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!

August 14, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Tenth 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.

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

Greeting Psalm 118:24
This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude *Royal Oak* Keith Kolander

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission *Red Cross Blood Drive* Joe Neighbors

Song of Gathering PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
Let every voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.

Call to Worship
Behold the gathering of God's own:
beside believers and among apostles,
drawn together as disciples and doubters,
we are shoulder to shoulder with shepherds and saints!
Since we are surrounded by this great cloud of witnesses,
let us run with perseverance the race before us,
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

***Hymn 267** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* ROYAL OAK

All Things Bright and Beautiful is one of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed. The original text had seven stanzas, based on "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the hymn was paired with the tune, which comes from the age of King Charles II.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**
Loving Creator, with a gardener's tender touch, you planted your people to bear good fruit, but we bear wild grapes. With a welder's fierce fire, you fashioned your people to glorify you, but we are riddled with impurities. In your generous mercy, O God, regard the vine you planted: save and restore us. Reform the vessel you crafted: cleanse and refine us. Give us life, O God, that with our whole being, we may worship you rightly.

***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**.

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."

***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 19, pages 488

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

Anthem *Sing Praise to God* Rachel Aarons

The anthem, by contemporary American composer Rachel Aarons, is an arrangement of hymn with a Bohemian Brethren tune. The accompaniment is based on an organ work of J.S. Bach.

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of all salvation;
with healing balm my soul he fills, and every faithless murmur stills:
to God all praise and glory.
What God's almighty power hath made, his gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade his watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of his might, lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory.
Let all who name Christ's holy Name give God all praise and glory;
let all who know his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne, the Lord is God, and he alone:
to God all praise and glory.

Second Lesson Matthew 22:1-14, page 902

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

Sermon *Gratitude vs. Entitlement* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 408** *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* GERMANY

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life speaks of the vivid yet timeless evocation of urban need. It connects to our own day as well as Jesus' lament over Jerusalem. The tune was first used with this text and is now customary.

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

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.

**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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Sing Praise to God* Charles Ore

***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 272** *God of the Sparrow* ROEDER

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** LAND OF REST

Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

Postlude *Psalm 19* Benedetto Marcello

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 the Sparrow appears to be in freeform, and the flowing melody enhances that sense. But each stanza is firmly anchored by a final weighty word, a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

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 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS
Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
The Rev. Ron Gilreath, *Liturgist*

Lay Reader
Paul Lee

USHERS
Jimbo LaBoon III (head), Jim Dove, John Simpson

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN
Bryan Owens

FLOWERS
The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Michael Warren Reed, by Patti Reed.

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER
Rebecca Carlton

TO AID IN WORSHIP
If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and 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

Called Congregational Meeting
Today after worship service

Please join us today after the worship service for a Called Congregational Meeting. The Nominations and Elections Committee will present a slate of names to recommend to the congregation for the formation of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Welcome Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo

Next weekend, the Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo will supply our pulpit at both the stated meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery on Saturday and at our morning worship service on Sunday morning. Dr. Aloyo began his tenure as the 11th President of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur on August 1. Originally from Puerto Rico, Dr. Aloyo comes to Georgia after many years of service in New Jersey as both Associate Dean at Princeton Theological Seminary and as the organizing pastor of La Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras. FPC and Columbia Seminary have a relationship that stretches back over two centuries; the seminary was organized in the manse of the church in Lexington in 1828, before moving to Columbia, South Carolina in 1830. In the late 1920s, the seminary relocated to its present campus in Decatur where it continues to train church leaders from all over the nation and the world.

Welcome Back Biscuit Brunch
Sunday, August 21, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Please join us after worship next Sunday after the 10 a.m. worship service for our Welcome Back Biscuit Brunch. We'll have coffee, fruit, and a variety of Bojangles biscuits. Come connect with friends old and new and celebrate the start of the Fall season.

Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, August 28, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code AFPC) or contact the church office. If you cannot give blood but would like to help check-in donors, please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer (jbneighb@bellsouth.net).

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 14
9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Chancel Choir Room
10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
10:00 a.m. Godly Play, Children's Ministry Suite
11:00 a.m. Good Shepherd Summer Club, Children's Ministry Suite
11:05 a.m. Called Congregational Meeting

Monday, August 15
1:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Leader Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, August 16
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Wednesday, August 17
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Chancel Choir Room

Thursday, August 18
5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Saturday, August 20
8:30 p.m. Northeast Georgia Stated Presbytery Meeting, Sanctuary

Sunday, August 21
10:00 a.m. Service, Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo preaching
11:00 a.m. Welcome Back Biscuit Brunch, Fellowship Hall
3:00 p.m. WDS Parents Meeting, Sanctuary
3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
4:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
5:00 p.m. Youth Parent Potluck, Fellowship Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, August 28 - Red Cross Blood Drive, Two Worship Services Resume

First Presbyterian Church of Athens

Associate Pastor Nominating Commitee



Jill Hopkins has been a member of FPC most recently the past three years but previously another 12 years before she moved from Athens. 1976 – 1988 and then 2019 – 2022. She has served as an elder in two other PCUSA Churches. She is a member of the handbell choir, Chancel choir, prepared meals for the Presbyterian Student Center, and delivered Meals on Wheels.



Don DeMaria has been a member of FPC for 10 years. He has served as an elder, usher, and Sunday School teacher for children and youth. Don has been active with Missions and Outreach, co-chairing the last Habitat project, and participating in missions in Philadelphia and Honduras.



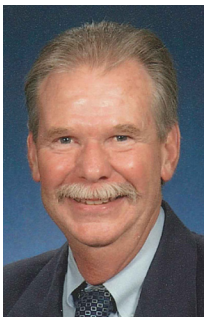
Dick Ferguson has been a member of FPC for 46 years. He has served on the session, chaired the large construction capital campaign, served on the endowment committee, taught Sunday school, and served as usher and greeter.



Mike Morris has been a member of FPC for 24 years. He has twice served on Session where he was the finance chair. He has also chaired and served on stewardship drives on multiple occasions as well as serving on the Capital Campaigns. He is a member of the Del Dunn Sunday School class, where he teaches together with other class members. He has served the Church as an usher, greeter, and lay reader. He is presently serving on the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery.

First Presbyterian Church of Athens

Associate Pastor Nominating Commitee



Jerry Rogers has been a member of FPC for 46 years. He has been a deacon and an elder, serving as the chair of the Christian Education Commission and of the Week Day School. He has served on several other committees or commissions and is currently a member of Mission/Outreach and a laycaller.



Margaret Sapp has been a member of FPC since 2017. She is a Children's Ministry Volunteer and currently serves on the Education and Discipleship Commission.



Laura Toney has been a member of FPC for 20 years. She has served as an elder, usher, lay reader, and greeter. She is a commissioned Stephen Minister and has been a member of the Personnel Committee, as well as a Confirmation mentor and Weekday School Live Nativity wiseman.
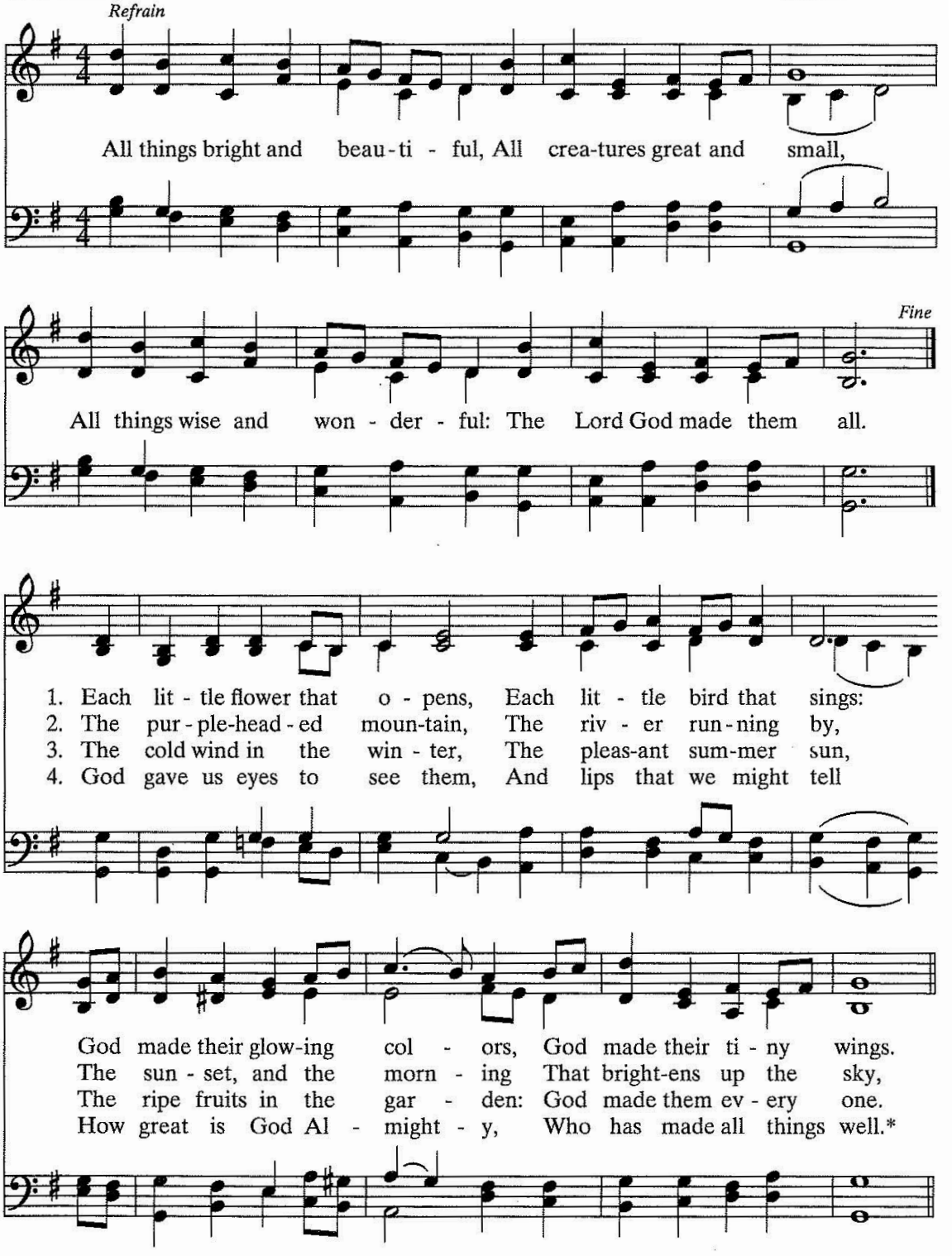


Madeline Van Dyck has been a member of FPC for 36 years. She has been a Lay Caller and served on Congregational Care Committees for a number of years, is a Godly Play leader, participates in our Family Promise ministry, helps coordinate the Dot's Closet and Ride Share programs, and has been the parish nurse for 10 years.

All Things Bright and Beautiful 267

ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6 with refrain

English melody, 17th century
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915
Harm. for *The Hymnbook,* 1953

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848
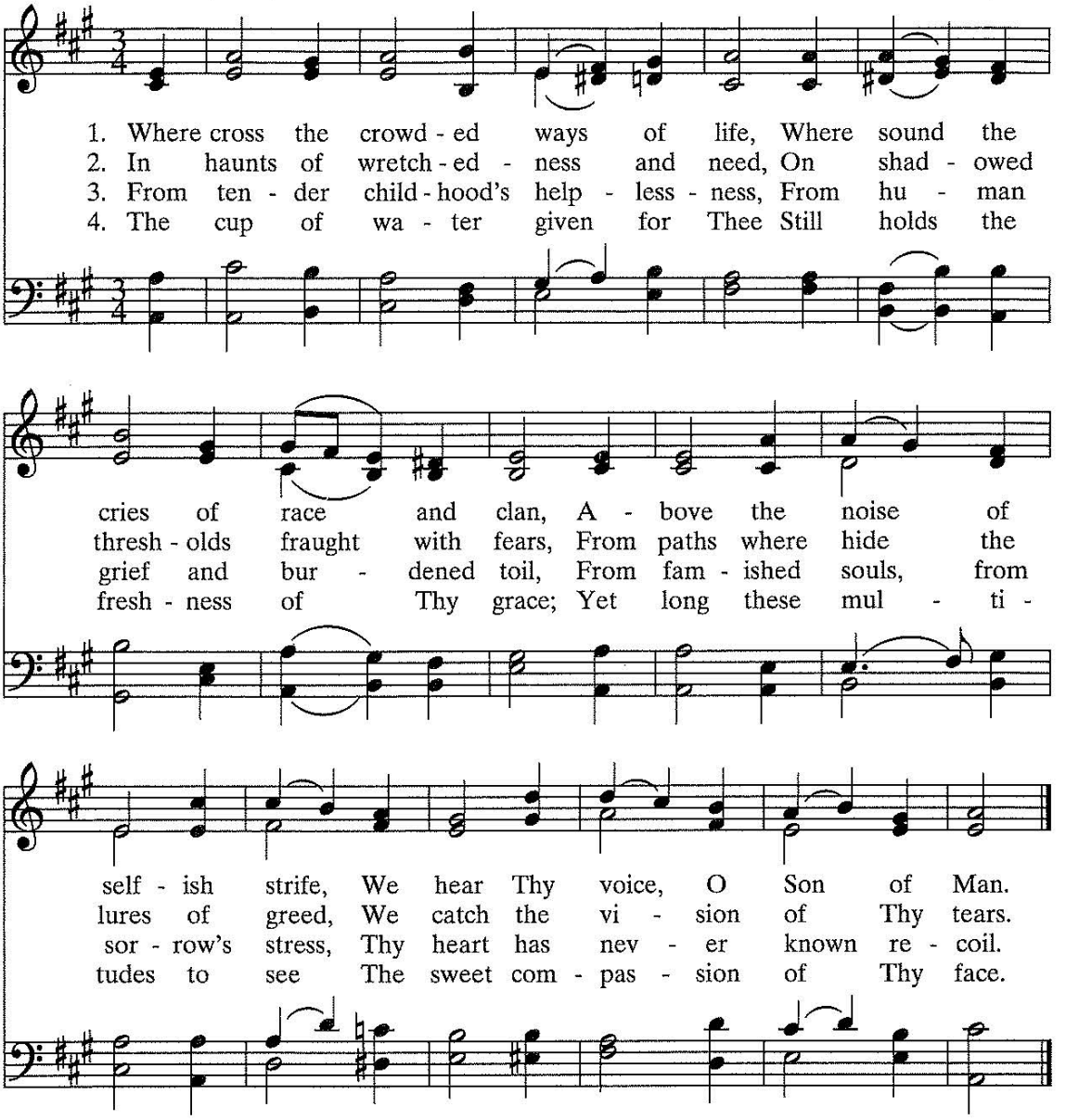


**Repeat Refrain.*

408 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

GERMANY LM

Attr. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)
Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies,* 1815

Frank Mason North, 1905; alt.
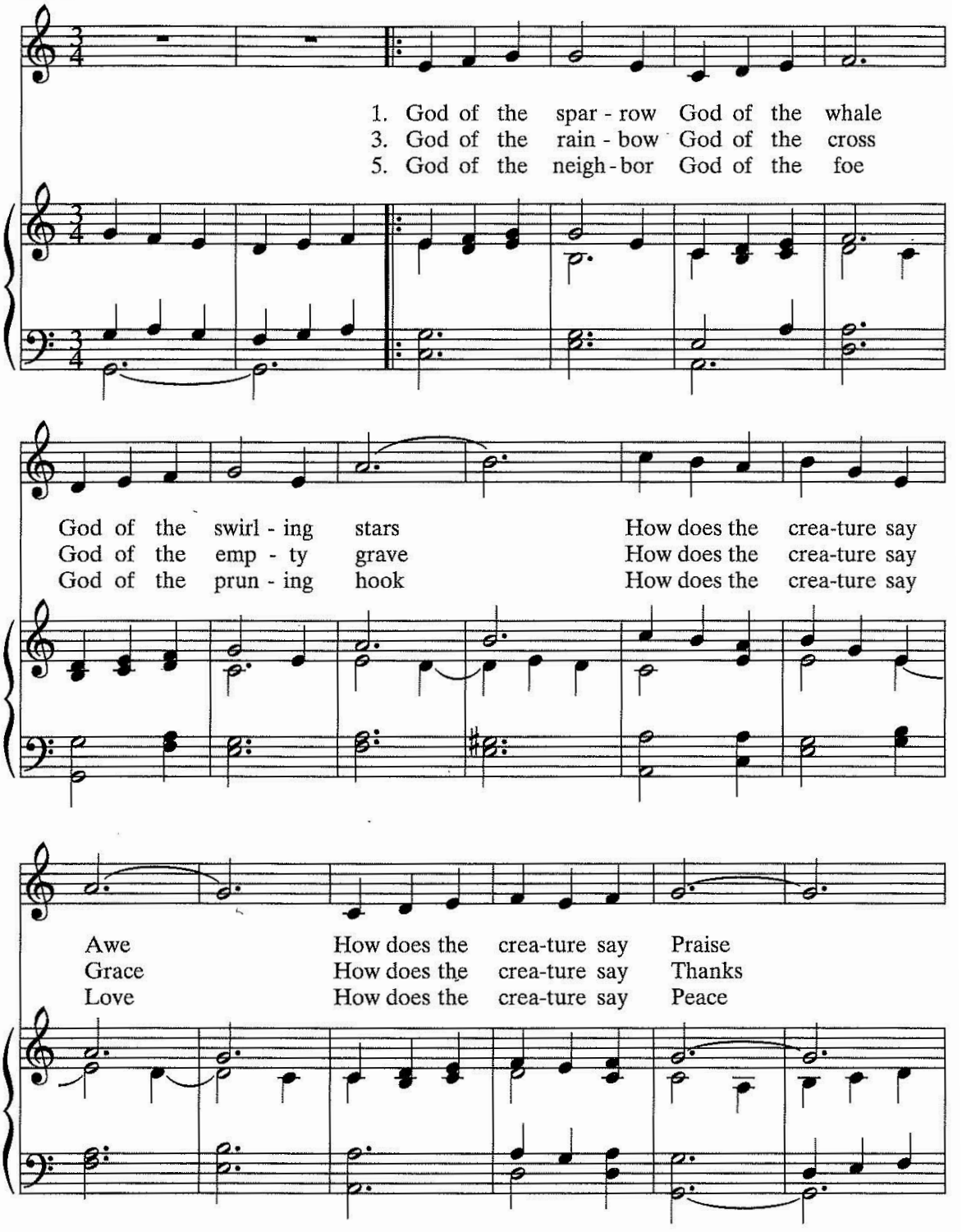


5. O Master, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again;

6. Till all the world shall learn Thy love,
And follow where Thy feet have trod;
Till glorious from Thy heaven above
Shall come the city of our God.
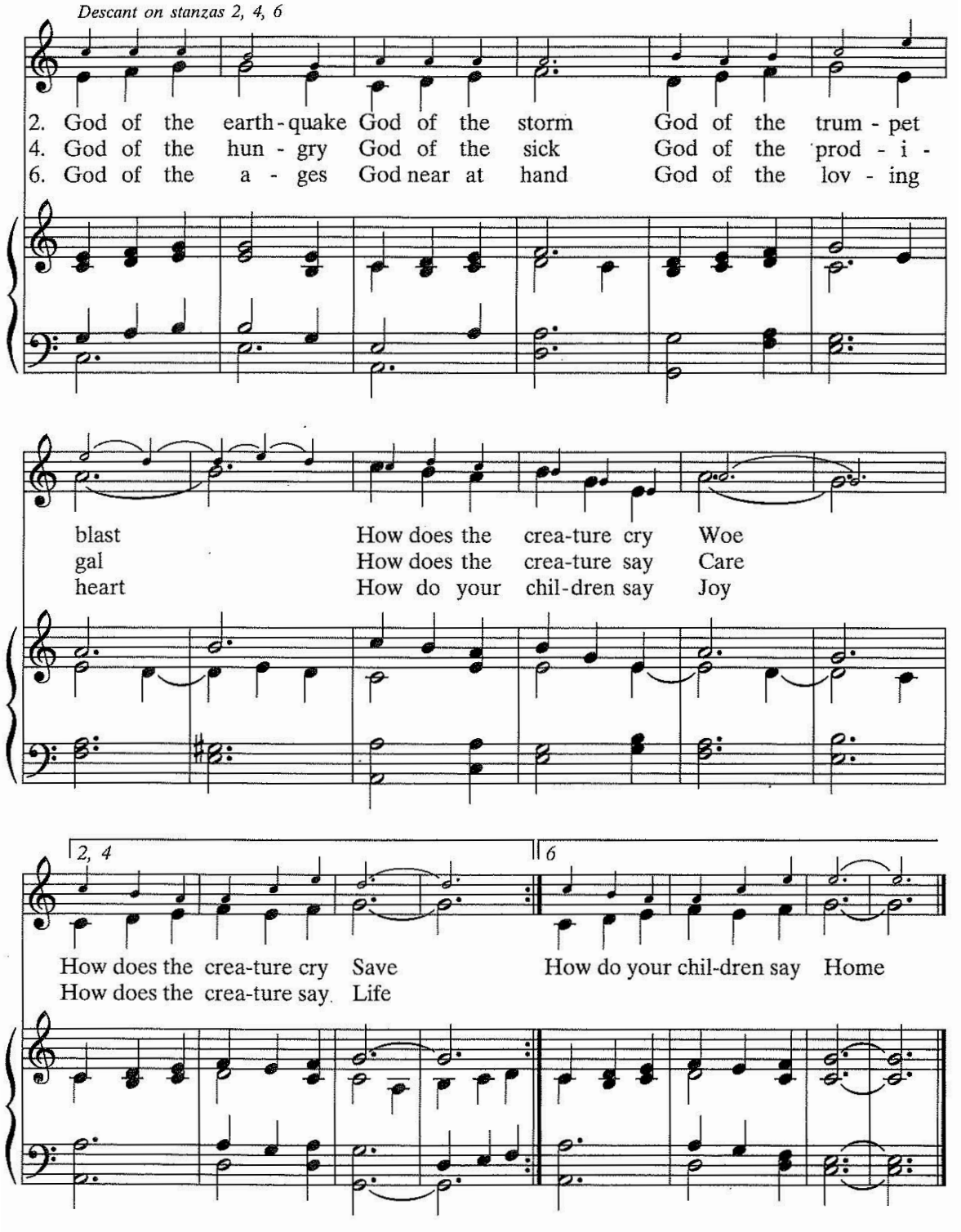
272 God of the Sparrow

ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983 — Carl F. Schalk, 1983



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Music: Copyright © 1983 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. All rights reserved.


Descant on stanzas 2, 4, 6
2. God of the earth-quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
4. God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -
6. God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the lov - ing
blast How does the crea-ture cry Woe
gal How does the crea-ture say Care
heart How do your chil-dren say Joy
2, 4
6
How does the crea-ture cry Save
How does the crea-ture say Life
How do your chil-dren say Home
♩=108–116

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Karen Burg	Sarah Bryan	Shannon Brooks
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw	Judy Burch	Phyllis Crowell
Kitty Donnan	Kent Burel	Kemp Gaskill
Rob Haire	Rod Canfield	Denise Horton
Larry Jones	Melinda DeMaria	Paul Lee
Andy Jordan	Jim Dove	Sharon Logan
Jimbo LaBoon III	Mark Hopkins	Bruce Middendorf
Tom Landrum	Matt Jones	Randy Riner
Beverly Phares	Robyn McDonald	Chuck Toney
Smith Wilson	Keith Oelke	

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor (ryan@firstpresathens.org)*
The Rev. Ron Gilreath, *Acting Parish Associate (rjgilreath@att.net)*
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)*
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Office Administrator (lbell@firstpresathens.org)*
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist (paulo@firstpresathens.org)*
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)*
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant*
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *Accounting Assistant (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*