



# 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!*

July 18, 2021  
10:00 a.m. Service  
Eighth 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 Abbot's Leigh*

David Lasky

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

### Song of Gathering

DUKE STREET

**Let every voice on earth resound,  
and joyful hearts hold God adored;  
in gladness may God's courts abound  
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

### Call to Worship

Come as you are to worship the Lord.

**Let us bring our songs, our prayers, and our worries.**

For the Lord is our shepherd, and we shall not want.

**The Lord is our redeemer, and we shall be free.**

### \*Hymn 487

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

**We love you, O Lord, with our prayers and our songs. Forgive us when we do not love you with our actions. You have called us to tend your sheep: to care for your people around the world, to share what we have, and to reflect your love. Forgive us, O Lord, when our love for you is shallow, when our love for our neighbors is empty, and when our love for ourselves is hard to find. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short, and by your forgiveness, free us to try again.**

### \*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

### \*Assurance of Pardon

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

### A special word of

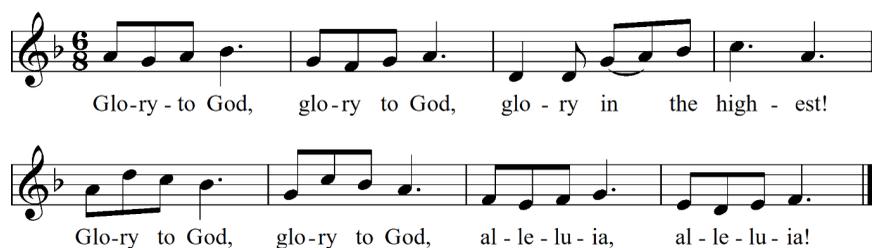
**welcome:** thank you for being with us for worship this morning. We are delighted and hope that you will join us again next Sunday.

In accordance with the latest CDC guidance, for your own health and safety and for the health and safety of our community, for now we request that those who have not yet been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and refrain from communal singing while in the building.

*When Morning Gilds the Skies* is not just a morning hymn, though the stanzas in our hymnal (translated from a German 19th-century text) may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed for this English text.

## \*Congregational Response

Jacques Berthier



Glo-ry - to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## \*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.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### Prayer for Illumination

#### First Lesson

Psalm 30

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

#### Anthem

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Alice Parker

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.  
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father, I thy true son;  
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.  
Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.  
High King of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

#### Second Lesson

Acts 9:1-22

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

#### Sermon

*Paul and the Damascus Road*

Dr. Ryan Baer

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

### \*Hymn 181

*Come Sing to God*

ELLACOMBE

### \*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.**

The anthem is a well-known Irish hymn arranged by American composer, arranger, conductor, and teacher Alice Parker.

In effect, the first stanza of *Come Sing to God*, a paraphrase of Psalm 30, states the general truth that has been learned from the personal experience described in the last three stanzas. It is set to an 18th-century German 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.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON MATTHEW 25

This summer, we invite the congregation to learn more about Matthew 25 through weekly reading and reflection via Zoom (ID 706-543-4338). On Sunday nights, we'll host a community conversation using the study materials in the Summer@First program guide mailed earlier this spring (and available for download on our Web site). The Summer Study will be the foundation for more opportunities to learn and grow together beginning in the fall when we are back together again in person.

### NAME BADGES

As more and more members and friends return to in person worship, we are excited to get reacquainted with one another. You can help by wearing a name tag each Sunday. Supplies will be in the Narthex and Atrium.

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### Good Shepherd Summer Club

This month's Mini Mission Project is called Backpack Blessings! We are going to extend this mini mission project and continue collecting school supplies to be donated to Clarke County families in need through the month of July.

Please bring your donations to the church office (Monday-Friday) or the Atrium (Sunday mornings). You may also make a monetary donation to the church and we will purchase the cards for you. Please mail your check to the church office, or go to our website [firstpresathens.org/home/giving](http://firstpresathens.org/home/giving) (please select "General Fund" under "Select a Fund," and in the optional memo write "Backpack Blessings"). If you have any questions, please e-mail Natalie Bishop at [natalie@firstpresathens.org](mailto:natalie@firstpresathens.org).

Needed school supplies:

- ballpoint pens
- #2 pencils
- highlighters
- crayons
- colored pencils
- markers
- glue sticks
- college ruled notebook paper
- two pocket folders
- composition notebooks
- spiral notebooks
- three ring binders

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## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, July 18

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org) for more information*)
- 9:30 a.m. Nursery open for infants to age 3
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship, Atrium
- 7:00 p.m. Community Conversations on Matthew 25 via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

### Tuesday, July 20

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

### Wednesday, July 21

- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare Group: "Two Noble Kinsmen" via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at [rbogue@uga.edu](mailto:rbogue@uga.edu) to join class*)

### Sunday, July 25

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (*please check [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org) for more information*)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 7:00 p.m. Community Conversations on Matthew 25 via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 706-543-4338*)

# When Morning Gilds the Skies

487

LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6 D

German hymn, c. 1800

Trans. Edward Caswall, 1853, 1858; alt.

Joseph Barnby, 1868

1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart a - wak - ing cries:  
2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find:  
3. Let earth's wide cir - cle round In joy - ful notes re - sound:  
4. Be this, while life is mine, My can - ti - cle di - vine:

May Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer  
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?  
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky  
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song

To Je - sus I re - pair: May Je - sus Christ be praised!  
My com - fort still is this: May Je - sus Christ be praised!  
From depth to height re - ply: May Je - sus Christ be praised!  
Through all the a - ges long: May Je - sus Christ be praised!

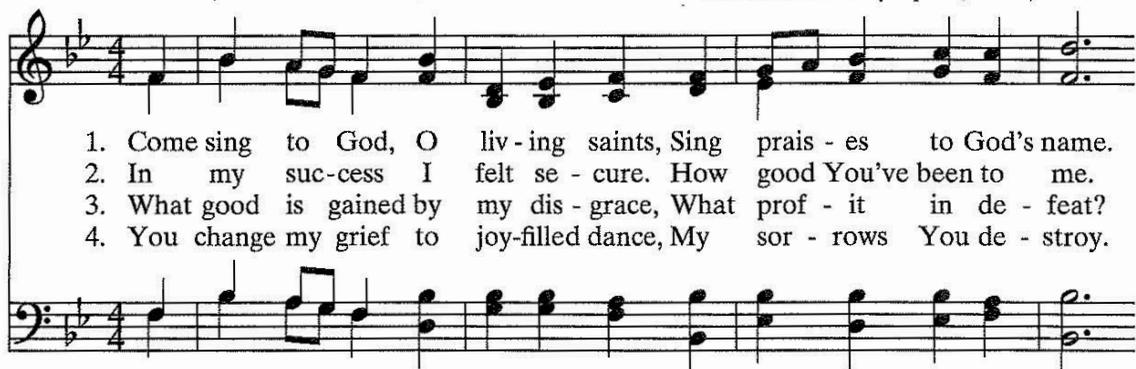
# Come Sing to God

181

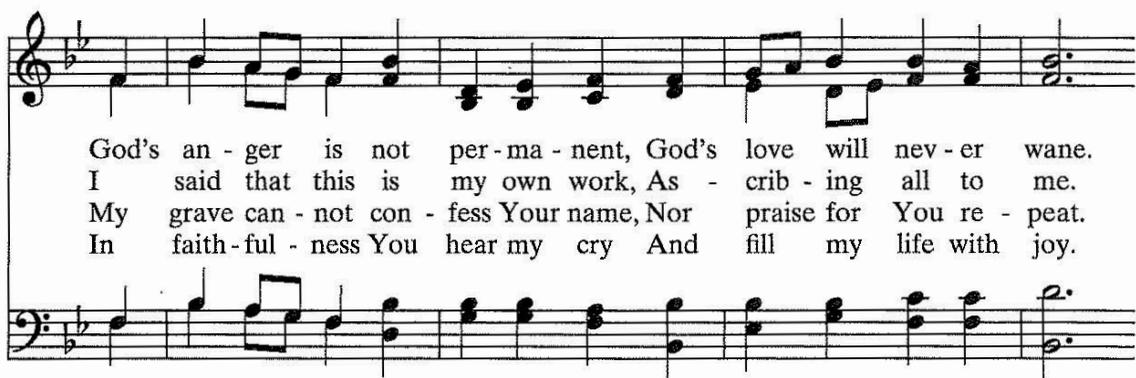
ELLACOMBE CMD

*Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Württembergischen  
Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784; alt. 1868*

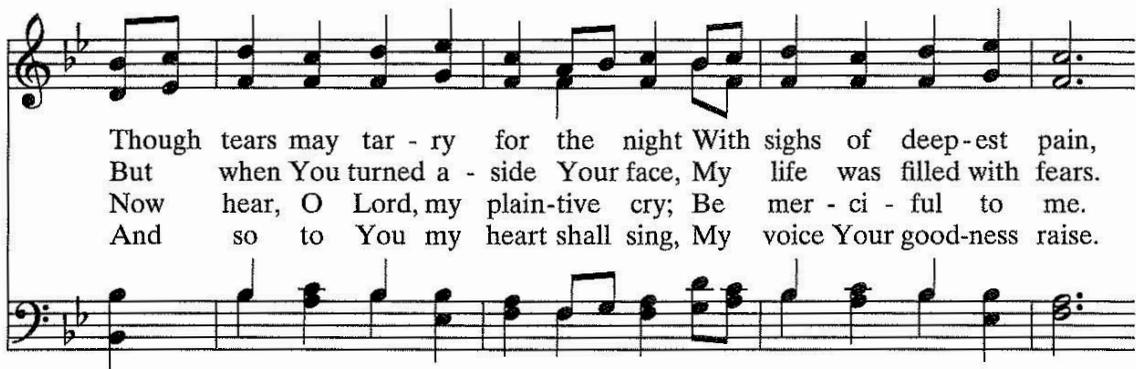
Fred R. Anderson, 1986



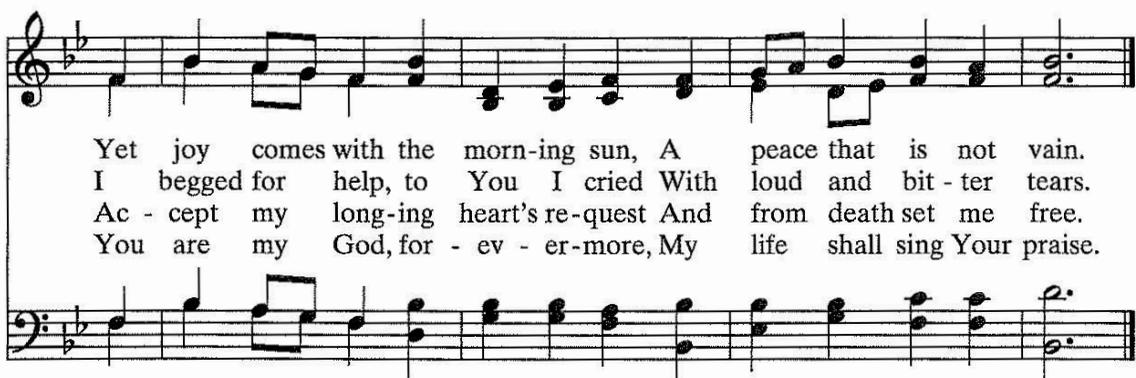
1. Come sing to God, O liv - ing saints, Sing prais - es to God's name.  
2. In my suc - cess I felt se - cure. How good You've been to me.  
3. What good is gained by my dis - grace, What prof - it in de - feat?  
4. You change my grief to joy-filled dance, My sor - rows You de - stroy.



God's an - ger is not per - ma - nent, God's love will nev - er wane.  
I said that this is my own work, As - crib - ing all to me.  
My grave can - not con - fess Your name, Nor praise for You re - peat.  
In faith - ful - ness You hear my cry And fill my life with joy.



Though tears may tar - ry for the night With sighs of deep - est pain,  
But when You turned a - side Your face, My life was filled with fears.  
Now hear, O Lord, my plain - tive cry; Be mer - ci - ful to me.  
And so to You my heart shall sing, My voice Your good - ness raise.



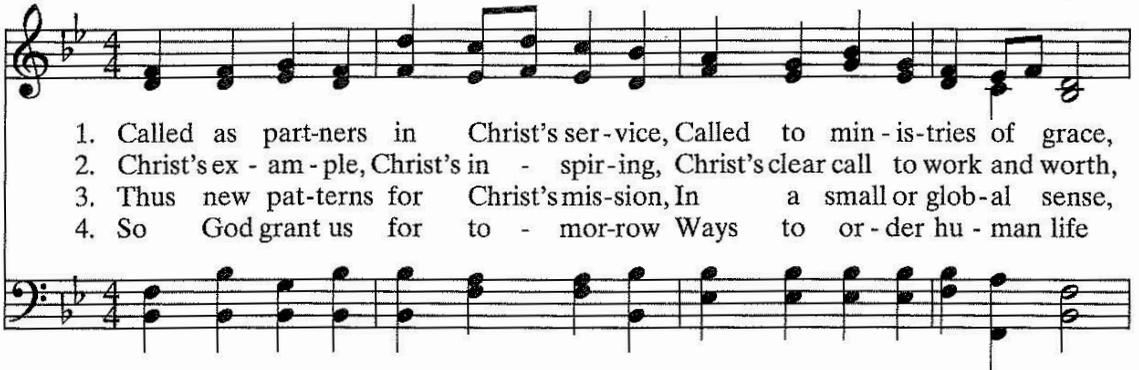
Yet joy comes with the morn - ing sun, A peace that is not vain.  
I begged for help, to You I cried With loud and bit - ter tears.  
Ac - cept my long - ing heart's re - quest And from death set me free.  
You are my God, for - ev - er - more, My life shall sing Your praise.

# Called as Partners in Christ's Service 343

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Jane Parker Huber, 1981

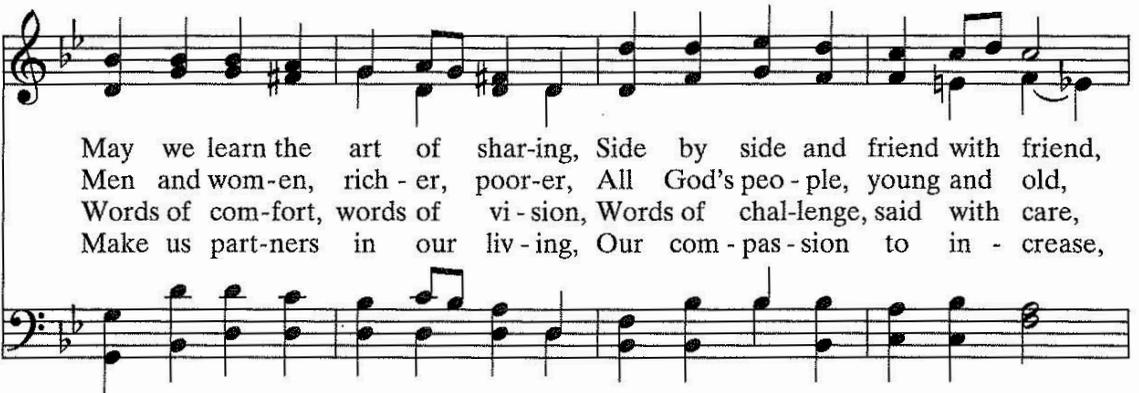
John Zundel, 1870



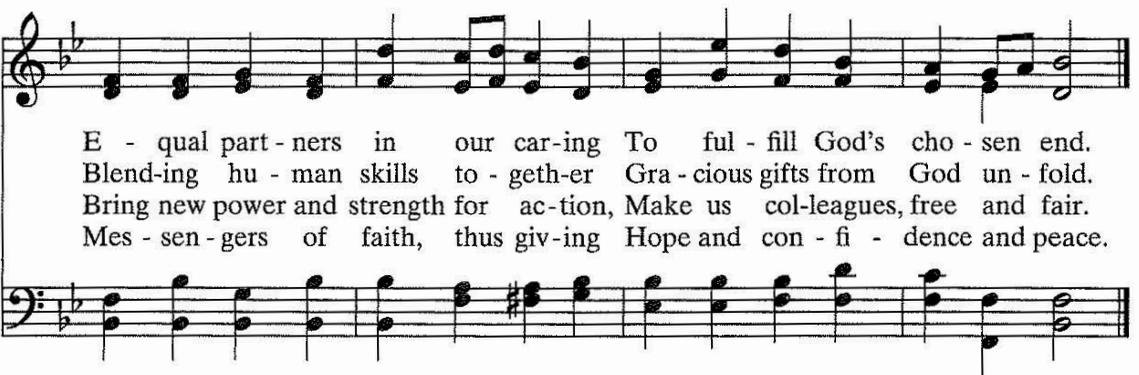
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, Called to min-is-tries of grace,  
 2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, In a small or glob-al sense,  
 4. So God grant us for to-mor-row Ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, Rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, Break-ing down each wall or fence.  
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row With a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, Side by side and friend with friend,  
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, All God's peo-ple, young and old,  
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, Words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, Our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E - qual part-ners in our car-ing To ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether Gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, Make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing Hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

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

### 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  
Smith Wilson

### CLASS OF 2023

Sarah Bryan  
Judy Burch  
Kent Burel  
Rod Canfield  
Melinda DeMaria  
Jim Dove  
Mark Hopkins  
Matt Jones  
Robyn McDonald  
Keith Oelke

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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