



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 9, 2022
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Eighteenth 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.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Administration Commission

Song of Gathering

Hymn 229, stanza 1

**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart.

Great are the works of the Lord!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

God's praise endures forever!

*Hymn 470

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We confess that we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have broken your law and failed to be the people you have created and called us to be. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

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

MFM will be given by:
8:45 a.m.: Smith Wilson
11:00 a.m.: Phyllis Crowell

O Day of Radiant Gladness, a text for the first day of the week and the Sabbath, representing creation and resurrection. The tune name recalls the German song adapted for use with several hymns.

**Those who are able may stand.*

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 - 1st Grade, are invited to Children’s Church held in the Children’s Ministry Suite on the first floor.

11:00 a.m. Lay Reader:
Mark Hopkins

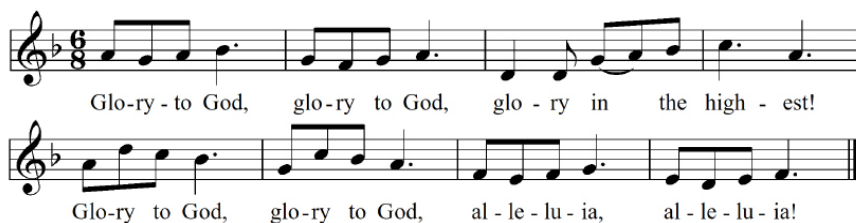
The anthem is a setting of Psalm 119:33-38, 40, written by contemporary American composer and church musician David Hurd. It was composed for the closing service of the Anglican Association of Musicians’ Conference in 1979.

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee is a testimony of experience. Based on Psalm 55:22, the author/ composer wrote the hymn in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being left penniless following a robbery.

*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

Matthew 5:17, page 882

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

11:00 Anthem

Teach Me, O Lord

David Hurd

Refrain: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes;
and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with all my heart.

Make me go in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire. *Refrain*

Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;
give me life in your ways. *Refrain*

Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which you make to those who fear you.

Behold, I long for your commandments;
in your righteousness preserve my life. *Refrain*

Second Lesson

Exodus 19:3-7, 20:1-17 page 64

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

Sermon

Words to Live By

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 282

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

*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**

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.

Offertory *These Are the Holy Ten Commandments*
Johann Sebastian Bach

Hymn 592

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

SANDON

*Congregational Response Hymn 535

Hymn 535

*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
OneLicense.net #A-714861*

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.

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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. Mark Hopkins

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney (head),
Larry Jones, Laura Toney

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Barbara Laughlin and Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Melinda DeMaria

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Arthur Robinson McKay, Jr and Max Louis Wendler by Carol McKay.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Christ caring for people through people” is the Stephen Ministry motto. Stephen Ministers bring God’s love into the lives of others by listening, caring, supporting, encouraging, and praying with and for a person going through a difficult time.

If you know of someone in need of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders:

Ron Gilreath: rjgilreath@att.net, 770-335-9976
Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com, 706-540-4251

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

Called Congregational Meeting October 23, after 11:00 a.m. worship service

The Session calls the congregation to meet Sunday, October 23, after 11:00 a.m. worship service, in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of receiving a report from the Nominating Committee and electing officers to their respective terms. Nursery care will be available for infants and toddlers.



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.

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, October 10

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, October 11

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 10:00 a.m. Advent Planning Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Wednesday, October 12

- 9:30 a.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village
- 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 13

- 9:10 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting via Zoom
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, October 16 - Choir Dedication Sunday

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 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 23 - AthHalf Pre-Race Service, AthHalf Water Station Volunteer, One Worship Service at 11:00 a.m., Called Congregational Meeting

October 30 - Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

AthHalf Pre-Race Service October 23

Invite your racing friends and supporters to our informal worship at 6:30 a.m. on the Atrium.
Due to the race there will be no 8:45 a.m. service on October 23.

Join us on October 26 for a special Wed@First

Instead of our Annual Church Picnic, this year we will enjoy pumpkin carving fun during Wednesday Night Dinner on October 26 in Fellowship Hall. This is a BYOP event (Bring Your Own Pumpkin). Please make your reservation by noon on **Monday, October 24.**

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.

This class will not meet on October 9.

Coordinator: Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org)

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 (jjtscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

O Day of Radiant Gladness

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN 7.6.7.6 D

Stanzas 1-2, Christopher Wordsworth, 1862; alt.

Stanza 3, Charles P. Price, 1980

Stanza 4, *The Hymnal* 1982

Memmingen ms., 17th century

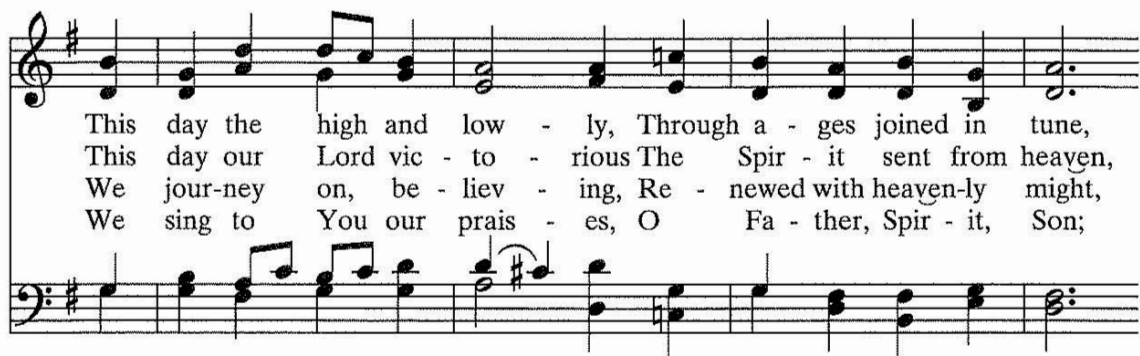
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904



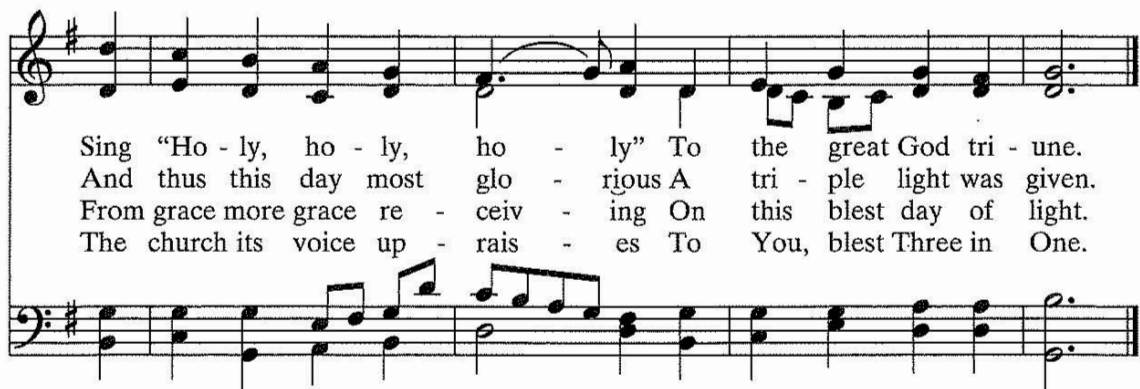
1. O day of ra-diant glad-ness, O day of joy and light,
 2. This day at the cre-a-tion The light first had its birth;
 3. This day God's peo-ple, meet-ing, The Ho-ly Scrip-ture hear;
 4. That light our hope sus-tain-ing, We walk the pil-grim way,



O balm of care and sad-ness, Most beau-ti-ful, most bright;
 This day for our sal-va-tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
 Christ's liv-ing pres-ence greet-ing, Through bread and wine made near.
 At length our rest at-tain-ing, Our end-less Sab-bath day.



This day the high and low-ly, Through a-ges joined in tune,
 This day our Lord vic-to-rious The Spir-it sent from heaven,
 We jour-ney on, be-liev-ing, Re-newed with heav-en-ly might,
 We sing to You our prais-es, O Fa-ther, Spir-it, Son;



Sing "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly" To the great God tri-une.
 And thus this day most glo-rious A tri-ple light was given.
 From grace more grace re-ceive-ing On this blest day of light.
 The church its voice up-raises To You, blest Three in One.

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee 282

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT 9.8.9.8.8.8

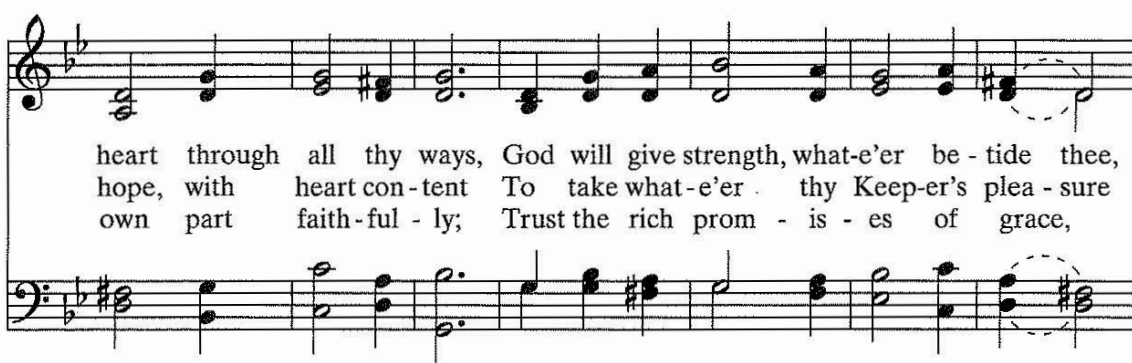
Georg Neumark, 1657

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863; alt. 1987

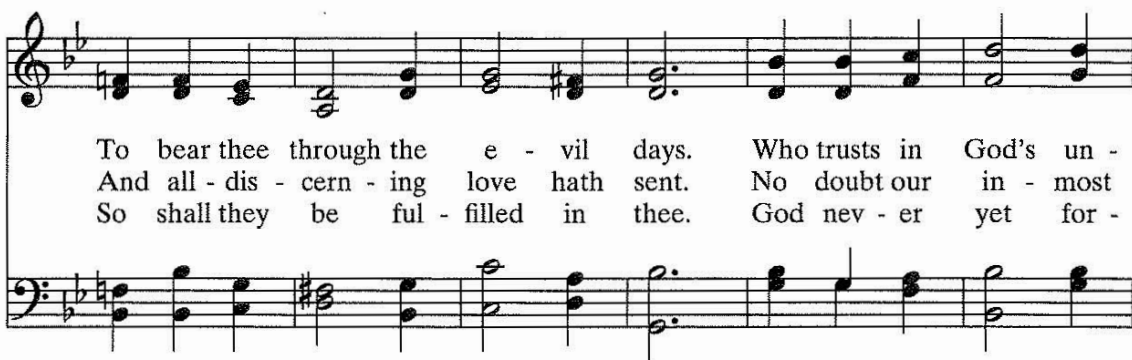
Georg Neumark, 1657



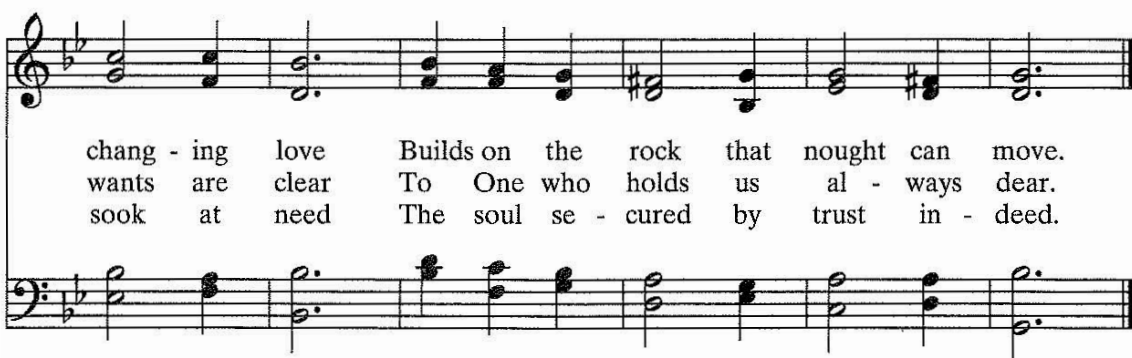
1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee, With hope - ful
 2. On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure In cheer - ful
 3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, But do thine



heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what-e'er be - tide thee,
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what-e'er thy Keep-er's plea - sure
 own part faith - ful - ly; Trust the rich prom - is - es of grace,



To bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -
 And all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our in - most
 So shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er yet for -



chang - ing love Builds on the rock that nought can move.
 wants are clear To One who holds us al - ways dear.
 sook at need The soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

God of Our Life

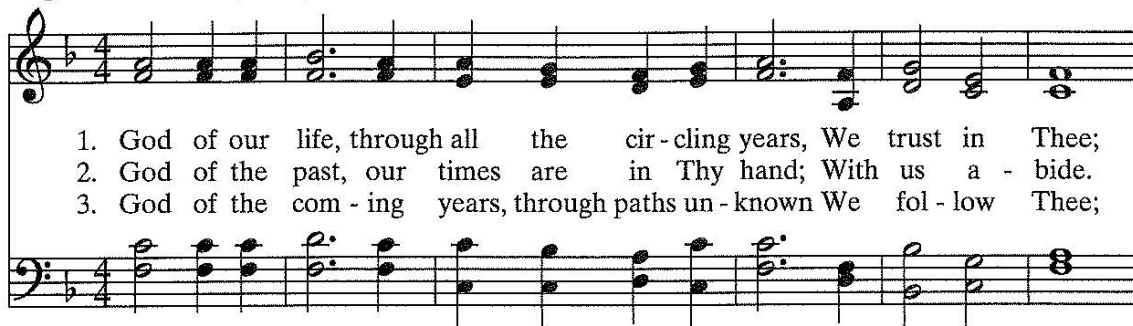
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SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10

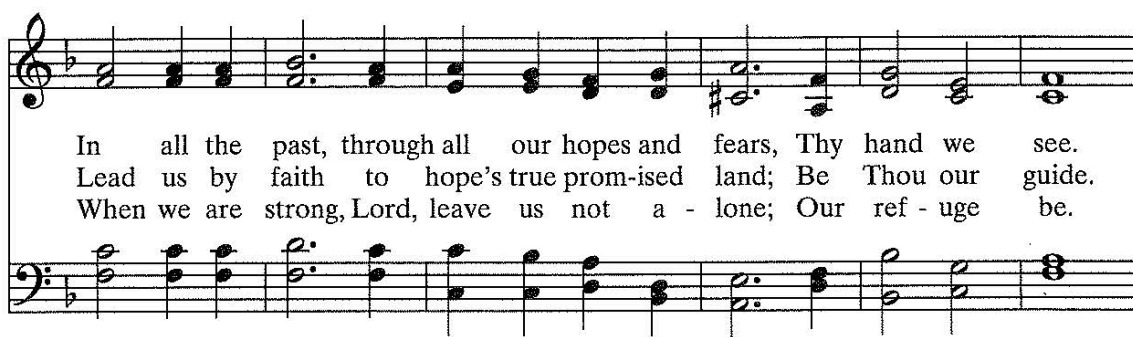
Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916; alt. 1928

Charles Henry Purday, 1860

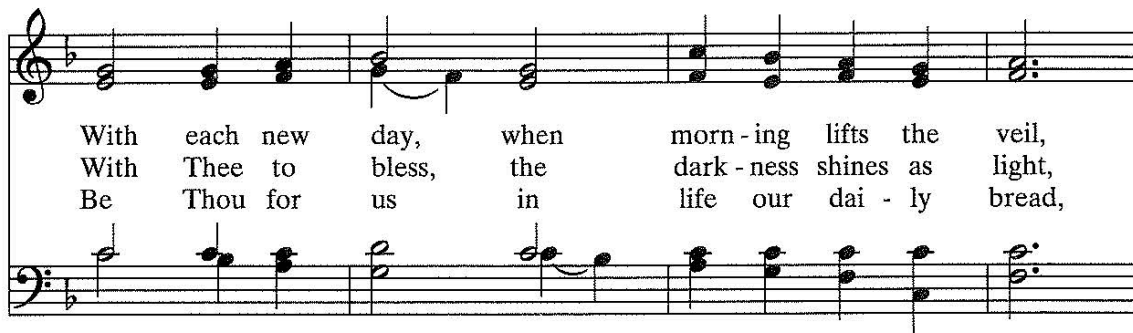
Harm. John Weaver, 1986



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.

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*