

Welcome

We are glad you are here to worship with us at our Good Friday Service! Good Friday commemorates Jesus's arrest in Gethsemane, his trial, crucifixion, and ultimately, his death. This day is devoted to remembering the agony Jesus endured because of his love for us. We will remember during a meaningful service that features the Passion reading, a sermon, and special music.

Please make plans to join us for Easter Sunday, March 27. We will offer four services. The youth will lead a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at Evergreen Memorial Park. We will also offer three services in our sanctuary at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.

Attendance

Please let us know of your attendance today by completing the pew pad.

Newcomer Orientation

We invite you to learn about the life of our church, ways you can get involved, and how to become a member by attending Newcomer Orientation, which is held every second Sunday of the month at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday school for children age 2 through adult each Sunday from 9:45–10:45 a.m.

Children

At Athens First United Methodist Church, we invite families to worship together. Children's Church is held for children in kindergarten through grade 2 most Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. service.

Ministers and Ministry Directors

Chuck Hodges Senior Minister chuck@athensfirstumc.org | 706-206-5529

Martha Aenchbacher Minister of Congregational Care martha@athensfirstumc.org | 678-230-9708

Beth Dickinson Minister of Discipleship beth@athensfirstumc.org

Betsy Butler Minister of Missions betsy@athensfirstumc.org

Josh Miles Director of Student Ministries josh@athensfirstumc.org

Robin Stewart Director of Children's Ministry robin@athensfirstumc.org

Sarah Lawing Director of Children's Music Ministry sarah@athensfirstumc.org

Stephen Mitchell Director of Music stephen@athensfirstumc.org

Janis Maxwell Director of Youth Music & Organist *janis@athensfirstumc.org*

Rusty Wood Director of Recreation Ministries rusty@athensfirstumc.org

Linsey Jarrett Director of Weekday Preschool *linsey@athensfirstumc.org*

Julie Caldwell 8:30 a.m. Worship Leader *julie@athensfirstumc.org*

Contact Us

Our church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Find us on Facebook at Athens First United Methodist Church.

athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

The Worship of God

Please Note
The service begins
in the Simpson
Memorial Garden on
Hancock Avenue.

THE WELCOME

Martha Aenchbacher

THE SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 22:37-46

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" '? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

THE PRAYER

Almighty God, look graciously we pray, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners. Grant that, through faith in him who suffered death on the cross for our salvation, we may know the power of his resurrection. May we and all who remember this day find new life in you, now and in the world to come, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PROCESSION TO THE SANCTUARY

"Stay with Me"

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Please follow the cross and clergy in procession.

*THE HYMN

288 "Were You There" | WERE YOU THERE

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus calls all who are heavily burdened to come to the cross and lay before him all our cares and sorrows. At the cross of Jesus we will find mercy and love.

Merciful God, we confess to you and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have neglected your works of justice and mercy; we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves; we have not loved one another as Christ has loved us; we have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. Lord have mercy, when we stand in the shadow of the cross. Christ have mercy, when we kneel with repentant hearts. Lord have mercy, and shine your resurrection light on us. As we walk through this day may we remember—beyond sin there is love inexhaustible, beyond death there is life unimaginable, beyond brokenness there is forgiveness incomprehensible, beyond betrayal there is grace poured out eternally. May we remember and give thanks for the wonder of your love. Take us by the hand and lead us to the cross of Jesus; guide us on the path to peace and life, for the sake of your Son, who bore our sins in his body. Amen.

All pray in silence.

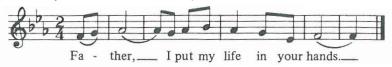
*THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness; by Jesus' wounds we are healed and forgiven.

By Jesus' wounds we are healed and forgiven.

THE PSALTER

"I Put My Life in Your Hands" | Psalm 31



In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue me, oh my faithful Lord, in your hands I commend my spirit.

Refrain

For all my foes reproach me; all my friends are now put to flight. I am forgotten like the unremembered dead, like a dish that now is broken.

Refrain

I place my trust in you, Lord; in your hands is my destiny. Let your face shine upon your servant, Lord, in your hands I will place my life.

Refrain

THE PASSION STORY

Beth Dickinson and Betsy Butler
John 18:1-19:30 | p. 105 NEW TESTAMENT

Anthem Lyrics
The text for this anthem is found on page 286 of the hymnal.

THE ANTHEM

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded" | arr. Robert Leaf

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Rachael Fischer, solo violin; Lucas Scalamogna and Serena Scibelli, violin; Larissa Powers, viola: Ana Abrantes, cello

THE MESSAGE

Chuck Hodges

THE MUSICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE PASSION

Janis Maxwell, organ; Esther Tonea & Isaiah Feken, soloists; Sarah Lawing, clarinet; Ana Abrantes, cello

In the introduction to this musical setting, the clarinet and organ set the scene for the events that will unfold. The melody of "Go to Dark Gethsemane" can be heard in the organ. The clarinet line weaves in several iterations of the well-known "sigh motive" from the Baroque period—a descending interval, usually a half-step, used to represent weeping. We experience Christ in turmoil and his ultimate yielding to God's will as he prays on the Mount of Olives saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r; Your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour; Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

We transition from the garden to the subsequent trial and sentencing. A solo cello is heard playing the hymn "When Jesus Wept" recalling Jesus' grief at hearing of the death of Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha (John 11:35). In turn, the clarinet begins a cannon of the melody, echoing the grief Jesus's followers felt at the punishment and sacrifice of their Lord.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned; Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross. The climb to Golgotha begins, the weight of the cross becoming heavier. Jesus's footsteps are heard in the repetitive bassline of the organ. The organ, clarinet, and cello play a setting of "Ah, Holy Jesus" conveying the circumstantial guilt that casts a shadow on His sacrifice and our salvation as said so eloquently in the third verse of the hymn: "Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee." The following section of music played by the organ brings back the sigh motive and crescendos to a dramatic depiction of the crucifixion.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet, Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

"When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit" (John 19:30). The organ plays John Tavener's "Song for Athene," an anthem used on the occasion of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, at Westminster Abbey. The text, not sung today, is taken from Shakespeare's Hamlet and the Orthodox funeral service. "Alleluia. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest. Alleluia. Remember me, O Lord, when you come into your kingdom. Alleluia. Give rest, O Lord, to your servant who has fallen asleep. Alleluia. The Choir of Saints have found the well-spring of life and door of paradise. Alleluia. Life: a shadow and a dream. Alleluia. Weeping at the grave creates the song: Alleluia. Alleluia. Come, enjoy rewards and crowns I have prepared for you." As we weep at the grave of our crucified Lord, may we always look toward the refrain we will hear on the third day.

At the conclusion, the clarinet and organ return as in the beginning with the hymn tune and sigh motive. The cello plays the last line of "Silent Night" in the minor mode as a reminder that the infant Jesus we sing of each Christmas is the same man who God, in his amazing love, gave to die in our place. "Sleep in heav'nly peace," Lord Jesus. A handbell tolls his death.

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

All depart in silence.

Easter Sunday



"He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

LUKE 24:5-7

Easter Sunday

We will offer four Easter services. The youth will lead a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at Evergreen Memorial Park. We will also offer three services in our sanctuary at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m. Please make plans to join us on Easter morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27
*6:30, 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 A.M.
*EVERGREEN MEMORIAL PARK



327 N Lumpkin St. Athens, GA 30601 706-543-1442 \mid athensfirstumc.org