



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 2, 2022
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday

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

Sanctus and Agnus Dei

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission *Peace & Global Witness Offering* Mark Hopkins

Song of Gathering

HOLY MANNA

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.

Come from wilderness and wandering.

Here, in truth, we will be fed.

You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Call to Worship

The feast is ready to begin!

Thanks be to God, we are all invited.

The feast is ready to begin!

Thanks be to God, we each have a place at the table.

The feast is ready to begin!

Thanks be to God, Jesus welcomes each of us here.

The feast is ready to begin!

Thanks be to God, here we can taste of good things to come.

The feast is ready to begin! Let us worship God.

*Hymn 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of all people, we give you thanks that you dispersed the people in the Tower of Babel so that linguistic and cultural diversity might thrive. Yet we confess that we are not ready to welcome that diversity into our own lives. We want to keep our ways the same and ask others to adopt them, rather than embracing and adopting what others offer to us. We are not ready for our church to reflect the vibrancy and diversity of the Church universal. We are not ready for the unity you offer at your (cont.)

**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).

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*, and 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century.

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.”

Children are invited to remain in the Sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

The author of *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* was an American hymnologist who wrote several books about hymns, a Presbyterian minister, and an editor of several hymnals. The fourth stanza was a later addition relating sacrament to service.

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/ give. Thank you for your generosity.

communion table, Lord. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to destroy the Towers of Babel we have built in our hearts, so that your Holy Spirit has more room to move and breathe among us.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*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

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29, page 59

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

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 10:1-4; 14-17, page 1046

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

Sermon

Hospitality and Unity

The Rev. Leigh Bonner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 508

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM

*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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory

Improvisation

John Coble

11:00 a.m. Offertory

Love Bade Me Welcome

Roland Martin

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back, guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack from my first entrance in,
drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning if I lacked anything. (cont.)

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here: Love said, you shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, who made the eyes but I?
Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame go where it doth deserve.
And know you not says Love, who bore the blame? My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat: so I did sit and eat.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

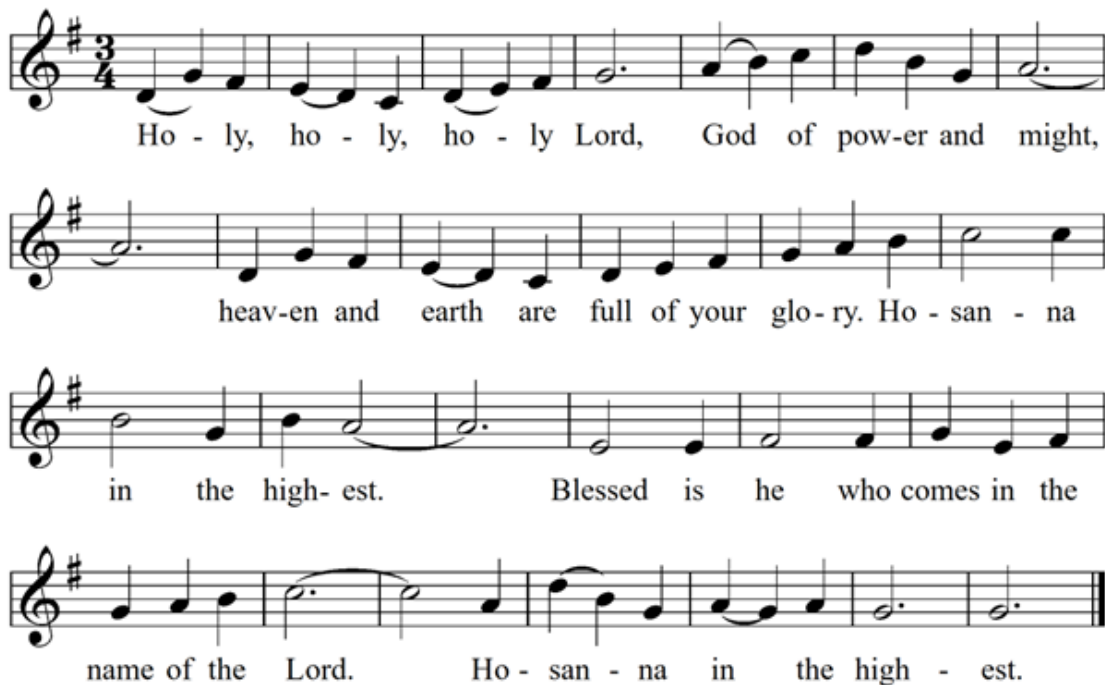
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise....

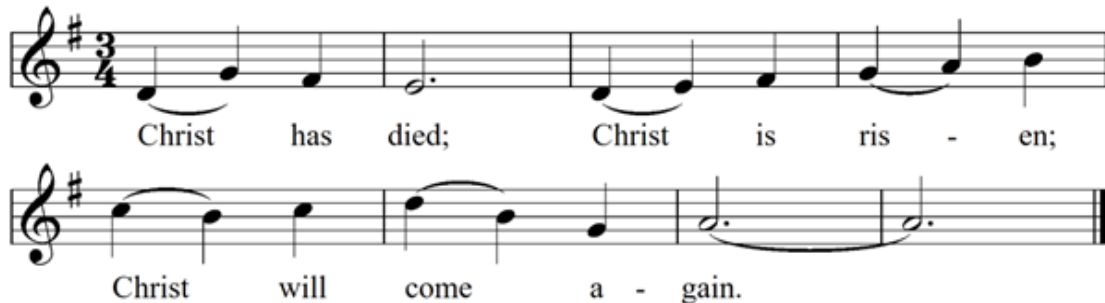
The musical setting of the communion liturgy is by Thomas Pavlechko, a Lutheran composer and church musician in Austin, Texas.

Sanctus



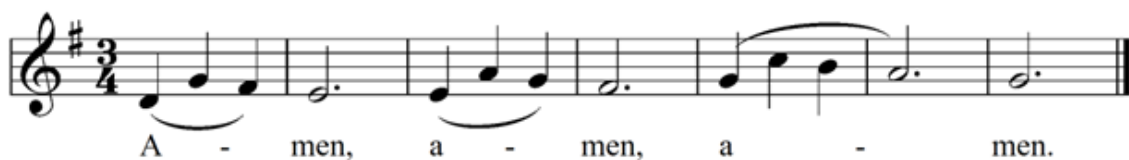
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na
in the high- est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en;
Christ will come a - gain.

Great Amen



The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 507

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Hymn 535

God with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.

*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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Postlude

Cwm Rhondda

Paul Manz

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head)

GREETER

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,
Faye Marshall

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Rebecca Carlton

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Susie Mendenhall by the Mendenhall family.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium, 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.

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.

Children’s Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays. Children’s Church will resume next Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS,
TODAY AT 4:00 P.M.**

Join us today at 4:00 p.m. for the Blessing of the Animals in the Courtyard. We will offer a blessing for our furry and feathered companions. All pets are welcome. Invite your animal-loving neighbors and friends!

**CHOIR DEDICATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 16**

Please save the date for this annual celebration of our music ministry when we honor members of our choirs and they also publicly commit themselves to offering their time and talents by serving in one or more of our choirs.

MATTHEW 25 CONVERSATIONS

Join us this **Thursday, October 6** at 5:30 p.m. in Moses Waddel Room as the Rev. Leigh Bonner will lead a conversation about why and how the church is called to Do Mission work.

**SEEKING WATER STATION
VOLUNTEERS**

FPC will staff the last water station on the AthHalf race on October 23, as is our tradition. Helpers of all ages are needed to pour and hand out water and Gatorade. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Rev. Leigh Bonner at lbonner@firstpresathens.org.

Peace and Global Witness Offering Today

World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October, marks the day we receive a special offering for Peace and Global Witness. Your gift will enable the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Twenty-five percent will stay locally to aid Advantage Behavioral Health Systems as a witness to Christ’s peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Please note your gift to FPC is for “Peace & Global Witness.” If you are making your contribution through FPC website, select “select “General Fund” under “Select a Fund,” and in the optional memo write “Peace & Global Witness.”

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 2 - World Communion Sunday, Peace and Global Witness Offering, Food Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching
- 9:45 p.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals, Courtyard
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, October 3

- 2:00 p.m. Circle Two, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, October 4

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, October 5

- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge Group, Room 301
- 4:30 p.m. Chair Yoga with Mel Berzack, The Sun Room (Tinsley-Stern Building)
- 4:30 p.m. Dante's Inferno with Ron Bogue, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Supper, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. "This I Believe: A Conversation About the Apostles' Creed", Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 6

- 9:10 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 5:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Conversations: Why Do Mission? How? Where, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. College of Elders Dinner, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 9

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 p.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

LOOKING AHEAD

October 16 - Choir Dedication Sunday

October 23 - AthHalf Pre-Race Service, AthHalf Water Station Volunteer, One Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

October 30 - Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Nursery Play, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children's Playroom • Infants – 4 Year Olds

Little ones are invited to Nursery Play during worship and Sunday school. Children will enjoy playtime, Bible stories, and a light snack with church friends.

Godly Play, 9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

Children's Ministry Suite • Pre-K – 5th Grade

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 and nurturing space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

Children and Worship, 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

All children are welcome to remain in worship with their families every Sunday. Children's bulletins, Bibles, and books are available at the children's tables located in the Narthex and on both sides of the choir loft.

Children's Church, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Children, Pre-K – 1st Grade are invited to Children's Church to continue worshipping together by listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God and giving to God. On the last Sunday of the month, children, Pre-K–5th Grade are invited to a special Children's Church in the Children's Ministry Suite.

****All children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of the month to take part in worship and Communion with family.***

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.)

Middle School class is using a well-loved curriculum called re:form. With funny videos, creative activities, and lots of time to explore big and small questions of faith, this will be a fun, class for all our 6th–8th graders!

High School youth are encouraged to attend the intergenerational Inquirers Class that meets in the Moses Waddel Room. This semester, we are tackling issues of homelessness and how we can work together on the Matthew 25 goal to eradicate systemic poverty. Once a month, high schoolers will also be invited to worship together followed by lunch and a time of reflection.

Youth Group

Sunday night youth group is a fast hour of games, get-to-know you activities, devotionals and discussion. This year our theme is Justice and Joy. Youth will gather in the PIT to talk about their faith and begin to understand their role in doing justice AND bringing joy to a hurting world.

Middle School meets 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

High School meets 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Combined Youth Dinner (6:00 p.m.)

Between MS and HS youth groups, everyone will gather in Fellowship Hall for a shared meal. If you'd like to help provide a meal for our youth, please sign up here: tinyurl.com/FPCYouthDinnerHosts

For more information about youth ministry at FPC, visit www.fpcathenspit.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Builders • Room 301

This class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come join for a time of fellowship and support. *Coordinators: Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org), The Rev. Leigh Bonner (lbonner@firstpresathens.org)*

College Connections • Room 302

How does your life intersect with the stories we call Holy Scripture? We will take a deep dive into the writings of the New Testament with the goal of journeying from Matthew to Revelation. Grad and undergrad students are welcome to join at any time. *Coordinator: The Rev. Will Norman (will@pscuga.org)*

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with a focus on Matthew 25: Poverty and Homelessness. *Coordinator: Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org)*

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

The hundred-year-old Hooper Bible Class is currently on hiatus. *Led by: Richard Lane (rlane@uga.edu)*

HYBRID (in person and over Zoom)

Del Dunn Sunday School Class • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture – with a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Zoom and in-person.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 875 216 0708, PW: 634175

New Voices • Room 310

Did John Calvin and Martin Luther get it right? How does the concept of “A Priesthood of Believers” guide our Church life? How does it inform our discussion of critical theological theories and lessons? And, how can the Waymaker (who?) guide us through difficult times? *Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)*

Zoom ID: 843 8852 1222, PW: 185185

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 (jitscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923



Fall Programs 2022

September 18 - November 13

2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Bridge, Room 301

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Chair Yoga with Mel Berzack,
The Sun Room, Tinsley-Stern Building

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. “Dante’s Inferno” with Ron Bogue,
Room 308

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall

***6:30 – 7:30 p.m. “This I Believe: A Conversation
About the Apostles’ Creed” with
Dr. Baer, Moses Waddel Room**

***6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Room 202**

**Childcare Provided*

Wednesday Night Dinner

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



\$10 adults, \$40 max per family (complimentary for children 5 and under). Please RSVP in the Atrium, online at tinyurl.com/WedAtFirst, using the QR code, or by contacting the church office e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338 by Mondays at 12:00 p.m.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

William Williams, 1745

Stanza 1 trans. Peter Williams, 1771

Stanzas 2-3 trans. William Williams, 1772

John Hughes, 1907

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me
 stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me
 fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me

with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through; Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
 Be Thou still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

508 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM 8.7.8.7

Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924; alt.

V. Earle Copes, 1959



1. For the bread which You have bro - ken, For the wine which You have poured,
2. By this prom - ise that You love us, By Your gift of peace re - stored,
3. With the saints who now a - dore You Seat-ed at the heav-en-ly board,
4. In Your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; In our hearts keep watch and ward;



For the words which You have spo-ken, Now we give You thanks, O Lord.
By Your call to heaven a - bove us, Hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
May the church still wait - ing for You Keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
In the world to which You send us. Let Your king-dom come, O Lord.



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I Come with Joy

507

DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1977

American folk melody
Arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, For - giv - en, loved, and
 2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To find, as all are
 3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, Each proud di - vi - sion
 4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His pres - ence, al - ways
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, We'll go our dif - ferent

free, In awe and won - der to re - call His
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love In
 ends. The love that made us, makes us - one, And
 near, Is in such friend - ship bet - ter known: We
 ways, And as His peo - ple in the world, We'll

life laid down for me, His life laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 stran - gers now are friends, And stran - gers now are friends.
 see and praise Him here, We see and praise Him here.
 live and speak His praise, We'll live and speak His praise.

Alternate tune: LAND OF REST, 522

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Kitty Donnan
Rob Haire
Larry Jones
Andy Jordan
Jimbo LaBoon III
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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor* (lbonner@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*