



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FOR WORSHIP

In today's Gospel reading we see Jesus' miraculous power at work as he multiplies five barley loaves and two fish to feed a crowd of over five thousand people. This is prefigured by Elisha's miraculous feeding of one hundred people centuries before, a sign that God's loving provision is eternal. St. Paul's prayer to the Ephesian church is that they would comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of the love of Christ for them. That prayer remains just as true for us today because the love of Jesus is complete – he cares for our spiritual and physical needs, with an abundant grace that cannot be measured.

**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.

We express gratitude that through of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

O God, Beyond All Praising ("Thaxted")

Gustav Holst/Charles Callahan

Prelude on the Welsh Tune "Rhosymedre"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Janice Robison, organist

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Bobbi Conliffe

L: Let all the earth acclaim God.

P: Let us sing to the glory of God's name.

L: Come and see what God has done.

P: Let the sound of our praise be heard.

L: Blessed is our God,

P: who has not withdrawn from us Christ's love and care.

L: Let us worship God!

*HYMN 398

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

2 There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." (Refrain)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist Conliffe

God of forgiveness, we pray for new life as we confess our old ways. We hear your promise that the old passes away and that you make all things new, but we hear it amid our self-doubt. We confess our desire for guarantees when what you offer us is even greater – hope. When you call us to obedience, we set conditions. When you call us to follow, we ask "Where?" Forgive our reluctance to leave our false comforts in order to walk in your newness of life. We pray this in your holy 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 of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Puppet Ministry

ANTHEM

Nearer, My God, to Thee
Anna Crum, flute

arrangement/Susan W. Henry

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Conliffe

Gracious God, your Son Jesus left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: please send your Holy Spirit upon us and open our hearts to hear from you now, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE John 6: 1-21 (page 97 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Conliffe

Ephesians 3: 14-21 (page 193 in pew Bible)

Rev. Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rooted and Grounded

Rev. Martin

***HYMN 366**

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

ST. CATHERINE

**1 Jesus, thy boundless love to me
no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee,
and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live;
myself to thee entirely give.**

**2 O grant that nothing in my soul
may dwell, but thy pure love alone;
O may thy love possess me whole,
my joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
may every act, word, thought be love.**

**3 O Love, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away
where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
nothing desire, or seek, but thee.**

The sermon is a reflection on the day's scriptures, suggesting implications for our faith and life.

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. Martin

THE OFFERING

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here
Janice Robison, Organist

David Cherwien

***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 Conliffe

Bountiful God, we dedicate to you our gifts of time, talent, and resources in equal measures of gratitude. May your Spirit give increase to our seedling gifts that they may grow and flourish, bearing fruit in service of the gospel. Amen.

***HYMN 252**

O Lord, You Are My God and King

JERUSALEM

1 O Lord, you are my God and King,
and I will ever bless your name;
I will extol you every day,
and evermore your praise proclaim.
You, Lord, are greatly to be praised;
your greatness is beyond our thought;
all generations shall tell forth
the mighty wonders you have wrought.

2 How rich in grace are you, O Lord,
full of compassion, merciful,
your anger always slow to rise;
your steadfast love you show to all,
for you are good in all your ways;
your creatures know your constant care.
To all your works your love extends;
all souls your tender mercies share.

3 Your works will give you thanks, O Lord;
your saints your mighty acts will show,
till all the peoples of the earth
your kingdom, power, glory know.
Eternal is your kingdom, Lord,
forever strong, forever sure;
while generations rise and die,
your high dominion will endure.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Sonata for Organ, Mvt. 3

Theodore Beck

Janice Robison, organist

Deacon of the Month of July - Mary Costello

740-592-3444 - mbcostello@hotmail.com - *A friend to phone with joys or concerns*

Ushers: Becky Pankratz and Ayse Suer

Chancel Prep: Ayse Suer

Fellowship Hour: Emily Finsterwald and Wes Filipow

Sunday School during Worship. If you have questions or would like to help with a class, please contact Barb Martin at barbaramartin729@msn.com or the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans and materials will be provided for all volunteer teachers. Class sizes are usually small in number.

Make a Joyful Noise Music Camp - July 29-31, 2024 - School Age Children

Camp runs from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, all levels of music experience will be welcome.

Register at the church office, 9 N. College Street, or call the church office at (740) 593-3351.

Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Instruction by Lara Suer, voice and piano teacher in Athens.

Women's Book Study - Join the Women's Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom beginning September 6th, 2024 as we discuss *Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation and Compassion* by Wendy Farley. For more information or to join, please contact the church office at 740-593-3351 or Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org

Plastic Free July tips - to reduce your exposure to micro and nanoplastics: avoid bottled water, never microwave food in plastic, wear clothes made of natural fibers, avoid oily or acidic food or beverages in plastic.

Presbyterian Women - We will meet September 18th, at The Plains Public Library at 10:00 a.m. For more information, call Martha Johnson at (740) 677-0034. Everyone is welcome!

Sunset Canoes at Strouds Run State Park (Dow Lake) - Join us on Saturday, August 17th beginning at 5:30 p.m. We will meet at the Bobcat Shelter near the canoe rental. Pontoon boats and canoes will be available from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Join FPC members and friends and take to the water to enjoy God's amazing creation, fellowship, and sunset. Canoes, paddles, and life jackets will be rented (for those who need them) or bring your own. Don't want to canoe? Bring a chair and hang out. Craft supplies will be provided to those who would only like to fellowship on dry land. Bring your own snacks and bug repellent. Contact the church office at (740) 593-3351 or email office@athensfpc.org to reserve a canoe. All ages and abilities welcome.

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.

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

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