



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!

May 15, 2022
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Psalms 118:24

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

Prelude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing Marilyn Keiser

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Family Promise of Athens

Song of Gathering

Hymn 470, stanza 1

**O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
this day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God triune.**

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord, all the earth!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise the Lord in the heights.

Praise the name of the Lord, and the Lord's glory shall be praised,
for people near and people far, for people present and people to come, for the young and for those wise with age.

Come, let us praise the Lord; come, let us worship God.

*Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace. You command us to care for all of creation, yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through carelessness. You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus, yet we too often walk our own way. Forgive us, O God. Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth. Lead us to reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community, as we share your love with your people everywhere.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

**Those who are able may stand.*

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

The MFM will be given by Susan Boatwright and Jean Bock, FPC's Family Promise Coordinators.

The opening line of *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17, and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The tune is a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

At “The Peace,” worshipers are invited to greet each other by saying, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and responding, “And also with you.”

After the Passing of the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - 5th grade, are invited to Children’s Church with Natalie Bishop, held in the Children’s Ministry Suite on the first floor.

The anthem is a text based on Romans 8:43–39 from the Scottish Paraphrases (1781) set to music by contemporary American composer Alfred Fedak. It was written in appreciation for the service of the Directors of Music at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church in Augusta.

In Christ There Is No East or West was part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant from the early 20th century. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune.

*Congregational Response

CELTIC ALLELUIA



*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 1:16–18, page 968

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

11:00 Anthem

The Christ Who Died

Alfred V. Fedak

The Christ who died and rose again triumphant from the grave,
now pleads our cause at God’s right hand, all-powerful to save.
What now can separate us from the love of Christ our Lord?
Can persecution, nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
The troubles that are ours to bear are trials we cannot flee,
yet he who loved us from the first ensures our victory.
Thus, nothing in the heights or depths, no power earth can afford
will separate us from the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Yes, he who loved us from the first is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second Lesson

Acts 17:16–31, page 1012

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

Sermon

Paul’s Sermon at Athens

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 439

In Christ There Is No East or West

ST. PETER

*Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:5–11

**Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and
under the earth, and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

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	<i>Improvisation on St. Denio</i>	John Coble
*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	<i>God of Our Life</i>	SANDON
*Charge and Benediction		
*Congregational Response		Hymn 535
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way though this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.		
Postlude	<i>Toccata in G minor</i>	Johann Pachelbel

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/give. Thank you for your generosity.



God of Our Life was created for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh by its pastor. He wrote the text specifically for the tune Sandon.

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 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.

To pick up your child from Children’s Church after the 11:00 a.m. service, please go to the Children’s Ministry Suite, which is on the first floor.

**Blessing of the 5th Graders
Today, 9:45 a.m.**

Parents and children are invited to the Blessing of the 5th Graders! We will begin our time together at 9:45 a.m. in the Children’s Ministry Suite with a special Godly Play blessing, followed by a donut feast in the Courtyard. Then 5th Graders and parents are invited to join Kim Ness in the PIT to learn more about Youth Group! We celebrate this big milestone for all of these sweet children!

Daniel Baer	Pat Bryan	Sidney Doornbos	Mary Ann Jones
Nathan Baer	Petch Bryan	Harris Earl	Lachlan Morris
Bruno Betzel	William Carey	Jennings Holloway	Ellie Pope
Thomas Blount	Benjamin Crim	Henry Johnson	Zion Waseem

**Project Safe Thrift Store Work Day, Today, May 15, 2:00 -5:00 p.m.
995 Hawthorne Ave #7, Athens, GA 30606 (Bell’s Shopping Center)**

Join other First Presbyterians as we sort clothes, clean shelves, and tidy up the retail space which supports the work of Project Safe. Project Safe seeks to end domestic violence through crisis intervention, ongoing supportive services, systems change advocacy, and prevention and education.

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. Ella Stewart

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Evie Bawcum, Lanier Bishop

Call to Worship Liturgist

11:00 a.m. Elle Hunt

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,
John Simpson

11:00 a.m. Rod Canfield, Chuck Toney,
Laura Toney

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of her mother and father, Marian Alice Wendler and John Kenley Carr, by Carol McKay.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Martin Quinn Jones on May 3, 2022. His Parents are Lawrence and Kathryn Jones, and his grandfather is Larry Jones, Sr.

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

BOOKS FOR KEEPS BOOK DRIVE

Since 2009, Books for Keeps has given more than half a million books to children from low-income families in grades Pre-K through 12. FPC has become a large supporter of Books for Keeps with our annual book drive.

You can help make sure no child in our community goes a summer without great books to read. Please bring your used books to the bins in the Atrium or church office **through May 29**. Books of all kinds will be accepted, then sold by Books for Keeps with proceeds used to buy new children's books. To learn more about the organization, go to booksforkeeps.org. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEKS

First Presbyterian will be the host church for Family Promise families May 15 - 29. We need your help to fill the volunteer slots. The families will be at the Milledge Avenue Baptist Church static site. If you are able to help, please sign up in the church Atrium or by using the link here: tinyurl.com/FPChostweek2022. Training required for new volunteers is very simple: you just have to watch an online video. For more information or questions, please contact Susan Boatwright at boatwrightsusan@gmail.com or Jean Bock at jbock@bellsouth.net.

Farewell Reception for Dr. Carol Strickland May 22, After 11:00 a.m. Service, Fellowship Hall

Please join us in Fellowship Hall next Sunday, May 22, after the 11:00 a.m. service for a reception in honor of Rev. Dr. Carol Strickland on the occasion of her retirement. Expressions of thanksgiving for Carol and Jack's faithful service may be placed in the basket at the reception or mailed to their home address: 1141 Nona Dr., Athens, 30606.

Recommendations for Elders

The Nominations and Elections Committee encourages your participation in the process for nominating Elders. Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian Gospel, both within the church and in the world at large.

Please e-mail your suggestions to Beverly Phares, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, at beverlypphares@gmail.com, by May 31. You can also fill out the form in the website (www.firstpresathens.org).

Current Elders:
(Not eligible for recommendation)

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Kitty Donnan
Rob Haire
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

CLASS OF 2024

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

I prayerfully recommend the following for Elder:

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Name	_____	Reasons	_____

Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee are Beverly Phares (Chair), Keith Oelke, Kathy Bangle, Angela Hunt, Richard Lane.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 15 - Blessing of the 5th Graders, Family Promise Host Weeks Begin

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church, Children's Ministry Suite
- 1:30 p.m. Reception for the Family of Lee Padgett, Fellowship Hall
- 2:00 p.m. Project Safe Work Day, 995 Hawthorne Ave #7, Athens, GA 30606 (Bell's Shopping Center)
- 5:00 p.m. End of Year Youth Celebration, The Pit and Courtyard

Sunday, May 15 - May 29: Family Promise Host Weeks at Milledge Ave. Baptist Church

Tuesday, May 17

- 9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136*)
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room

Wednesday, May 18

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bridge Group, Room 301
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Chancel Choir Room

Thursday, May 19

- 5:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, May 22 - Final Sunday with Two Services, Last Sunday School

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Godly Play
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church, Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:00 p.m. Farewell Reception for Dr. Carol Strickland, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:00 p.m. Charlotte Youth Mission Trip Meeting, The Pit

LOOKING AHEAD

May 29 - One Service at 10:00 a.m., Mrs. Courtney Pittman, Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament, preaching

June 5 - Pentecost Sunday, Pentecost Offering, Wear Red!

Caring Hands Offering

This month, a special Caring Hands offering will be collected to benefit the Caring Hands Fund of Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. Presbyterian Homes is a ministry that serves our most vulnerable population - our seniors. This annual offering is the largest source of funds for benevolent care for Presbyterian Homes' six communities in Georgia. Your contribution directly supports the care of residents who have outlived their financial resources. Our congregation joins Presbyterian churches statewide to support this vital ministry.

Please mail your check to the church office, or go to our website firstpresathens.org/give (please select "Presby Homes/Mother's Day"). Alternatively, you can visit www.phgainc.org/donate/caring-hands-offering/church1/ to make a direct donation.

Become a part of the Caring Hands community - over 2,500 members strong - who have made a positive impact on the quality of life for our senior residents since 1949. Thank you for your generous support.

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants – 5th Grade

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.–10:45 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 offer 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. Children will begin worship with their families in the sanctuary and then will leave for the Children's Ministry Suite for Children's Church after the passing of The Peace during the 11:00 a.m. service. During Children's Church, children will worship together and experience the many ways we worship God with our families in the sanctuary – listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God, and giving to God. **Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays.**

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 a.m.)

There is currently no organized Youth Sunday School, but we have set up a classroom in the PIT with games, crafts and comfy couches if you'd like to come enjoy some peace and quiet on Sunday mornings.

Youth Group (6:00 p.m.)

To round out an awesome year, we are hosting the first ever FPC Olympics! This will be our last youth group of the school year and we hope to have everyone attend. Plan to arrive at 5pm to be assigned a team. Opening ceremonies will begin at 5:15 in the Courtyard. Wear tennis shoes and clothes ready to compete! Dinner will be provided. Parents, we need your help! Email Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org) if you can volunteer to help with the games and dinner.

For more information, visit www.fpcathenspit.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON ONLY

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies.

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

Parents in the PIT • The Pit

This 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, with emphasis on women in the lineage of Jesus Christ.

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 • Staff Conference Room

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

Zoom ID: 861 8893 3837, PW: 981458

ON HOLD (*stay tuned...*)

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)

Summer Schedule

May 22 will be our last Sunday with two services. Over the Memorial Day weekend, May 29, we will go to our summer schedule of one service at 10:00 a.m. Regular Sunday School classes will not meet over the summer. An adult class will be held starting June 5 at 11:15 a.m. in Moses Waddel Room.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11

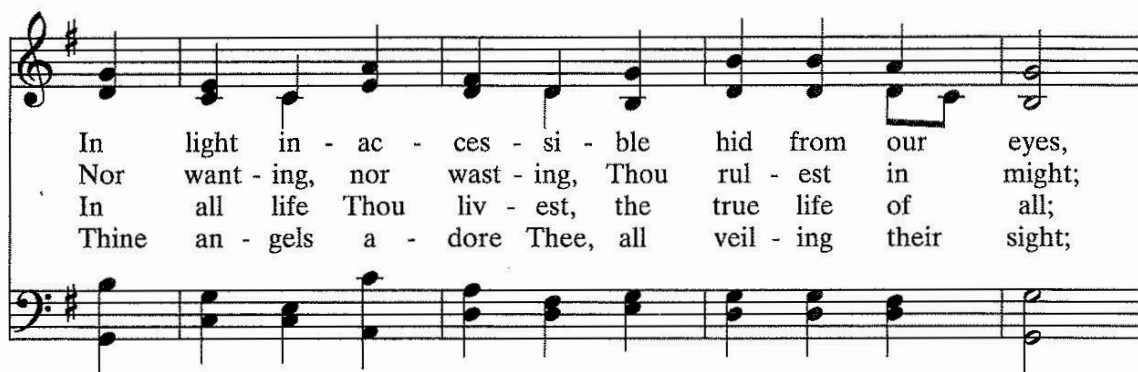
Welsh folk melody

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

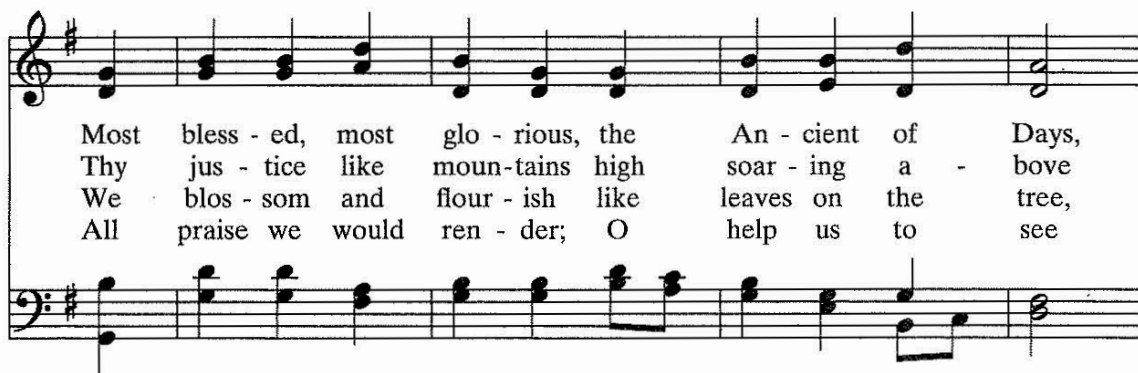
Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839



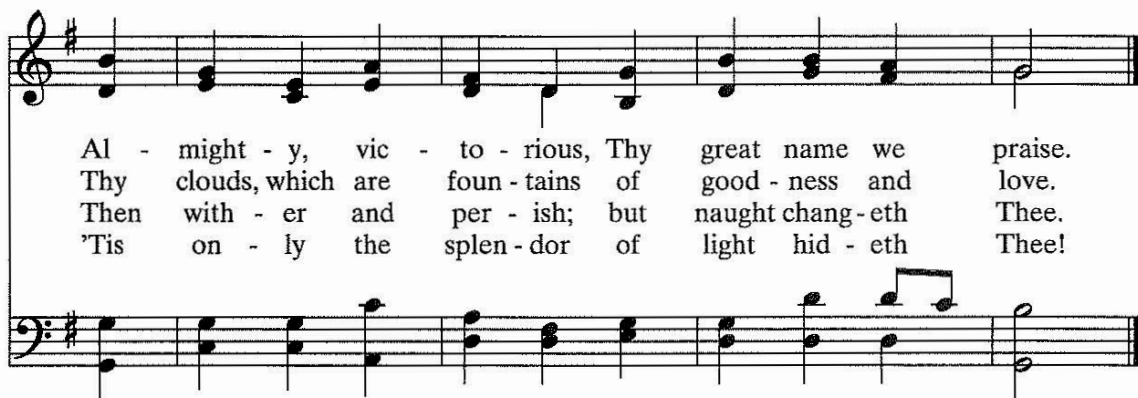
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



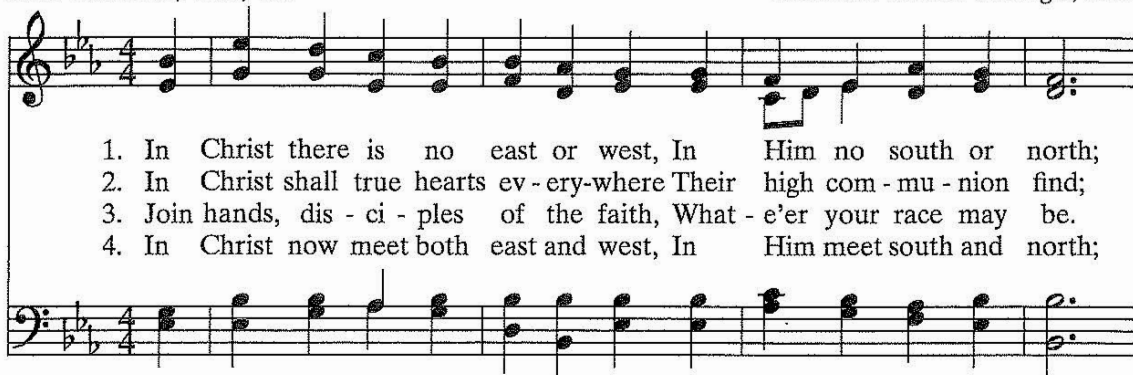
Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

In Christ There Is No East or West

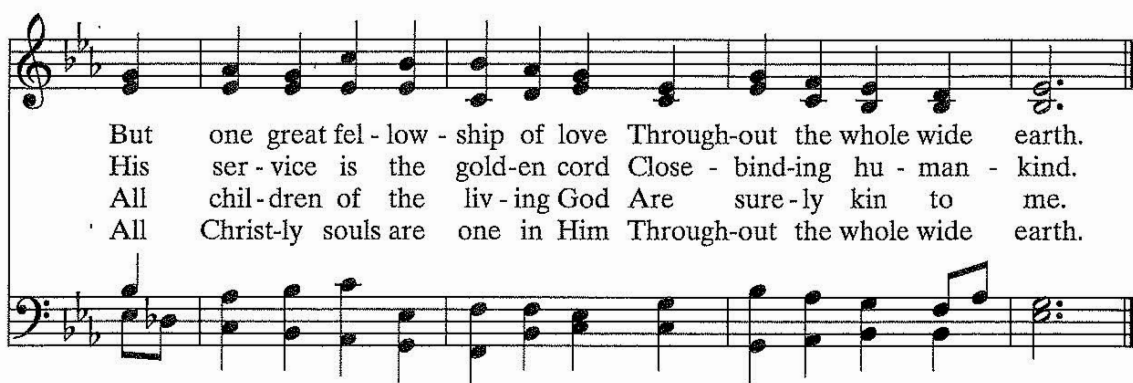
ST. PETER CM

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.

Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836



1. In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north;
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where Their high com-mu-nion find;
 3. Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, What-e'er your race may be.
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In Him meet south and north;



But one great fel-low-ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.
 His ser-vice is the gold-en cord Close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.
 All chil-dren of the liv-ing God Are sure-ly kin to me.
 All Christ-ly souls are one in Him Through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: Reprinted by permission of the American Tract Society, Garland, Texas.

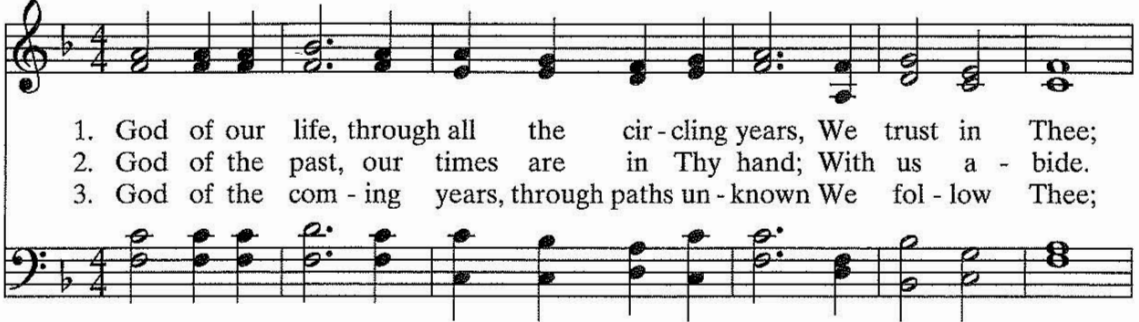
God of Our Life

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SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10

Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916; alt. 1928

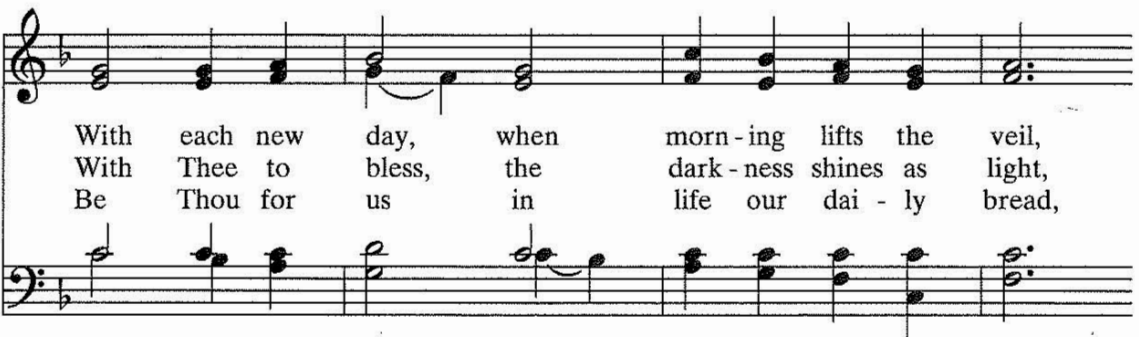
Charles Henry Purday, 1860
Harm. John Weaver, 1986



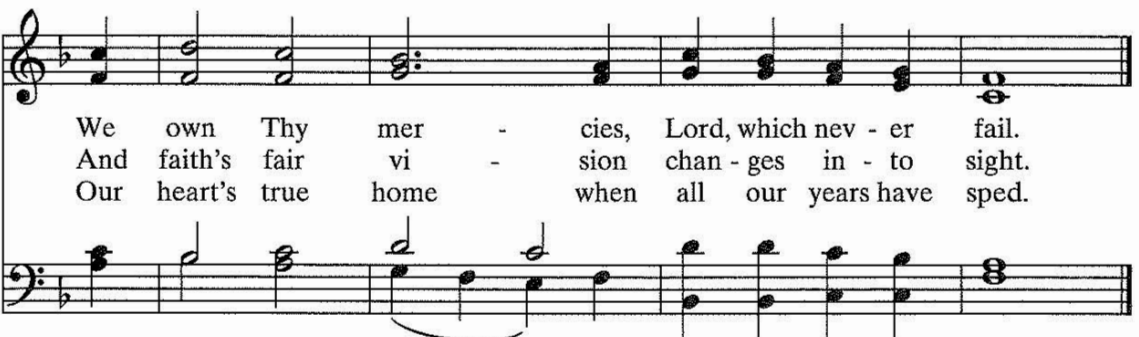
1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, We trust in Thee;
2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us a - bide.
3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known We fol - low Thee;



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.

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from *The Hymnal for Youth*, published by Westminster Press.

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