

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!

October 17, 2021
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. **Please observe the local indoor mask ordinance.** As we enter a holy space this morning, please silence your cell phone. Consult an usher if you need a mask, 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

Alla siciliana and *Presto* George Fredric Handel

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

UNSER HERRSCHER

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.**

Call to Worship

We gather to worship God,
who stretched the heavens like a tent and set the earth on its foundations.
We gather to worship God,
who rides the winds like a chariot and wears light as a garment.
We gather to worship God,
who suffered for the sake of our lives and offers us life abundant.

*Hymn 487

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O Lord, you have taught us that whoever wishes to become great must be a servant, and whoever seeks to be first must be last and servant of all. Still, O Lord, we are like James and John, seeking seats of glory. We organize our lives around ladders to climb, not realizing that we are stepping on people whom you love. Forgive us, O Christ, and teach us to follow in your way, for the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

Please take a moment during the prelude to scan this QR code with your phone camera, fill out the Ways to Serve form and order your name badge. Consult an usher if you need a paper copy.



Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram ([firstpresathensga](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresathensga)).

When Morning Gilds the Skies is an English translation of part of a 19th-century German hymn. It is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt doesn't convey how the original hymn deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed for this English text.

***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.**

***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

John 19:25b – 27

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

11:00 Anthem

Come, Holy Spirit, Into Our Hearts

G. F. Handel

arr. Mark Schweizer

Come, Holy Spirit, into our hearts; with wind and flame,
Holy you came, that all the nations might praise your name.
Come, Holy Spirit, into our hearts; and with thy seven-fold gifts impart.
Come, Spirit bright, come with thy light,
come in thy power and thy people unite.
Forth from the Father, merciful thou art. Come, Holy Spirit, truth divine;
come, fill our lives and make them thine;
come with thy blessings, come within our hearts to shine.

Second Lesson

Ruth 1:1-17

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

Sermon

The Gospel Between the Lines

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 454**

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LIEBSTER JESU

***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.**

The anthem is a text paraphrased by American composer Mark Schweizer set to music by G.F. Handel from his oratorio *Judas Macabeus*.

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word, originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, assumes a congregation that assembles regularly. The simple, repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

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.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* Johann Sebastian Bach

*Doxology

Hymn 592

**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

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 275** *God of Our Life* SANDON

*Charge and Benediction

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

Postlude *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* Malcolm Archer

You may mail your check,
set up an automatic payment
of your pledge through your
bank, or donate online
using this QR code or at
[firstpresathens.org/
home/giving](http://firstpresathens.org/home/giving). Thank you
for your generosity.



Texts and music for hymns and
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A special word of welcome to our guests: thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Please fill out the Fellowship Pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door. Our fully vaccinated nursery staff is excited to welcome our youngest members.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Ms. Meghan Bawcum, *Violinist*

Lay Reader

8:45 a.m. Jody Corry
11:00 a.m. Carol McKay

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove, John Simpson
11:00 a.m. Rod Canfield, Kitty Donnan,
Larry Jones

GREETER

11:00 a.m. Melinda DeMaria

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGERS

Rebecca Carlton, Stephen Kreyenbuhl

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is on Facebook and YouTube.

Available in the Narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Picnic Today

Join us for our church picnic and pumpkin carving 3-6 p.m. today at Sandy Creek Park! Bring your own pumpkin and imagination; carving tools will be provided. If you did not reserve a box dinner, please bring your own picnic. Remember to tell the gatekeeper you are with FPC or over 65 or under 2 years old to waive the entrance fee. Meet us at Pavilion #1 for an afternoon of fun and fellowship, rain or shine. If you post any pictures on Facebook or Instagram, please tag FPC.

Permanent Name Badge Deadline

We are ready to place the order for permanent name badges for members of the church, grade six and older. If you have not yet signed up, please do so **by tomorrow**, October 18. You may sign up using your phone's camera to scan the QR code or by calling the church office (706-543-4338). Your first hard-plastic badge with a magnetic fastener is free, so please plan to keep up with it! Permanent name badges will be a wonderful tool to help us be better acquainted with one another and build community. God says, "I have called you by name" (Isaiah 43:1). Let's do the same!



Advent Devotionals

Advent, the season of anticipating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is approaching. We would like to produce an Advent devotional booklet again this year and are seeking church members to write for it. Chuck Toney will serve as coordinator; if you would like to write a devotional, please let him know at chuckgt63@gmail.com by **Friday, October 22**. The theme is Light. Once the list of writers is complete, we will provide additional guidance, prompts and timeline information.

AthHalf Pre-Race Service October 24

Invite your racing friends and supporters to our informal worship at 6:30 a.m. on the front porch.
Due to the race there will be no 8:45 a.m. service on October 24.

AthHalf Volunteers

Jesus surely didn't have in mind half-marathon runners when he said, "whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward" (Matthew 10:42). Nevertheless, we have the opportunity to do just that at the final water station on the race route the morning of Sunday, **October 24**. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Carol Strickland by Wednesday, **October 20** at cstrickland@firstpresathens.org. Masks and gloves will be provided.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 17

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Kids in the Courtyard
- 10:40 a.m. Godly Play
- 3:00 p.m. Fellowship@First: Church Picnic at Sandy Creek Park
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (at picnic)
- 7:00 p.m. High School Fire Pit @ Ness House

Tuesday, October 19

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Wednesday, October 20

- 1:00 p.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. “Shakespeare and Company”: *The Waste Land*, by T. S. Elliot, via Zoom (*e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join class*)

Sunday, October 24

- 6:30 a.m. AthHalf Pre-Race Service, Front Porch, **No 8:45 am. Service**
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Kids in the Courtyard
- 10:40 a.m. Godly Play
- 11:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

LOOKING AHEAD

October 31 - Trick or Treat for UNICEF

November 7 - *Steals on the Ear*: an All Saints’ Organ Recital

Steals on the Ear: an All Saints’ Organ Recital November 7

On Sunday, **November 7**, 4:00 p.m., John Coble will present a recital of organ music for All Saints’. The program will include music by J.S. Bach, Gabriel Fauré, Dan Locklair, Felix Mendelssohn, and Bruce Neswick. The recital is part of the Wayne F. Middendorf Concert Series.

Family Promise Host Weeks Volunteers Needed!

FPC will serve as the Family Promise host church for two weeks during the holiday season (December 19 - January 2), and we are beginning to recruit to fill slots to ensure we are in good shape as we approach this special time of year. We will continue to have the families and hosts in separate areas of the church as a precaution. This includes volunteers being stationed and sleeping in a separate area of the church, using a separate entrance, and other protocols. If you are interested in volunteering, please click on the SignUpGenius link on our website or contact Susan Boatwright (boatwrightsusan@gmail.com) or Jean Bock (jbock@bellsouth.net).

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants – 5th Grade

**For the safety of our children, we will continue Covid precautions of mask wearing, social distancing and utilizing our outdoor spaces as much as possible.*

Kids in the Courtyard, 9:45 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Children will learn and experience new ways of connecting with God outside in our lovely church courtyard. This special time together will be filled with different types of morning prayer, beautiful children's literature and Bible stories, and will conclude with a fun fellowship time and feast as we get ready for Godly Play.

Godly Play, 10:40 a.m.–12 noon

Children are invited to Godly Play during the 11:00 a.m. worship hour this fall. Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children “discover” who God is rather than being “told” who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offers children a safe space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

Nursery, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children will enjoy playtime, story time, and snack time with their church friends in the Nursery Playroom and outside on the playground.

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

Middle School Coordinator: Erin Osborne

The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

Sunday School 9:45 – 10:40 a.m.

This fall, youth will serve as leaders in Children's Ministry for Kids in the Courtyard. They will help with storytelling, feasting, and sharing love with our younger church members.

Youth Group

Taking advantage of the space outside the PIT and the lower parking garage, youth group will meet outside this Fall. Evenings will be filled with opportunities for fellowship and fun as we build our youth community. Using the Narrative Lectionary, we'll explore what it means to be an active, Christian teen in today's changing world.

Middle School Youth Group

5:00–6:00 p.m.

High School Youth Group

6:00–7:30 p.m. (dinner provided)

For more information on youth ministry, visit our website

www.fpcathenspit.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON ONLY

Parents in the PIT • The Pit

This new class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come down to the PIT for a time of fellowship and support.

Coordinator: Kim Ness(kness@firstpresathens.org)

HYBRID (in person and over Zoom)

Dell Dunn Christian Issues • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture – with a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of Acts of the Apostles. Zoom and in-person. Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 875 216 0708, PW: 634175

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jjtscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

Contact: Wanda Wilcox (wwilcox@uga.edu)

ON HOLD (stay tuned...)

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies. **The class will resume on a date to be announced.**

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann (cberg@ccrc.uga.edu), Carla Buss (cbuss@uga.edu), Larry Jones (lfjones@uga.edu)

New Voices • Room 310

Discussion guided by *Women In the Bible*, by Jaime Clark-Soles. **The beginning date for New Voices has been postponed until further notice.**

Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

The “oldest” Sunday School class at First Pres will continue to focus on a Bible Study format. **The class will resume on a date to be announced.**

Led by: Jeris Hayes (jhayefirstpres@gmail.com), Richard Lane (rlane@uga.edu)

When Morning Gilds the Skies

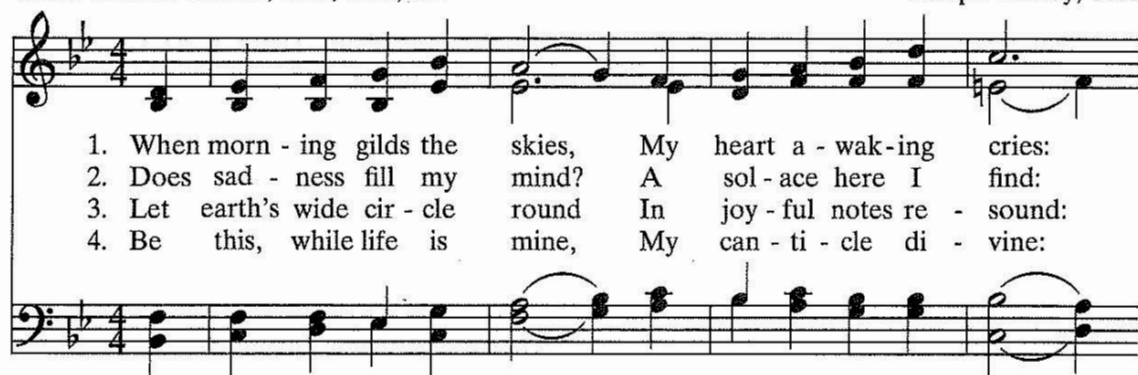
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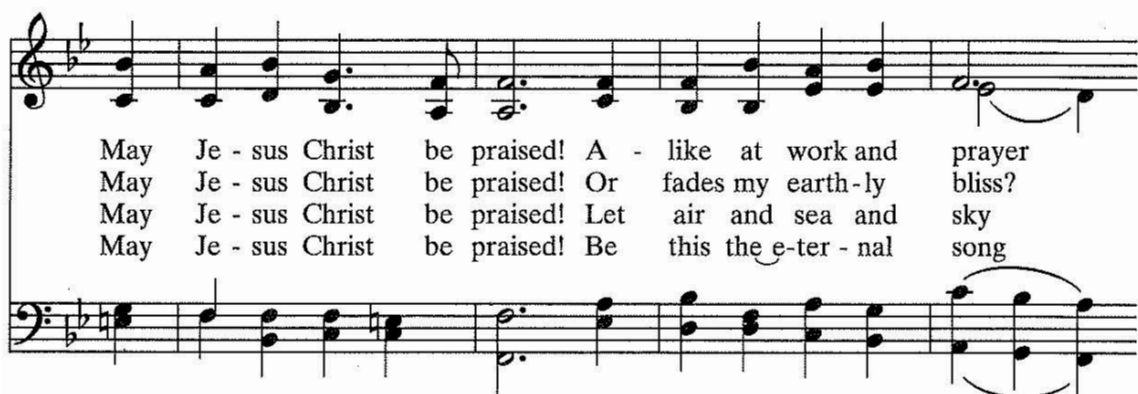
German hymn, c. 1800

Trans. Edward Caswall, 1853, 1858; alt.

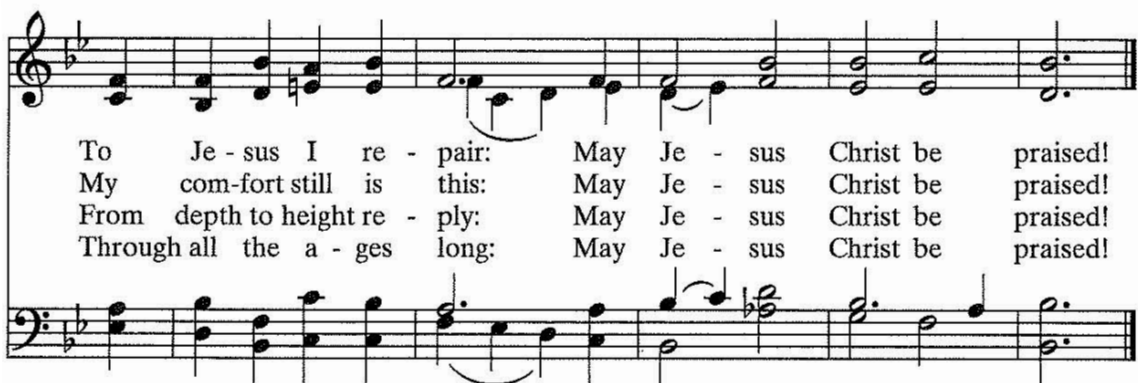
Joseph Barnby, 1868



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!

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

454

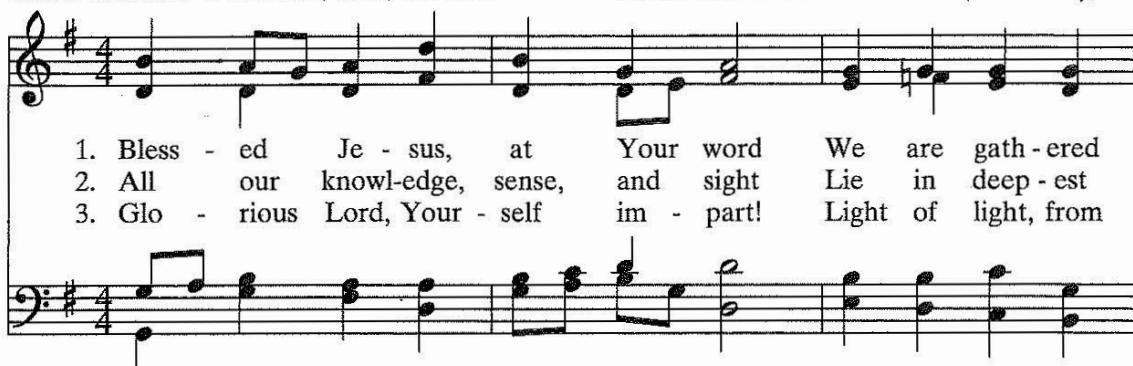
LIEBSTER JESU 7.8.7.8.8.8

Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt. 1972

Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1664

Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750); alt.



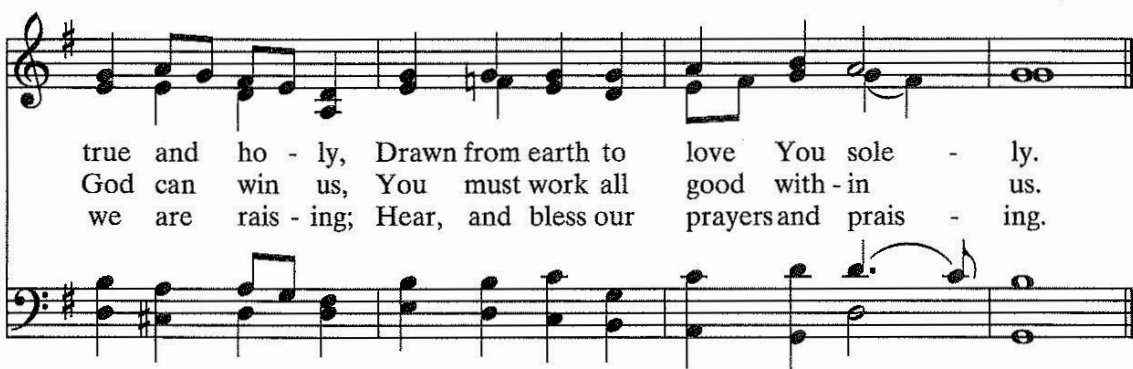
1. Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your word We are gath - ered
2. All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3. Glo - rious Lord, Your - self im - part! Light of light, from



all to hear You; Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed, Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our ears and heart,



Now to seek and love and fear You; By Your teach - ings
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing; Hear the cry that



true and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly
God can win us, You must work all good with - in us
we are rais - ing; Hear, and bless our prayers and prais - ing.

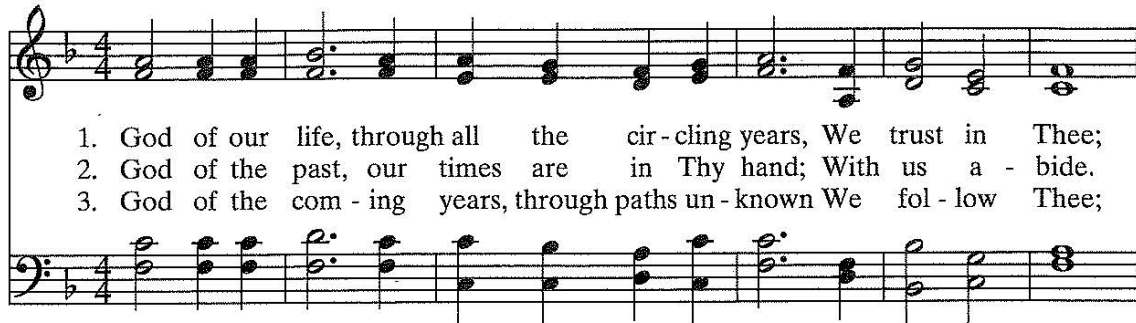
God of Our Life

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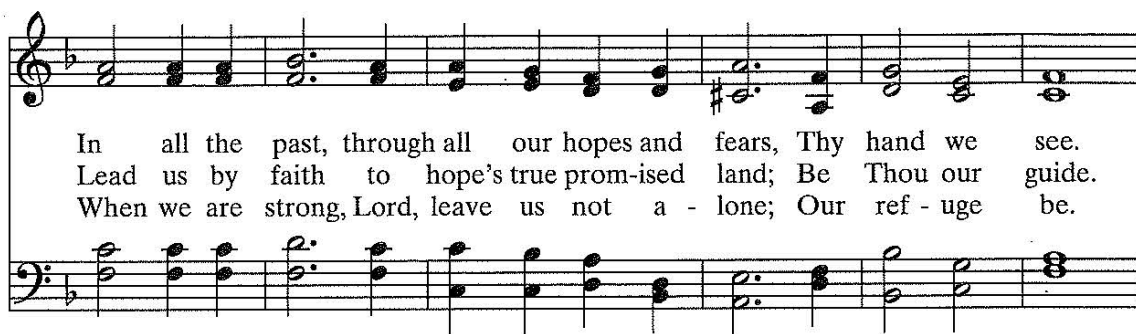
SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10

Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916; alt. 1928

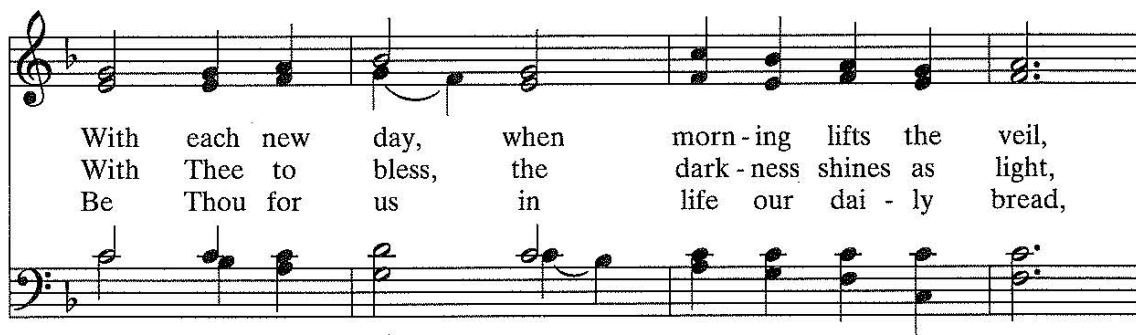
Charles Henry Purday, 1860
Harm. John Weaver, 1986



1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, We trust in Thee;
2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us a - bide.
3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known We fol - low Thee;



In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; Be Thou our guide.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; Our ref - uge be.



With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
With Thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
Be Thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,



We own Thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
And faith's fair vi - sion chan - ges in - to sight.
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

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)
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*