Justice Group's Green Tip** - Good news! Staples is again taking household batteries, in addition to electronic items, to recycle.

**CROP Walk** - FPC had seven walkers for the annual CROP Walk on October 8th. Thank you to Mary Costello, Helen King, Benji Martin, Danny Moates, Harold and Janice Robison, and Anderson Trachsel. Members of the congregation contributed \$1,584 to these stalwarts, monies that will serve people in need all over the world. FPC is grateful to Church World Service for providing the needed services. There were also walkers from Christ Lutheran, First United Methodist, Church of the Good Shepherd, and the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. Collectively these five congregations brought in \$3,002. One fourth of those funds will stay local and go to the Athens County Food Pantry.

**Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings** - October Circles will be: Tuesday, October 24th at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Joy Creighton, 40 Angela Drive and Thursday, October 26th at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Helen King, 6773 Beechwood Drive.

**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 (8:30-Noon and/or 1:00-5:00). Interested? Contact Jane at the church office - 593-3351 or office@athensfpc.org, for more info or to sign up.