

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude *The Love of God* Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Elder Jerry Witt

*Call to Worship Jerry Witt

Though the world is filled with trouble and injustice,

We come to wait upon the Lord, who is our hope and salvation.

Like Habakkuk, we will stand at our watch and trust that God will act.

Like Zacchaeus, we come eager to see Jesus and be changed by His presence.

The righteous live by faith; the lost are found in love.

Let us worship the living God with hearts open to His grace..

All Saints Time of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

*Charles “Chuck” Kellogg
Dylan Rydenower
Patricia Hatchett
Sheila Vesper*

*Hymn of Praise For All The Saints #326

*Call to Confession Jerry Witt

God's Word reminds us that even when our faith feels small and our vision clouded, God's mercy is steadfast. Let us come before the Lord with honesty and humility, confessing our sins and seeking His renewing grace.

*Prayer of Confession Unison

Gracious God, We confess that we are often impatient when Your justice seems delayed and blind to the ways You are already at work around us. Like Zacchaeus, we sometimes seek You only from a distance—wanting to see, but not to be seen. Forgive us when fear or pride keeps us from opening our hearts fully to You. Lift us from our selfishness and doubt. Renew our faith so that we may live as people of hope and instruments of Your grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

* Kyrie Eleison Unison

*Assurance of Pardon Jerry Witt

Hear the good news! God's promise is true and sure: "The righteous live by faith." (Habakkuk 2:4) When Zacchaeus met Jesus, his life was forever changed—so it is with all who turn to the Lord in repentance and faith. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
People: 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.

* Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

"This Little Light of Mine"

Time with Young Disciples Sharon Hand

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, Open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Spirit. As we listen to Your Word, give us eyes to see as Zacchaeus saw, faith to trust as Habakkuk trusted, and courage to live as people transformed by Your grace. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

First Reading Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2: 1-4 Jerry Witt
p. 929-30

Anthem Choir

Second Reading Luke 19: 1-10 Rev. Dr. Susan Parker
pgs. 1,039

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Dr. Parker

*“Why Bad Things Happen to Good People and Why
Good Things Happen to Bad People”*

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.

*Hymn of Preparation Let Us Break Bread Together #525

Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table Dr. Parker

The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly choir in lifting up our thanks and prayers...

(Rev. Parker continues with the Communion Prayer)

Prayers of The People Dr. Parker

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.

The Words of Institution Dr. Parker

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Please hold each element until all have been served.

Prayer After Communion Dr. Parker

Invitation to Worship God with Our Offering

Offertory *Softly and Tenderly* 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.**

*Hymn of Praise I Sing A Song of the Saints of God #730

*Charge and Benediction Dr. Parker

*Hymn of Sending Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet #720
(refrain only)

* Postlude *Sunshine and Joy Medley* Mark Hayes

**Stand if you are able*

PRAYER REQUESTS

CHURCH FAMILY

Marv & Elizabeth Price (Health) Duane Counter (Health & Healing)
Doris Welch (Home) Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
Dean Steele Jac Catlett
Susie Fogg (Home) Diane Lynn (Health)
Sharon Massey Gale Cottles (Healing)
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health) Ken (Healing) and Connie Brown
Debbi O'Neill (Healing) Betty Fae Spencer (Healing)
Carol Quillen (Healing) Johnathon Cagle (Healing)
Gene Quillen (Healing) Bonnie Noel (Healing)
Stephen Ware (Healing) Charlotte Lyle (Healing)

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Larry Harris (Healing, friend of Chris Hilgeman)
Sue Guyer (Health & Healing, Bonny Noel's sister)
Alex Noel (Nephew of John & Bonny Noel)
Hazel Ruf (Mason Ruf's mother, home)
Gary Kilgo (Health, Kay Baugher & Carol Quillen's family member)
Karen Ferguson (Potter's Hand)
Keith Clem (Healing, cousin of Chris Paysinger)
Amy Cotten (Potter's Hand)
Telula Thornton (Healing and Comfort, mother of Karan Baker)
Mike Frehner (Support, friend of David Lyle)
Martha Taylor(Healing, mother of John Cagle)
Wendy Jordan (Recovery, friend of Matt Copeland)
Maryann McKee (Healing, friend of Carol Copeland)
Shannon Underwood (Healing, daughter of Barbara Welborn)
Cadence Brooks (Healing, student of Cindy Witt)
Kim Fears (Healing, friend of Jim May and Jan Ruth)
Karryl Anderson (Healing, Mexico mission supporter)
Gerry Smith (Healing for knees, cousin of Jan Ruth)
Tim Swymer (Healing, Lauren Cagle's uncle)
Kristie Whitt (Healing, daughter of Alice Whitt)
Charlotte Pickett (visitor to the church)

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

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Karan Baker	Cindy Witt	DeAnna McNeil
Gary Boyd	Stephen Ware	Chris Shindorf
Stanley Hand	Tom Clem	David Lyle

Trustee

John Noel Price Boyd David Whitten

PNC

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

Staff

Office Administrator:

Margaret Lotz
fpcathens@fpcathens.org

Treasurer:

Julie McNeese
fpcptreasurer112@gmail.com

Choir Director:

Erica Hand

Nursery:

Alice Whitt

Follow us Online

Visit 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.

Flowers

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



Worship Leaders

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Susan Parker

Liturgist

Elder Jerry Witt

Musicians:

Erica Hand
Emily Clem
Dr. Mary Crowell

Church Nursery:

November 9th-Ruth Whitten
November 16th - Suzanne Paysinger

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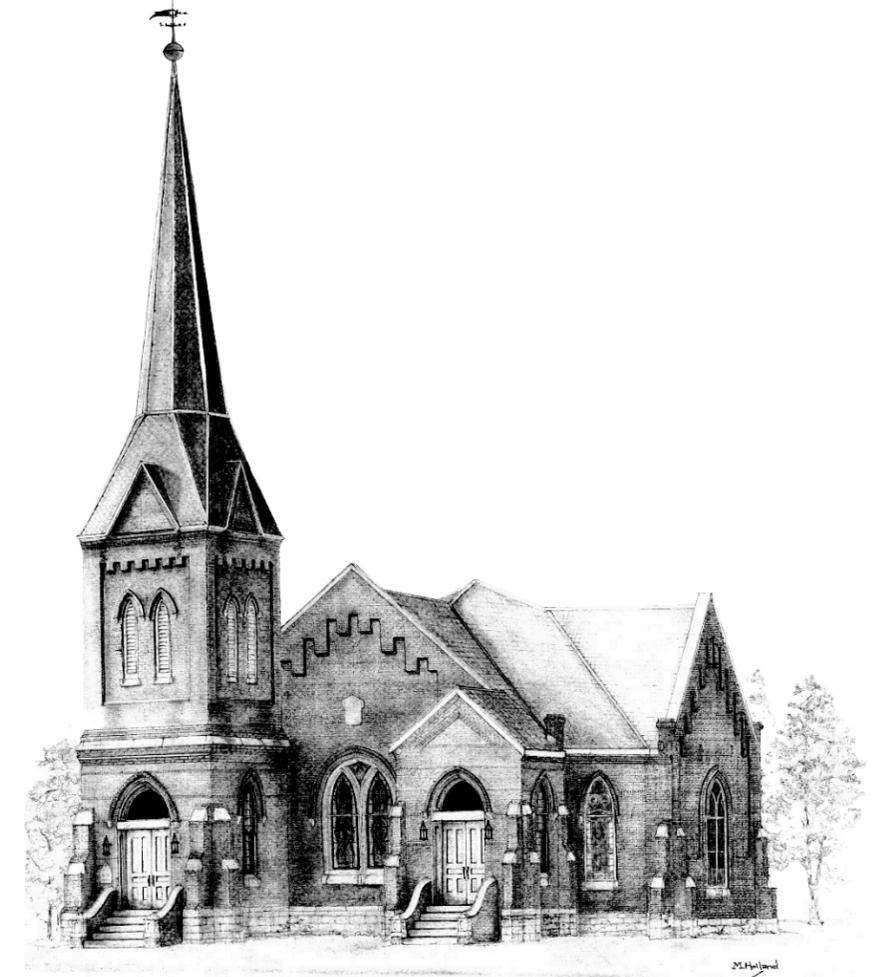
Communion Prep:

November 23rd- David Lyle
December 24th-David Lyle/ Cindy Witt

Prayer Family

**Charlotte Lyle
803 Peachtree Street
Athens, AL 35611**

November 2, 2025
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Sunday



First Presbyterian Church
112 South Jefferson Street
Athens, Alabama 35611
(256) 232-0122
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.