



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!

January 9, 2022
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Baptism of the Lord

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.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Max Drischner

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

*Song of Gathering

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**O splendor of God's glory bright, from light eternal bringing light;
thou light of life, light's living spring, true day, all days illumining.**

Call to Worship

I am with you, says the Lord.

Do not fear.

I have called you by name.

Do not fear.

You are mine.

Do not be afraid.

*Hymn 454

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LIEBSTER JESU

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

In the waters of baptism, O God, you have cleansed us and claimed us. Forgive us for refusing your grace and rejecting your name. We have followed our own paths, and they have led us far from you. Help us to live into our baptisms, to trust that all we need is in you, for you have marked us as your own, loving us without limit. Wash us with your love again, that with clean hearts we may go in the way of Jesus.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

In observance of the Athens-Clarke County indoor mask ordinance, please wear a mask. If you need a mask, please consult an usher.

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

Originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* assumes a congregation that assembles regularly, and the hymn is most effective when placed near the beginning of worship. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

**Those who are able may stand.*

After “The Peace” at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages 4 - grade 2, are invited to Children’s Church which will be held for now downstairs in the Children’s Ministry Suite.

The anthem is perhaps Bach’s best known choral work. It is an arrangement and translation of a movement from Bach’s Cantata 147.

Take My Life is a hymn of consecration. The repeated use of the word “take” results in a remarkably full survey of a person’s attributes and possessions, giving weight to the “all” at the end.

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 using this QR code or at firstpresathens.org/home/giving. Thank you for your generosity.



***Congregational Response** Jacques Berthier

***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 104:14-16
 This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring* J.S. Bach
 Jesu, joy of our desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright,
 drawn by thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light.
 Word of God our flesh that fashioned with the fire of life impassioned.
 Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying round thy throne.

Second Lesson John 2:1-11
 This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Do Whatever He Tells You* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 391** *Take My Life* HENDON

***8:45 a.m. 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.**

8:45 a.m. 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 *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* 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**

11:00 a.m. Service of Ordination and Installation

Presentation of Elders-Elect to be Ordained* and Installed

*Shannon Brooks	*Sharon Logan
Phyllis Crowell	*Bruce Middendorf
*Kemp Gaskill	Randy Riner
Denise Horton	Chuck Toney
*Paul Lee	

At the 8:45 a.m. service, worship continues with the Hymn “God, Bless Your Church with Strength!”

Leading the Service of Ordination and Installation are Dr. Ryan Baer, Dr. Carol Strickland, and Mrs. Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session.

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination

Profession of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Questions for Elders-Elect

Questions for Congregation

Do we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, accept these individuals as Elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Ordination Prayer and Installation

Declaration and Welcome

Charge to the Newly Ordained and Installed

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn insert** *God, Bless Your Church with Strength!* DIADEMATA

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**To God the Father, God the Son,
and Holy Spirit, three in one,
may every tongue and nation raise
an endless song of thankful praise.**

God, Bless Your Church with Strength! was written in 1984 by the associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, South Bend, Indiana, for the church’s 150th anniversary. He chose to write a general hymn with a primary focus on the changing world and a Christian response to those changes. The text was originally written with the tune DIADEMATA in mind.

Postlude *In You Is Gladness* Johann Sebastian Bach

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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.

To pick up your child from Children’s Church after the 11:00 a.m. service, please go to the church courtyard entrance of the Children’s Ministry Suite.

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. Beverly Phares

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson, Randy Dudley
11:00 a.m. Larry Jones, Melinda DeMaria,
Kitty Donnan

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The 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

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 1/13 meeting will be John 2:13-25. Everyone welcome!

2022-23 WEEKDAY SCHOOL

First Pres Weekday School registration for Fall 2022 begins for in-house students on Tuesday, January 18. On Friday, January 21 at noon, community registration begins. Our Weekday School is a half-day church preschool serving 3 months through 5 years. Questions? Call our director, Elaine Johnson, at (706) 206-8180 or e-mail elaine@firstpresathens.org.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal life. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God’s warm love back into your life. Talk with one of our Stephen Leaders for more information:

- 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

Be a part of the 2022 MLK Day of Service in Athens!

Monday, January 17

What a great way to start off 2022 by joining other members of First Presbyterian and the Athens Community by honoring Martin Luther King and helping to make Athens a more beautiful and welcoming place to live!

This year, as in years past, Mission & Outreach Commission has identified two worthy projects that we as a church might work on together. We have identified one outdoor project at the Founders Memorial Garden (325 S. Lumpkin St.). Unfortunately we cannot register as a group and you must go to tinyurl.com/FPCMLK2022 and self-register. The event is from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Monday, January 17. You must register by January 12, 5:00 p.m., and spaces are limited, so please register soon. Protocols will be followed to ensure everyone's safety.

The other option to serve is indoor. We are returning to the Project Safe Thrift Store to help straighten, sort, etc. It is still located at 995 Hawthorne Avenue, Athens and we will be there from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 17. To volunteer or for questions, please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com.

Mark Hopkins, *Chair*

Mission & Outreach Commission

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 9 – Food Sunday, Ordination and Installation of Elders

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
- 1:30 p.m. “First Things” New Member Class
- 3:00 p.m. Faith Formation Task Force, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Sunday planning

Monday, January 10

- 11:30 a.m. Lunch & Learn Committee Meeting via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, January 11

- 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*)
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Wednesday, January 12

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, January 13

- 10:00 a.m. Josephine Paine Bible Study via Zoom (*ID: 706-543-4338*)
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, January 16

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
- 4:00 p.m. New Member Tea, Home of Jill and Mark Hopkins

LOOKING AHEAD

January 17 – MLK Day of Service

January 18 – Weekday School Registration for Fall 2022 Begins

January 30 – Annual Congregational Meeting

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.*

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.

Godly Play, 9:45 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Children are invited to Godly Play during the Sunday School hour. 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.

Children's Church, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Children are invited to Children's Church during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. During Children's Church, children will continue to worship together and experience the many ways we worship God with our families in the sanctuary – by listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God, and giving to God. On the first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday, children are invited to remain in the sanctuary to worship and participate in communion with their families.

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

New Voices • Room 310

Discussion guided by *Women In the Bible*, by Jaime Clark-Soles.

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

Zoom ID: 870 1906 3194, PW: 305215

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 (jjscanlon@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)

Zoom ID: 813 2290 3374, PW: 459718

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)

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)

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

454

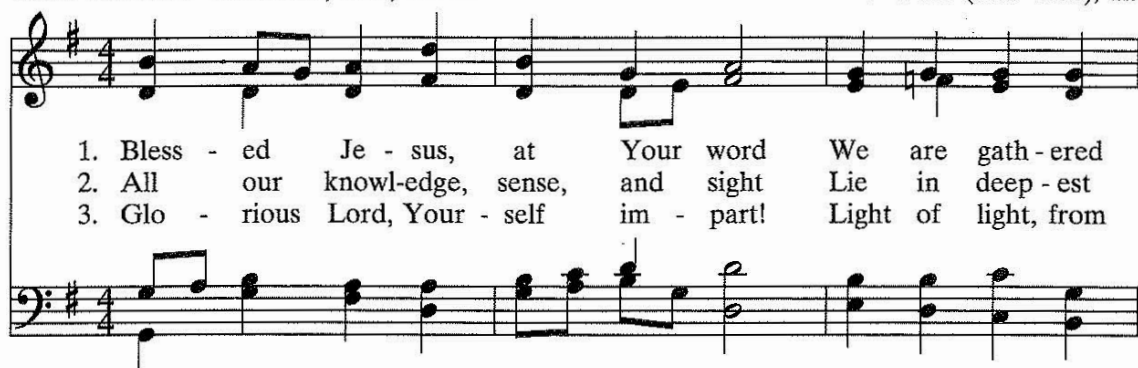
LIEBSTER JESU 7.8.7.8.8.8

Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt. 1972

Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1664

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



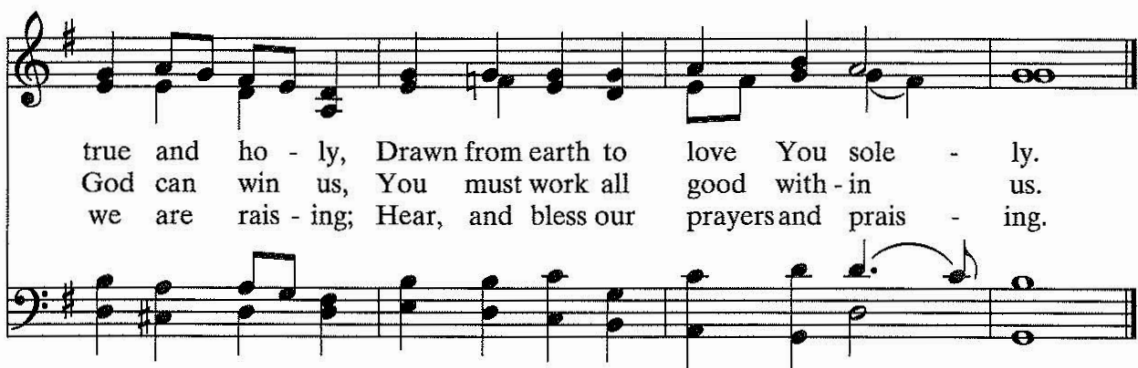
1. Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your word We are gath - ered
 2. All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
 3. Glo - rious Lord, Your - self im - part! Light of light, from



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.

Take My Life

HENDON 7.7.7.7

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874

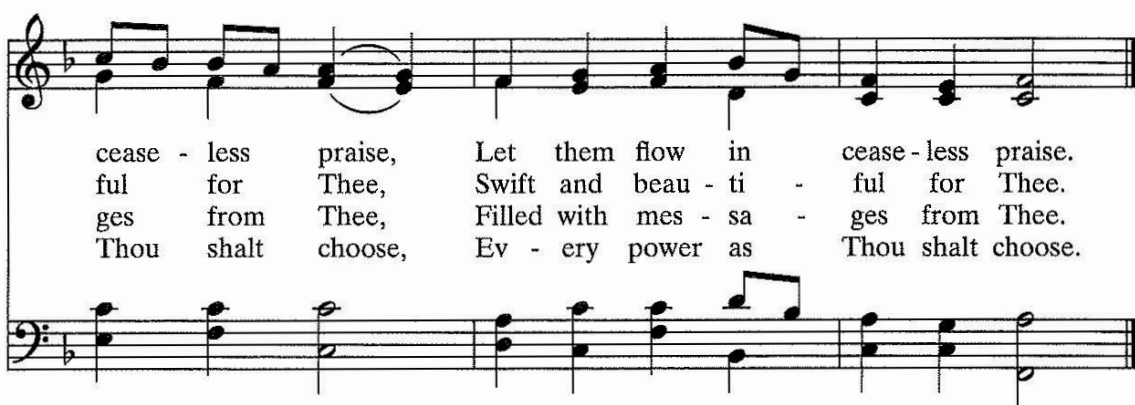
H. A. César Malan, 1827



1. Take my life, and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee.
 2. Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love.
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, Al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in
 Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti -
 Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sa -
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as



cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 ges from Thee, Filled with mes - sa - ges from Thee.
 Thou shalt choose, Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose.

5. 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,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

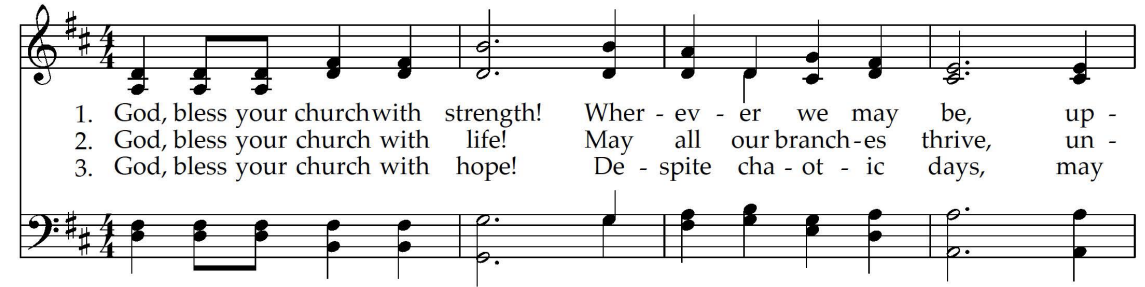
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 At Thy feet its treasure store.
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for Thee,
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

God, Bless Your Church with Strength!

DIADEMATA

John A. Dallas, 1984

George Job Elvey, 1868



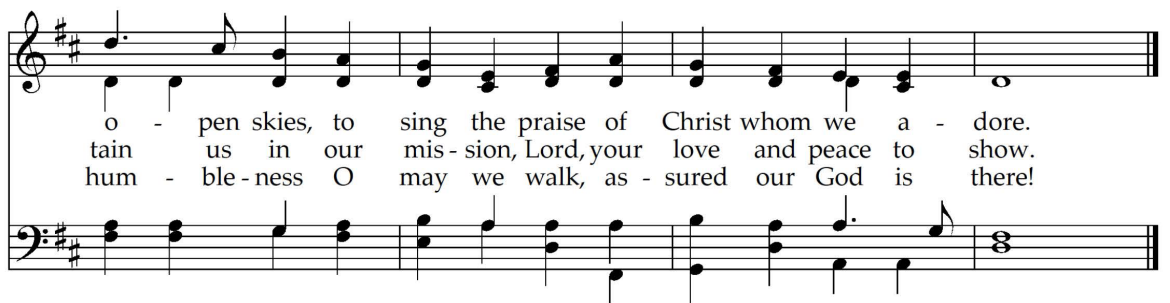
1. God, bless your church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may be, up -
2. God, bless your church with life! May all our branch-es thrive, un -
3. God, bless your church with hope! De - spite cha - ot - ic days, may



build your ser - vants as we work in com - mon min - is - try. Urge
blem - ished, whole - some, bear - ing fruit, a - bun - dant - ly a - live. From
we in cha - os shine to light a path - way through life's maze. May



us from fledg - ling faith to ven - ture and to soar through
you, one ho - ly vine, in free - dom may we grow; sus -
just - tice be our aim, and kind - ness ours to share, in



o - pen skies, to sing the praise of Christ whom we a - dore.
tain us in our mis - sion, Lord, your love and peace to show.
hum - ble - ness O may we walk, as - sured our God is there!

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*