



First Presbyterian Church of Athens

In response to God's grace, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to create a community where people seek the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejoice in worship, and go forth sharing the love of Christ with Athens and the world!

November 8, 2020
10:00 a.m. Livestream
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space this morning, please silence your cell phone. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin or large-print hymnal.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

Prelude on SLANE

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

OLD HUNDREDTH

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.**

Call to Worship

Heirs of the covenant, come; let us present ourselves before the Lord.

We gather to worship the Holy One, to incline our hearts to the one true God.

Family of faith, come; choose this day: Whom will you serve?

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

*Hymn 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Living Lord, in you we live and move and have our being. You call us to give all that we are and all that we have in service to Christ. But we hold tightly to our treasure, afraid we will not have enough for ourselves, and hold back our talents, afraid these gifts will not be enough. God, unclench our first and help us to give fully and freely so that, in all things, we might serve and glorify you.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Hymn 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, Amen.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

A special word of

welcome: thank you for being with us online for worship this morning. We are delighted and hope that you will join us again next Sunday.

In the course of many revisions, the original communion hymn, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with Christological summation. It is set to the tune that is customary in North American, though not elsewhere.-

The solo is a setting of a familiar hymn text, set to music by contemporary American composer Fredrick Chatfield. Chatfield is retired, after serving as Director of Music and Organist of Christ United Methodist Church in Kettering, OH. He also served UCC and Presbyterian churches.

By ending with questions rather than simple affirmations, *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* conveys a strong sense of faith in God's presence and guidance without ignoring how much of the future remains unknown. The confidence of the text is well matched by its sturdy 17th-century French tune.

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles' Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.

You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your pledge through your bank, or donate online at firstpresathens.org/home/giving. Thank you for your generosity.

*The Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Introduction of New Members

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Luke 18:13

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Solo *Consecration* Frederick Chatfield

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at the feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Second Lesson Jonah 1:1-17, 3:1-10, 4:1-11

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *A Fish Tale* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 261 *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* O QUANTA QUALIA

*Affirmation of Faith *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 and 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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* Flor Peeters

***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 592

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 339**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

RANDOLPH

***Postlude**

Presto from Concerto V

George Frideric Handel

In a time when the present seems most important, it is helpful to sing hymns which remind us that throughout the ages the church has produced ideas which are still valid today. Written around the 8th century, *Be Thou My Vision* has been popular since 1927 when it was paired with the memorable Irish tune, SLANE.

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
John Tsao, *Soloist*

USHERS

Beverly Phares, John Simpson

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Veterans Day by Randy Dudley.

The flowers on November 1 were given by Patti Reed and dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, Jean Wood Crow, for what would have been her 100th birthday on November 2.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, or by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org).

Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday is November 15

Can you provide a bag of food that can be used by an Athens family of four to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner? Given the economic impact resulting from COVID-19, this year's collection will be even more important than ever. Please put the food you purchase in paper bags (no plastic, please) and drop them off at the church during normal business hours by 2 p.m. **Friday, November 13**. Alternatively, you can send a check for \$40 to the church or donate at firstpresathens.org/home/giving/ (please select General Fund and add "Thanksgiving bags" in the memo box).

If you would like to continue your tradition of filling a bag of groceries but aren't able to take the bag to the church yourself, you can call the church, or contact Rob Haire (hairer@gmail.com) to request a volunteer to pick it up from your house and take it to the church. If you would like to volunteer to help move the bags to the sanctuary, assemble bags, and move them from the sanctuary to the Emergency food bank, please click on the signup genius link on our website.

2020 Shopping List

- Canned Ham
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned fruit
- Peas
- Stuffing/Dressing Mix
- Cornbread mix
- Gravy/cans or jars
- Cookies
- Fresh sweet potatoes
- Brown and serve rolls
- French fried onions (that go on top of bean casserole)
- Chicken broth
- White or brown sugar (small bag)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Devotionals for Advent and Christmas



Our emailed Lenten devotionals written by members of the congregation were so meaningful that we are again inviting writers from our church for the upcoming Advent/Christmas devotionals. The theme will be favorite seasonal hymns and carols. Dr. John Coble will provide the musical links. Jennifer Poole will be the editor.

For more information, please click on the button on our website (firstpresathens.org). If you are interested in writing a devotional, please contact Jennifer Poole at jsnp5462@gmail.com. The deadline to send your devotional is **November 16**.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

November 22, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom

All are invited to join our Athens friends and neighbors via Zoom (*ID: 943 5058 3240, Passcode: Unity*) for this worship experience for all faith groups (Christians, Jews, Muslims, et al.). The sponsor, Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens, includes representatives of more than 50 congregations in the Athens area. In a time when there is so much division, let's unite in thanksgiving.

Casa de Amistad Christmas Boxes

For the past several years, First Presbyterian members have partnered with Casa de Amistad to ensure our Hispanic neighbors had the ingredients to prepare tasty holiday meals for their families. Many of you have joined us at Catedral De Fe as we sorted masa, mole and dried chilis into more than 100 boxes that were shared with those in need throughout our community.

As with so many traditions this year, the risk of COVID-19 exposure requires that we modify this gift-giving experience. Rather than buying food in bulk and sorting it into boxes for distribution, we will be providing families a Christmas card with a \$40 gift certificate, allowing them to select what they need.

Our goal is to raise at least \$4,000 by December 13. Any additional funds will be donated to Casa de Amistad for their ongoing efforts to support Latino families. To contribute by check, please identify your gift as being for "Casa Food Boxes." noted on the bottom, or go to firstpresathens.org/home/giving/ (please select "Hispanic Ministry (CASA)" under "Select a Fund"). Please send no later than **December 13**.

So many are in need this year. Thank you for your continued generosity!

...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40

Holiday Meals on Wheels Delivery

In these strange times many things have changed, but one thing is the same--Seniors need meals and especially during holidays need to know someone cares about them. Will you be that someone? For many years First Presbyterian members and friends have delivered meals on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. It makes such a difference to our neighbors--and to those who deliver! It is a great intergenerational activity. Bring your children or grandchildren. The only requirement is that **all wear masks**.

Like many other things, this year will be a bit different. The protocols have changed to keep the volunteers and recipients safe. Please help if you can. To sign up contact contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com or call the church office 706-543-4338.

If you would like to make a donation (FPC pays for the meals, with the cost generally around \$1,000), please send a check to the office with "Meals on Wheels Holiday Donation" noted on the bottom, or go to firstpresathens.org/home/giving/ (please select "Meals on Wheels" under "Select a Fund").

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIMITED IN-PERSON WORSHIP

If you would like to join us for a limited in-person worship, please click on the Eventbrite link on the website tomorrow, November 9 at 9:00 a.m. Alternatively, you can contact the church office at (706) 543-4338 and we will add you to the list.

Please make sure to read the additional instructions that are posted on the website. If you are over 65 or have underlying health conditions, we encourage you to stay home and join us via Facebook or YouTube.

“SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS”

Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Join Dr. Ryan Baer for “Sunday Conversations” as we reflect on the morning worship service and take a deeper dive into the Bible texts read and proclaimed from the pulpit.

Zoom ID: 706-543-4338 (PW: 185185)

Led by Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org)

PRAYER EXERCISES

Wednesdays at noon

Join Carol Strickland on Wednesdays at noon via Zoom for “Prayer Exercises.” In these weekly sessions we’ll be introduced to a variety of ways to pray. The sessions last 20-30 minutes.

Zoom ID: 706-543-4338 (PW: 185185)

Led by Dr. Carol Strickland (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org)

THORNWELL SPECIAL OFFERING

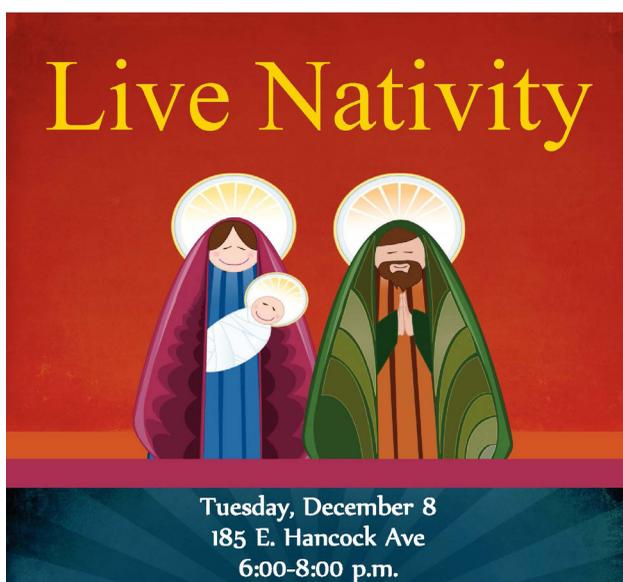
Your gift will help prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ. Begun as an orphanage in Clinton, SC, Thornwell now has multi-faceted programs to help children including foster care, residential care, family services, and child development services. Please send a check to the office with “Thornwell” noted on the bottom, or go to firstpresathens.org/home/giving/ (please select “Thornwell” under “Select a Fund”).

ACCA THANK YOU NOTE

Please join me in thanking Epting Events, who will now be making our bulk deliveries on behalf of our church to Columbia Brookside.

I can’t say thank you enough for all the help the church has given us with this over the past five months. It has been a huge help to our staff, and a huge blessing to the residents of CB. It makes me proud of how my church is being the church during the pandemic!

Leslie Trier, *Director of Programs and Services*
Athens Community Council on Aging



FP Weekday School is busy preparing for our 9th Annual Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 8!** This year it will be a **drive by** on the front church steps to promote social distancing at this time. Come enjoy the babe, the camel, donkey, other animals, and of course Mary and Joseph, wisemen and shepherds. Teachers will be distance delivering to cars home kits for our ornaments normally made in the classrooms, and Christmas music will be enjoyed by all. So prepare to roll your windows down, and drive through while worshipping Christ, our new born king. Anyone interested in participating as a character (no lines) or in set up or cleanup, please contact Elaine Johnson at (706) 206-8180. As always, much help is needed!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 8 - Limited in-person worship begins

(please check firstpresathens.org for more information)

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School *(please check firstpresathens.org for more information)*
- 9:00 a.m. Godly Play on YouTube *(please e-mail Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org for link)*
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer *(Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185)*
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group *(Zoom ID: 843-3066-1223)*
- 8:00 p.m. High School Youth Group *(Zoom ID: 725-346-682)*

Tuesday, November 10

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, November 11

- 12:00 p.m. "Prayer Exercises" led by Dr. Carol Strickland *(Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185)*
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare: "As You Like It" via Zoom *(e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class)*

Thursday, November 12

- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting via Zoom

Friday, November 13 - Thanksgiving Food Bags drop-off deadline (Church office by 2:00 p.m.)

Sunday, November 15 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School *(please check firstpresathens.org for more information)*
- 9:00 a.m. Godly Play on YouTube *(please e-mail Natalie Bishop at natalie@firstpresathens.org for link)*
- 10:00 a.m. Service Livestream on Facebook and YouTube, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:30 a.m. "Sunday Conversations" with Dr. Ryan Baer *(Zoom ID: 706-543-4338, PW:185185)*
- 6:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Family Game Night: CHOPPED edition *(Zoom ID: 725-346-682)*

LOOKING AHEAD

November 16 - Deadline to submit Advent and Christmas devotional

November 22 - Commitment Sunday, Thornwell Offering, Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

November 29 - Children's Ministry Advent Goodie Bag and Youth Advent Box Pickup (3-6 p.m.)



FPC Athens: Fall 2020

September 13 – November 22

One with God; One with each other

... that they may all be one. - John 17:21

Fall@First 2020

For more information about FPC Fall Programs, please go to firstpresathens.org and look for the Fall@First brochure in the home page.

Meet our Newest Members - Fall 2020

Susan and Brian Banister

Susan joins by transfer of letter from Commerce Presbyterian Church, Commerce, GA & her husband Brian joins by reaffirmation of faith. Susan is an Interior Designer and Brian is a commercial real estate appraiser. They have two adult children. Susan enjoys playing tennis, walking on the beach, and reading, while Brian loves fishing and hunting.



Charlée Haynes

joins by transfer of letter from Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa, FL. Charlee is an educator and is currently enrolled in the Masters in Education program at Piedmont College. She and her husband Matt have a son, Wyatt, who was recently confirmed here at FPC. Charlee enjoys spending time with her family, walking, and camping.

April and John Rooker

join by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA. April is a stay-at-home mom and John is CEO of Rooker Company an industrial real estate firm. April and John have three children, Will (10), Lola (8), and Tatum (5). April enjoys cooking, reading, yoga, and being outdoors, while John enjoys golf, fishing, hunting, and UGA football.



Anneliese and Neil Woodall

Anneliese joins by confession of faith and her husband Neil Woodall joins by reaffirmation of faith. Anneliese is a stay-at-home mom and Neil is a neurosurgeon. They have two sons, Art (5) and Miles (3). Anneliese enjoys exercising and spending time with family, and Neil enjoys playing golf and running.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2020

Jeff Bangle
Meghan Bawcum
Bob Burton
Julie Hayes
Sydney Jackson
Avery McLean
Jeanne Nadenicek
Carl Nichols
Tom Reigle
Judy Scanlon

CLASS OF 2021

Jennifer Walden Abbott
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Elizabeth Earl
Ed Ferguson
Rob Haire
Grace Lu
Chris Pope
Mixon Robinson
Rosemary Stancil

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Kitty Donnan
Larry Jones
Andy Jordan
Jimbo LaBoon
Tom Landrum
Beverly Phares
Courtney Pittman
Smith Wilson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor* (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* (kness@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* (natalie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Roger Burbage, *Church Administrator* (rburbage@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & Membership* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *Accountant* (angie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotteposs@gmail.com)
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*

For the Beauty of the Earth

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DIX · 7.7.7.7.7

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,
2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,
4. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys-tic har-mo-ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,

Refrain

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

5. For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore

Her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us 261

O QUANTA QUALIA 11.11.11.11

Paris Antiphoner, 1681

John J. Moment, 1933

As in La Feillée's *Méthode du plain-chant*, 1808

1. God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us;
2. Wan - dering and lost, Thou hast sought us and found us,
3. How shall we stray, with Thy hand to di - rect us,

Giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy word of con - sol - ing;
Thou who the stars in their cours - es art guid - ing?

Wis - dom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Wrap now Thy peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
What shall we fear; with Thy power to pro - tect us,

Pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
Guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
We who walk forth in Thy great - ness con - fid - ing?

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Ancient Irish poem
 Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
 Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

Irish ballad
 Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;

Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

LIFE IN CHRIST

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system is a single staff with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. It contains the vocal melody. The second system is a grand staff with a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, both with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. It contains the piano accompaniment. The third system is a grand staff with a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, both with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. It contains the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff.