

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude Morning Has Broken arr. by Pepper Choplin

Welcome and Announcements Dr. Karl Kling

\* CALL TO WORSHIP Randi Harbin

We praise God for the Lord's love and faithfulness.

**God's compassion and generosity never end.**

The Lord fills our lives with grace and goodness.

**We worship God with our hearts, minds, and actions.**

Let us worship God.

\*Hymn of Praise I Sing the Mighty Power of God #32

### MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

**"ABUNDANT GRACE, ABUNDANT GIVING"** Randi Harbin

\*Call to Confession Randi Harbin

God is perfect, but God invites us to come to God as we are.

Rejoicing in God's grace, let us confess our sin

\*Prayer of Confession Unison

**Our Merciful God, at times this past week, we were too proud. We did not listen to you. We overlooked our own faults and focused on the mistakes of others. Forgive our sin. Help us to follow the example of humility that Jesus taught us. We pray this in Christ's name, Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison Unison

Three staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff has the lyrics "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" with chords G, B, D, G, B, D, G, B, D, G, B, D, G. The second staff has the lyrics "You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!" with chords Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em. The third staff has the lyrics "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" with chords Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E.

\*Assurance of Pardon Dr. Kling

Our Loving God has heard our confession. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, our sins are forgiven. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* The Gloria Patri Unison

**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.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all. Dr. Kling

**All: And also with you.**

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

"This Little Light of Mine"

Time with Young Disciples Dr. Kling

Prayer for Illumination Randi Harbin

Dear Lord, we pray that you will open our eyes to see the wonderful truth in your Word. Then we ask you to guide our steps as we share your good news in Jesus' name, Amen.

First Reading Psalm 78:12-16: Randi Harbin  
p. 579

Anthem Blessed Assurance  
*The Anthem is dedicated this Sunday to our late previous Choir Director, Pat Bacon.*

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-8 Dr. Kling  
p. 1,162

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Unity In Christ" Dr. Kling

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

\* Affirmation of Faith Unison  
The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of The People Dr. Kling

The Lord's Prayer Unison

**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.**

\*Hymn of Discipleship For the Life That You Have Given # 717

**UPDATE FROM THE CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Jerry Witt, Chair**

Invitation to Worship God with Our Offering Dr. Kling

Offertory Wonderful Peace arr. by Mark Hayes

\*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 Dr. Kling

\*Prayer for the Pastor Nominating Committee Unison  
**"Our Loving God, look graciously on this Church. Please guide the minds of the PNC as they search for our next Pastor. Lead the search committee to a Pastor who will be a faithful partner in ministry. And prepare our next Pastor to care for this congregation as we share Christ's love with others. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen."**

\*Hymn of Sending My Hope is Built on Nothing Less #353

\*Charge Dr. Kling

**Wherever we go, God has sent us; Wherever we are, God has put us there; God has a purpose in our being there; there is something that God wants to do through us. Wherever we are!**

\*Benediction Dr. Kling

As God's people we all say,  
**Alleluia, Amen!**

\* Postlude Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus arr. by Larry Shackley

*\*Stand if you are able*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### CHURCH FAMILY

Doris Welch (Home) Bonnie Chambers (Home)  
Dean Steele Suzanne Weeks (Healing)  
Susie Fogg (Home) Stephen Toney (Home)  
Sharon Massey Ruth Martin (Healing)  
Rene Brown (Traditions) Jac Catlett  
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health) Doug Booth (Health)  
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)

### THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Brandon Noel - Army Sean Miller - Army  
Adam Naves - Marines Damien Williams - Army  
Michael Ress - USAF -AZ Joshua Hargrove - Deployed  
Jay Tulley- Middle East Justin Ruf- Army Air Guard  
Kevin O'Neill-Army Res.-Poland

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Bob Defour (Doyle & Suzanne Weeks son-in-law)  
Brent Harris (Friend of Chris Hilgeman)  
Melvin Norwood (Health, Tashia Baugher's Father)  
Sue Guyer (Health & Healing, Bonny Noel's sister)  
Gerry & Denzil Smith (Healing) cousin of Jan Ruth)  
Alex Noel (Nephew of John & Bonny Noel)  
John Townsend (Health, Doug Harbin's Brother in Law)  
Bill Grisham (Health, Pam Gregg's dad)  
Hazel Ruf (Mason Ruf's mother, home)  
Gary Kilgo (Health, Kay Baugher & Carol Quillen's family member)  
Macie Garrett (Healing, Christy Arnett's Niece)  
Karen Ferguson (Potter's Hand)  
Sherry Thompson (Healing, sister of Christy Arnett)  
Keith Clem (Healing, cousin of Chris Paysinger)  
Johnathon Garrett, (Healing, great nephew of Christy Arnett)  
Amy and John May (Healing, wife of Jan Ruth's grandson)  
Jim May (Healing, son of Jane Ruth)  
Amy Cotten (Potter's Hand)  
John Cotten (Healing, Potter's Hand)  
Telula Thornton (Healing and Comfort, mother of Karan Baker)  
Maggie Ruth Naves (Healing, great granddaughter of Hazel White)  
Finley McAllister (Healing, sibling of Jennifer Quillen's student)  
Kate Proffitt (mother) Karson Proffitt (baby) (health and healing,  
great grandchild of Karla Barnes and great niece of Gayle Cottles)  
The Tilley Family (loss of home and loved one)

## FOR OUR VISITORS:

We welcome you to worship and would love to connect. Prayer Request/Visitor cards are located in the pews. Please place it with the offering or give it to the pastor following the service. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

### The Session

#### Class of 2023

Sandy Colvin  
David Lyle  
Brittany Mallette

#### Class of 2024

Courtney Greene  
Don Payne  
Jerry Witt

#### Class of 2025

Karan Baker  
Gary Boyd  
Stanley Hand

#### Trustees

Suzanne Paysinger Larry Burlingame John Noel

#### PNC

Hal Baker Karla Barnes Stanley Hand Randi Harbin  
Vicki Kellogg John Noel Libby Shindorf

### Staff

#### Transitional Pastor:

Dr. Karl Kling  
karlklingsadmin@gmail.com

#### Office Administrator:

Margaret Lotz  
fpcathens@fpcathens.org

#### Treasurers:

Julie McNeese

#### Choir Director:

Erica Hand

#### Nursery:

Alice Whitt

#### Follow us Online

Visit [www.fpcathens.org](http://www.fpcathens.org) for information, news, and digital worship. Sunday worship is live-streamed and archived on our YouTube page. Follow our Facebook page for news, updates on recent events, and upcoming opportunities. Join our Facebook group for community life. Sign up for our weekly email subscription at [fpcathens@fpcathens.org](mailto:fpcathens@fpcathens.org).

### Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God.  
To sign up for flowers call the church office.



## Worship Leaders

### Sermon

Dr. Karl Kling

### Liturgist

Randi Harbin

### Musicians:

Erica Hand

Emily Clem

Dr. Mary Crowell

### Acolytes:

Greta

Paisley

### Church Nursery:

October 1st- Gale Cottles

October 8th- Ruth Whitten

### Liturgist:

October 1st- John Noel

### Communion Prep:

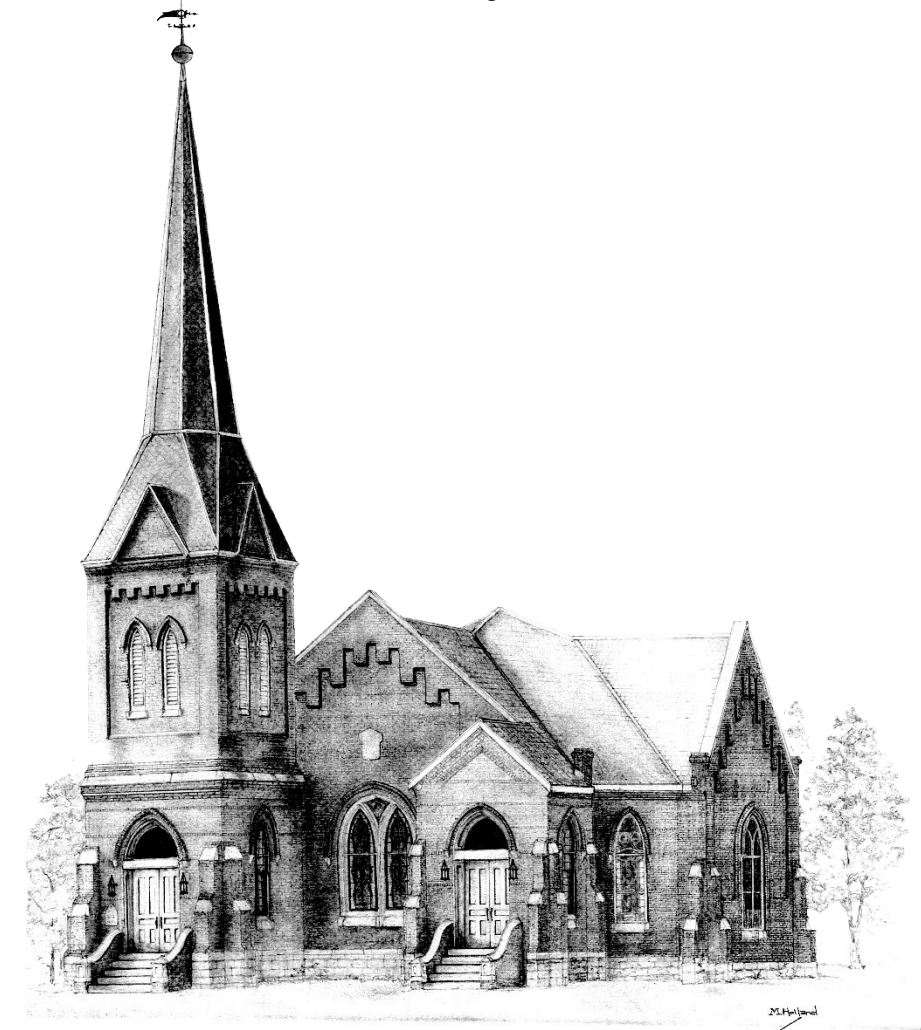
October 1st- Jerry Witt

### Prayer Family

Erica and Stanley Hand  
1808 Lillian Drive  
Athens, AL 35611  
Stanley is a member of the Session

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost



First Presbyterian Church  
112 South Jefferson Street  
Athens, Alabama 35611

(256) 232-0122

[www.fpcathens.org](http://www.fpcathens.org)

*We serve each other, the Athens community, and the world on the square in downtown Athens. Our church family is a community of believers who come seeking the grace and peace of God.*

*If you are looking for a place where you will be accepted, nurtured, and nourished in your journey of faith, or if you are still examining the claims of Christianity, then you are welcome at First Presbyterian Church.*