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 24, 2021
11:00 a.m.
Twenty-second 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 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 *Hyfrydol* Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).

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
Come, you who are weary.
Lay down your burdens, for God can carry them.
Come, you who are joyful.
Join in God's praise with the choir of the saints.
Come, you who are doubting.
Behold the one who brings sight to the blind.

***Hymn 464** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

Since the last movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony used Schiller's text, "Ode to Joy," Henry van Dyke wrote the text *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* to be sung to the music of Beethoven's "Hymn to Joy." It has become one of the most popular of American hymns.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**
Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us. Heal us of our blindness, O Lord, for it is a blindness we have chosen. We close our eyes when faced with suffering of the world, turn our gaze away from the needs of our neighbors, and blur our faces in the mirror, lest we recognize your image. Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us. Heal us of our blindness, and open our eyes to the beauty of your grace.

***Silent Prayer**
Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

**Those who are able may stand.*

***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 7:24

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

Anthem *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

The anthem is a paraphrase of Psalm 51 set to music by American composer, choral conductor, and educator Carl F. Mueller.

Second Lesson 1 Samuel 16:1-13

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

Sermon *Once More* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 326** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* MORECAMBE

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart is a reflection on Galatians 5:25, written by an Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was originally written for *Abide with Me*.

***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.**

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.

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 *Morecambe* Pamela Decker

***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 376** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* HYFRYDOL

***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 *Improvisation on Hyfrydol* John Coble

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. *Thank you for your generosity.*

The text and tune of *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* appear in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come. The name of the Welsh tune means "delightful."

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

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 9:30 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*
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader
11:00 a.m. Allen Crowell

USHERS
11:00 a.m. Larry Jones, Jimbo LaBoon

GREETER
11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN
Jack Palmer

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER
Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS
The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Pauline "Polly" Hartford who was a faithful member of FPC for many years by Carolyn and David Hally and Leslye Queen.

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

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join Dr. Carol Strickland for the Josephine Paine Bible Study on 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. The group will study the scripture which will be the preacher's text for the upcoming Sunday. Class will be conducted on Zoom for now. Go to zoom.com, click "Join a Meeting," follow prompts and enter 706 543 4338 for meeting ID. Scripture for 10/28 meeting will be 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13. Everyone welcome!

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!

FPC recently joined Instagram. You can follow us @firstpresathensga for more information about upcoming events.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Christ caring for people through people" is the Stephen Ministry motto. Stephen Ministers bring God's love into the lives of others by listening, caring, supporting, encouraging, and praying with and for a person going through a difficult time. If you know of someone in need of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders:

Margaret Davis: margaret@firstpresathens.org, 706-206-9896
Bob Frisch: rpfrisch@aol.com, 914-262-1078
Dawn Frisch: dawnmfrisch@aol.com, 914-255-3447
Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com, 706-540-4251
Carol Strickland: cstrickland@firstpresathens.org, 706-765-7671

Trick or Treat for UNICEF
October 31

Join us next Sunday, October 31 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service out on the front porch of the church. Children will be dressed in their church friendly costumes ready to collect donations for UNICEF as well as pass out Halloween treats for all! The United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF) needs our support more than ever! Tens of millions of children have been uprooted from their homes due to crisis and conflict. Please help us support UNICEF as they work hard to ensure that children all over the world have access to safe water, medicine, and nutrition as well as access to Covid-19 vaccines. We hope to see you out of the front porch next Sunday to Trick or Treat for UNICEF!

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.

Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday is November 14

Can you provide a bag of food that can be used by an Athens family of four to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner? Bags are available today through **November 7**. Please bring them to church on November 14 or drop them off at the church during normal business hours by 2 p.m. on **Friday, November 12**. 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).

2021 Shopping List

- ☐ Canned ham
- ☐ Cranberry sauce
- ☐ Canned fruit
- ☐ Chicken broth
- ☐ French fried onions (that go on top of green bean casserole)
- ☐ Peas
- ☐ Corn
- ☐ Stuffing/Dressing mix
- ☐ Cornbread mix
- ☐ Mac & Cheese
- ☐ Instant potatoes
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Gravy (cans or jars)
- ☐ Cookies
- ☐ Fresh sweet potatoes
- ☐ Brown and serve rolls

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 24
6:30 a.m. AthHalf Pre-Race Service, Front Porch
No 8:45 a.m. 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
4:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting via Zoom
5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday, October 25
2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom
5:00 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting via Zoom
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 26
7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom *(Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136)*
1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
2:00 p.m. PW Coordinating Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
6:00 p.m. Stephen Minister Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 27
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)*

Thursday, October 28
10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom *(ID: 706-543-4338)*

Sunday, October 31 - Reformation Sunday
8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Kids in the Courtyard
10:40 a.m. Godly Play
12:00 p.m. Trick or Treat for UNICEF

LOOKING AHEAD

November 7 - All Saints' Sunday, *Steals on the Ear:* an All Saints' Organ Recital

November 14 - Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

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 (boatwright.susan@gmail.com) or Jean Bock (jbock@bellsouth.net).

Where Have You Seen God's Light?

Our Advent devotional this year will have a new look and feel. We will post daily on Instagram, Facebook, and email submissions by our congregation which inspire hope in a time of darkness and vitality in a time of uncertainty. Please send to Chuck Toney (chuckgt63@gmail.com) by **Friday, October 29** short quotes, Bible verses, photos, songs, prayers, etc. on the themes of Light, Vitality, and Hope, which will help guide us through this season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

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*)

Del 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 (ljfjones@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)
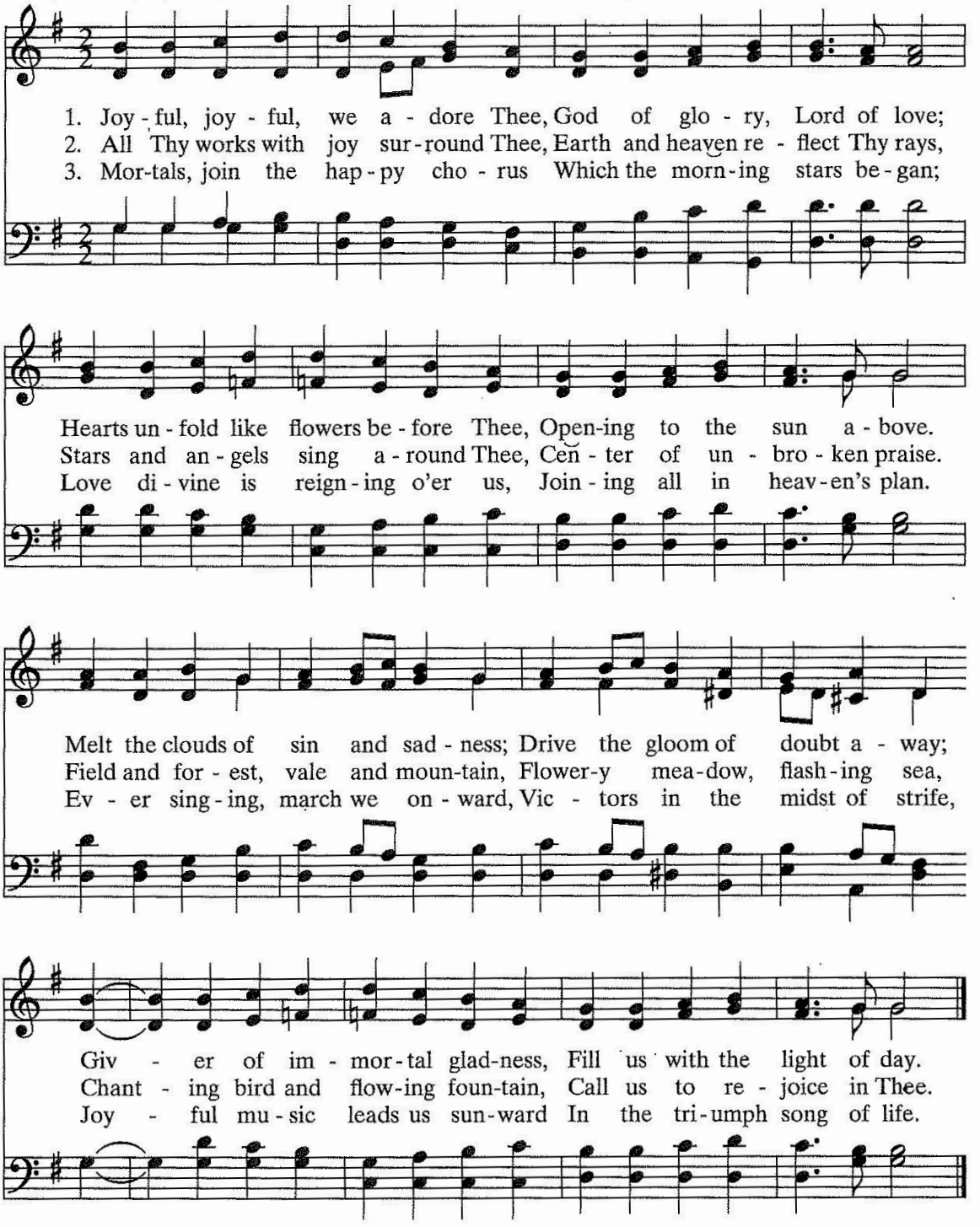
W. D. Hooper • Room 309
The "oldest" Sunday School class at First Pres will continue to focus on a Bible Study format. ***The class will resume on a date to be announced.***
Led by: Jerris Hayes (jhayefirstpres@gmail.com), Richard Lane (rlane@uga.edu)

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 464

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.
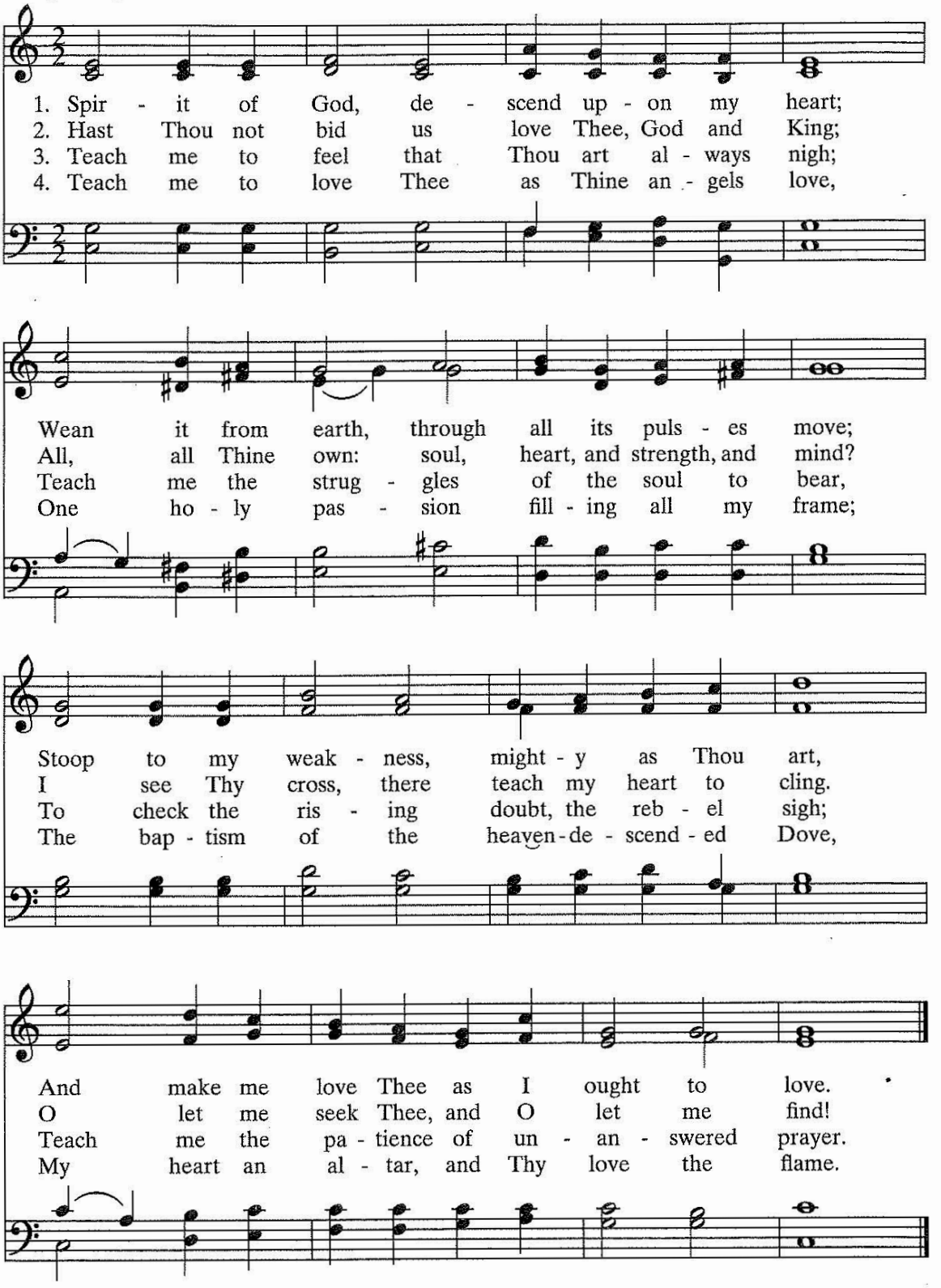
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796–1867); alt.



326 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10
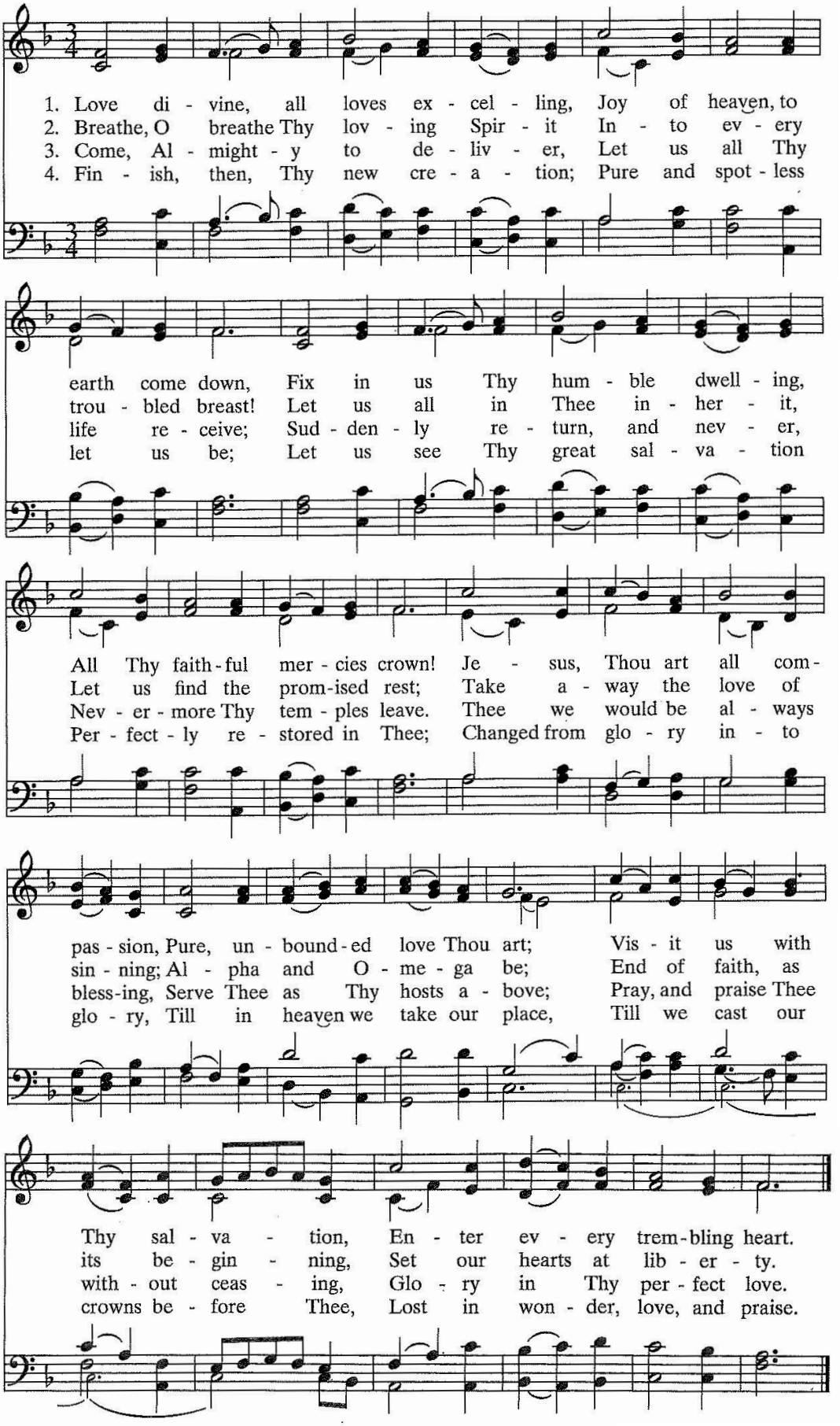
George Croly, 1854 — Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870



376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

Charles Wesley, 1747 — Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831



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*