



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 22, 2022
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Sixth 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

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

Nimrod

Edward Elgar

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

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

God's goodness is breaking into the world.

We do not expect the Spirit's movement.

God gathers in those we judged to be outsiders.

We witness this in-breaking as healing, wholeness, restoration, and peace.

*Hymn 343

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we equate our judgment with your judgment, and often consider our ways to be your ways. We define peace as the absence of disruption, holding our comfort as your aim and thinking our preferences reflect your way. Too often we act as if we are your authoritative witnesses, believing our worldview corresponds with your vision, and that our narrative contains your hope for the future. O God, dislodge us from our sinful assumptions. Forgive our selfish views. Correct us with your truth and teach us by your Spirit.

*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).

Called as Partners in Christ's Service is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to be the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. The tune is named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

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 was written for the Church of St. Francis, Ngong, Kenya. Built by African and Asian craftsmen, it is a mixed racial congregation with services conducted in both English and Swahili.

Though I May Speak is a paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13:1,3. It is set to an English folk melody.

Scholars debate whether this powerfully poetic text is an early Christian hymn which Paul is quoting or his own composition. It is one of the best-known and most influential passages in the Pauline corpus.

***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 Luke 9:46-48, page 947

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

11:00 Anthem *Christ’s Flock* Martin Shaw

In Christ’s own flock let love be surely placed,
from Christ’s own flock let concord hate expel:
of Christ’s own flock let love be so embraced,
as we in Christ, and Christ in us may dwell.
Christ is the author of all unity, from whence proceedeth all felicity.
O sing unto this glittering glorious King,
O praises bring from every living thing:
let heart and voice like bells of silver ring. Alleluia!

Second Lesson Philippians 1:1-11, page 1070

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

Sermon *Dear Church* Dr. Carol Stickland

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 335** *Though I May Speak* O WALY WALY

***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

8:45 Offertory *O Waly Waly* Barbara Harbach

11:00 Offertory *A Gaelic Blessing* John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you,
deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you,
deep peace of the gentle night to you,
moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you,
deep peace of Christ to you.

***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 538** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* SICILIAN MARINERS

***11:00 - Recognition of the Retirement of Dr. Carol Strickland**

***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 *Carillon de Westminster* Louis Vierne

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set up an automatic payment
of your pledge through your
bank, or donate online
using this QR code or at
[firstpresathens.org/
give](http://firstpresathens.org/give). 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.

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.

Farewell Reception for the Rev. Dr. Carol Strickland
Today after 11:00 a.m. Service, Fellowship Hall

Please join us in Fellowship Hall this Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. service for a reception in honor of the 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: 3359 Belcher Mountain Rd., Meadows of Dan, VA 24120.

Women’s Retreat – It’s Not Too Late

We still have openings! Treat yourself (or a loved one) to a weekend of spiritual nourishment and the beauty of the NC mountains August 12-14 at the Montreat Women’s Connection Conference. Register for the conference at Montreat.org. Signup for the workshops just began, so hurry! Register for housing at the Georgia Lodge with our group at firstpresathens.org. Contact Carol McKay (carol_mckay@att.net) or Nancy Hernandez (nfergie2@gmail.com) with questions.

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. Sarah Bryan

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Daniel Baer, Davis Miller

Call to Worship Liturgist

11:00 a.m. Nathan Baer

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson, Mary Peace

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

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, Nancy Wilson, by Carla Buss.

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 is the host church for Family Promise families May 15 - 29. We need your help to fill the volunteer slots. The families are 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.

Ride Share

For several years now our church has supported a program called Ride Share. In a large congregation such as ours, there will be people from time to time who need transportation to get to Sunday School, Sunday services, Wednesday Supper, Week Day Bible Study, and even a doctor's appointment occasionally. If you are able to provide transportation from time to time for a parishioner, please call Madeline Van Dyck at madelinevandyck@gmail.com or 706-714-7600 or contact the church office at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or 706-543-4338.

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 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

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

Monday, May 23

- 2:00 a.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom (*ID: 706-543-4338*)

Tuesday, May 24

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136*)
- 11:30 a.m. UGA Chamber Music Concert, Sanctuary
- 1:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Brides Room

Wednesday, May 25

- 2:00 p.m. Ladies Bridge Group, Room 301
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Chancel Choir Room

Thursday, May 26

- 2:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Circle Counsel Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, May 29 – One Service at 10:00 a.m.

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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

We concluded another wonderful year in youth ministry last Sunday with the Youth Olympics. One of the events was to look back on some of the most memorable events of the last school year. As we prepare for a summer break from Sunday School and Youth Group, we wanted to share some of our highlights: Ice cream truck, chair chats and parking lot games, confirmation mentors, pumpkin bowling, friendsgiving, Christmas karaoke, fully known deeply loved, painting party, fire pits, movie nights, soupverbowl of caring, ice skating, 22 hour famine, egg hunt, graduation, energizers.

I am so grateful for each and everyone one of our youth and their families and to our church for loving and supporting us. This summer, we ask for your continued prayers as we attend Montreat Youth Conference and CROSS Mission Trip in Charlotte, NC.

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

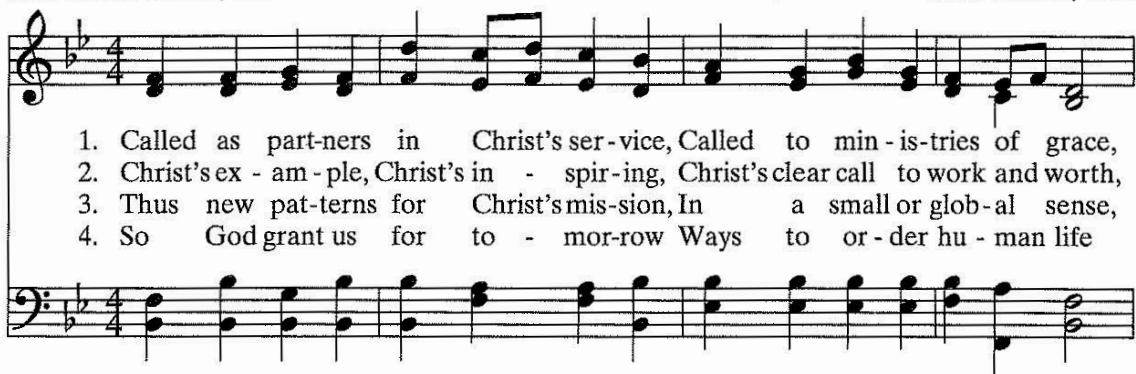
May 22 will be our last Sunday with two services. Over the Memorial Day weekend, May 29, we will go to our summer schedule of one service at 10:00 a.m. Regular Sunday School classes will not meet over the summer. An adult class, open to all, will be held starting June 5 at 11:15 a.m. in Moses Waddel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

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 343

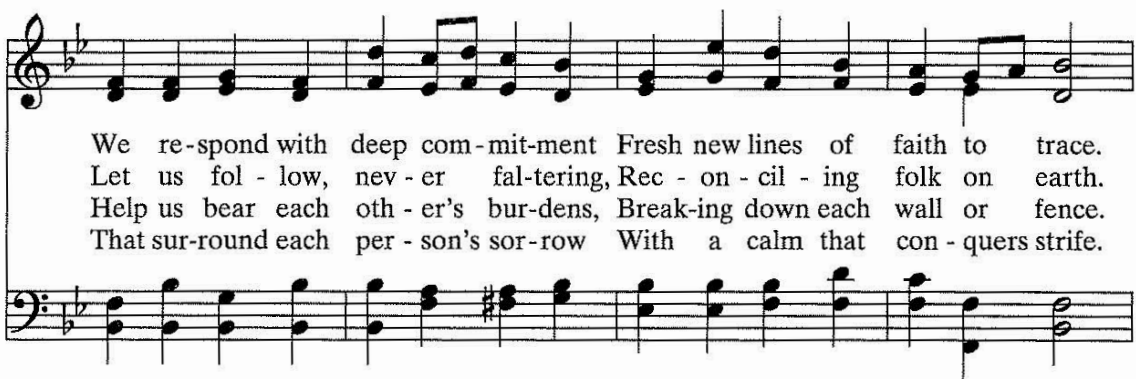
BEECHER 8.7.8.7 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

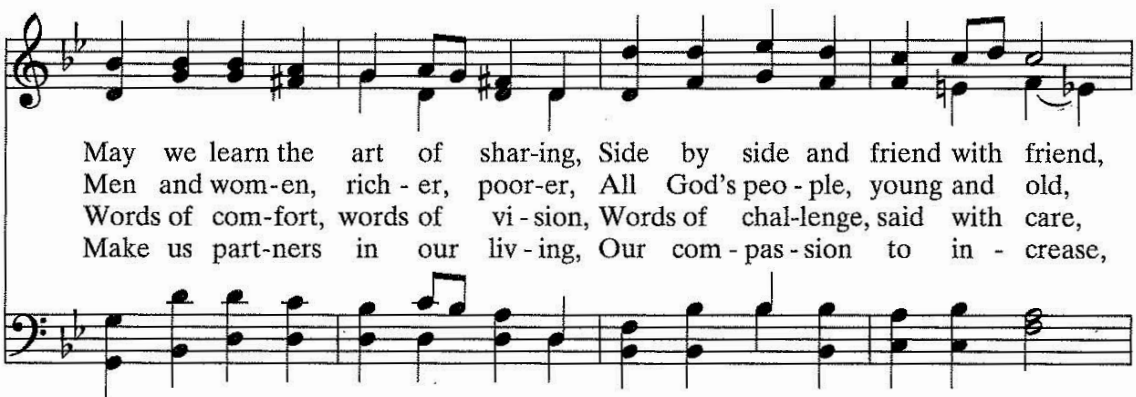
John Zundel, 1870



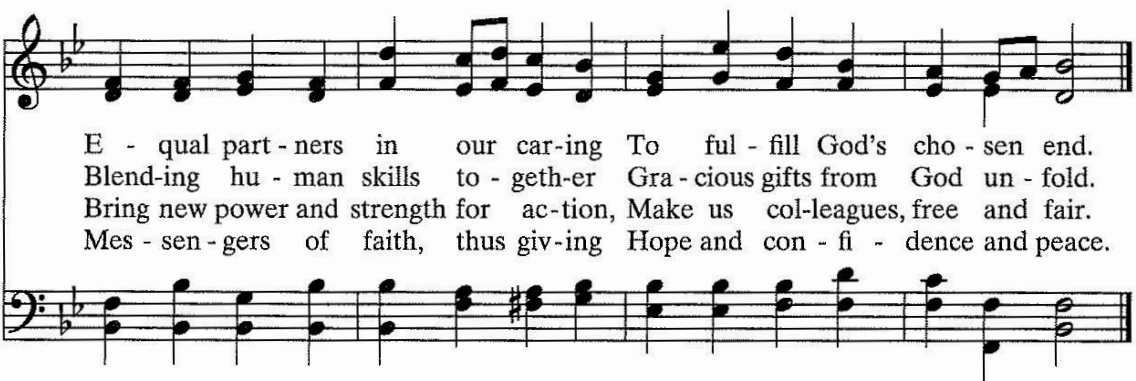
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, Called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, In a small or glob-al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to - mor-row Ways to or - der hu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



We re-spond 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 - quers 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 - geth-er 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.

Though I May Speak

O WALY WALY LM

Hal Hopson, 1972

English folk melody
Harm. John Weaver, 1988

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, And have the
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, And striv - ing
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, Our spir - its

gift to all in - spire, And have not love, my
 so my love pro - fess, But not be given by
 long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide

words are vain; As sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 love with - in, The prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 ev - ery deed; By this we wor - ship and are freed.

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7

Attr. John Fawcett, 1773

Stanza 1, line 6, alt. 1774, Conyer's *Collection of Psalms*

Stanza 3 alt. Godfrey Thring (1823–1903)

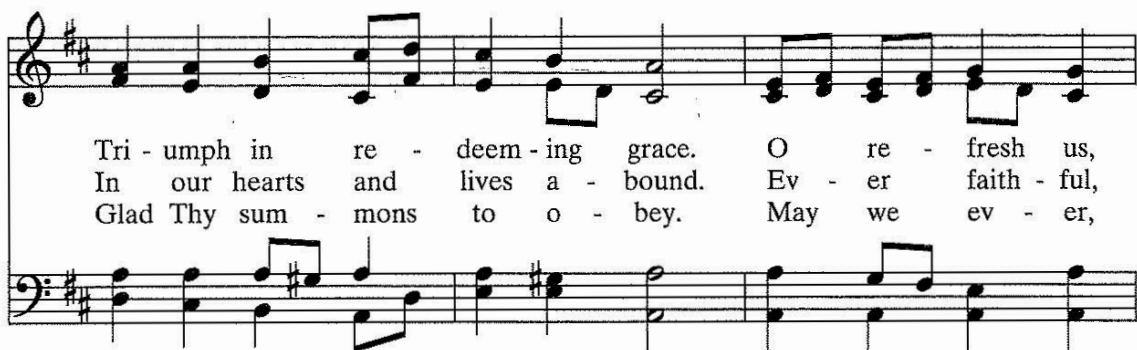
Sicilian melody



1. Lord, dis - miss us with Thy bless - ing; Fill our hearts with
 2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Thy gos - pel's
 3. So that when Thy love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the



joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of Thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, Let no fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
 In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 Glad Thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 Ev - er faith - ful To the truth may we be found;
 May we ev - er Reign with Thee in end - less day.