



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!

January 1, 2023

10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

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

Noël

Louis-Claude Daquin

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Congregational Response

Hymn 28, stanza 2

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Call to Worship

Today is a new day, a new month, a new year!

Let the light of God shine through us, each and every day!

We make resolutions, promises for fresh starts;

In Christ, we have a fresh start, every moment of every day.

May we set aside the demands and hopes and frustrations of the world.

With the Holy Spirit's guidance, may we live into God's ways, now and every day.

Come, let us worship God, who leads us into new life;

Come, worship God, who is making all things new!

*Hymn insert

Another Year Is Dawning

AURELIA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of all time, as we step into yet another new year on our calendar, we sometimes forget that the way you keep time is vastly different from our own. At times, we grow impatient with your slow, sure, subtle work – in, through, and among us. Forgive us when we do not pause to discern. Other times, we grow complacent or fearful, slow to act when your Holy Spirit calls us to move forth in boldness. Forgive us when we allow our hesitation and fears to get in the way of your forward-motion. Help us to live more into the fullness of time you offer through the way of Jesus.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**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).

Another Year Is Dawning was written in 1874 for ornamental leaflets and cards published in 1875. It is sung to the tune *Aurelia* (meaning "golden"), which was composed by Samuel S. Wesley.

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.”

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.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Hymn 28, stanza 3

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

*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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome Steven Brooks, into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

*Question to the Congregation

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Steven by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

*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.**

Hymn

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN



Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
blood of Christ, our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing the
pro - mise, faith-ful-ly now God's prais-es we sing.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 132:11-12, page 563

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

Second Lesson

Matthew 1:1-17, page 879

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

Sermon

Rotten Branches Bloom Anew The Rev. Leigh Bonner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ES IST EIN' ROS'

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
for to worship God with, this happy New Year.
*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,
open you the West Door and turn the Old Year go.
*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*
Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,
open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.
*Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

*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.

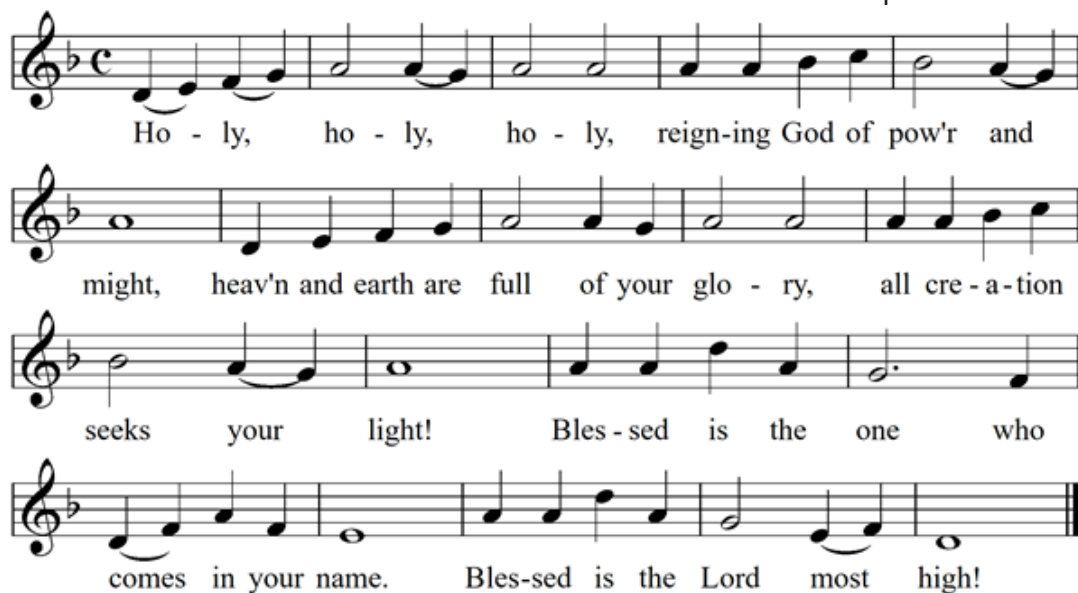
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign-ing God of pow'r and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, all cre - a-tion
seeks your light! Bles - sed is the one who
comes in your name. Bles-sed is the Lord most high!

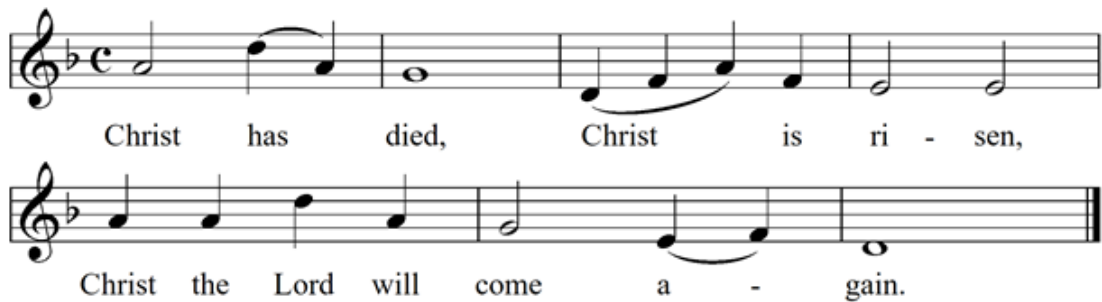
The original version of the 15th-century German text *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* included many more stanzas. The Catholic tune is harmonized in the 17th century by Michael Praetorius.



You may mail your check, set up an automatic gift through your bank, or donate online using this QR code or at firstpresathens.org/give. Thank you for your generosity.

Different interpretations of the offertory anthem include a tradition of children collecting fresh water from a well on New Year's Day to sprinkle on people as they sang the carol. The words "levy dew" may come from a Welsh phrase meaning "a cry to God," or in French, "raise to God," which refers to raising communion elements.

Memorial Acclamation



Great Amen



Isaac Watts did not write *Joy to the World* strictly for Christmas. It is a paraphrase of Psalm 98 and an example of Watts “Christianizing” the psalms.

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

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 40** *Joy to the World!* ANTIOCH

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 68, stanza 4
To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one, may every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise.

Postlude *In You Is Gladness* Johann Sebastian Bach

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 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. Our fully vaccinated nursery staff is excited to welcome our youngest members.

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*

Baptism Elder

Shannon Brooks

USHERS

John Simpson, Jimbo LaBoon

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

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

FOOD SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

You may bring donations of **1 lb bag of plain white rice, saltine crackers, sweet and/or salty snack foods** to church next **Sunday, January 8**. You may also bring food to church office until **Friday, January 6**. Thanks for your donations in December – our neighbors in need are grateful!

MATTHEW 25 ALIGNING HEARTS AND HANDS WORKSHOP

As we begin a new year, the Matthew 25 Commission invites you to a visioning lunch following worship. We'll focus on how to live out the Matthew 25 values through adult faith formation and mission and outreach. Please see more information and RSVP on FPC website.

2023-24 WEEKDAY SCHOOL

First Pres Weekday School registration for Fall 2023 begins for in-house students on Tuesday, January 17. On Friday, January 20 at noon, community registration begins. Our Weekday School is a half day church preschool serving 3 months through 5 years. Questions? Call our director, Elaine Johnson, at (706) 206-8180 or e-mail elaine@firstpresathens.org.

Be a part of the 2023 MLK Day of Service in Athens! Monday, January 16

What a great way to start off 2023 by joining other members of First Presbyterian and the Athens Community by honoring Martin Luther King and helping to make Athens a more beautiful and welcoming place to live! Volunteer registration will open on January 2. You can see more information about volunteer opportunities and register at tinyurl.com/FPCMLKDay.

The kick-off celebration will take place January 16 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. at the Clarke Central High School gymnasium located at 350 South Milledge Avenue. Volunteers will then head out to their selected sites and work from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Athens MLK Day of Service is an annual celebration in support of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and commitment to service. In 1994, Congress made the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday an official day of service. Athens, Georgia is one of the thousands of cities across the United States that decided to make this "A Day On and Not a Day Off."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 1 - New Year's Day, Communion Sunday

10:00 a.m. Service, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching

11:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels Delivery

Monday, January 2 - Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4

Wednesday, January 4

12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Thursday, January 5

5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, January 8 - Food Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play

12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium

12:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Aligning Hearts and Hands Workshop, Fellowship Hall

5:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

LOOKING AHEAD

January 16 - MLK Day of Service

January 17 - Weekday School Registration for Fall 2023 Begins

Another Year Is Dawning

GENESIS 1:14; 8:22
Frances R. Havergal, 1874

AURELIA
Samuel S. Wesley, pub.1864

1. An - oth - er year is dawn - ing, dear Fa - ther, let it be In work - ing or in wait - ing, an -
2. An - oth - er year of mer - cies, of faith - ful - ness and grace, An - oth - er year of glad - ness in the
3. An - oth - er year of ser - vice, of wit - ness for Thy love, An - oth - er year of train - ing for

oth - er year with Thee; An - oth - er year of prog - ress, an - oth - er year of praise,
shin - ing of Thy face; An - oth - er year of lean - ing up - on Thy lov - ing breast;
ho - lier work a - bove; An - oth - er year is dawn - ing, dear Fa - ther, let it be

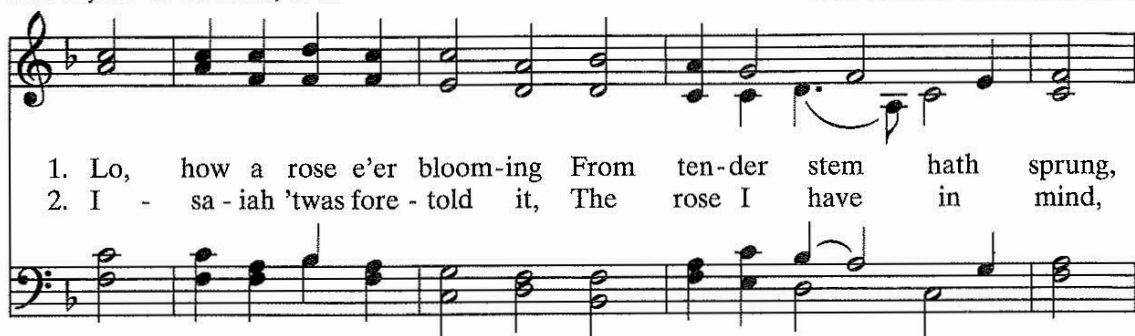
An - oth - er year of prov - ing Thy pres - ence all the days.
An - oth - er year of trust - ing, of qui - et, hap - py rest.
On earth, or else in Heav - en, an - oth - er year for Thee.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

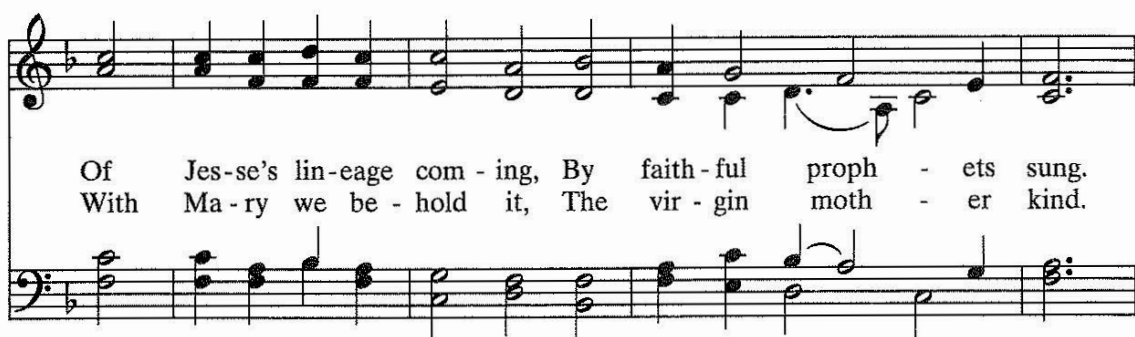
ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

German carol, 15th century
 Trans. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)
 Alt. *Rejoice in the Lord*, 1985

*Alte Catholische Geistliche
 Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599
 Arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609



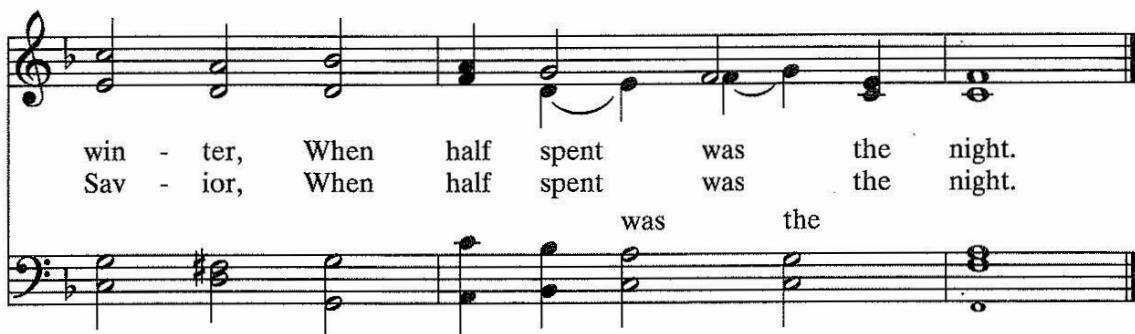
1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung,
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in mind,



Of Jes-se's lin-eage com - ing, By faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er kind.



It came a flower-et bright, A - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right She bore for us a

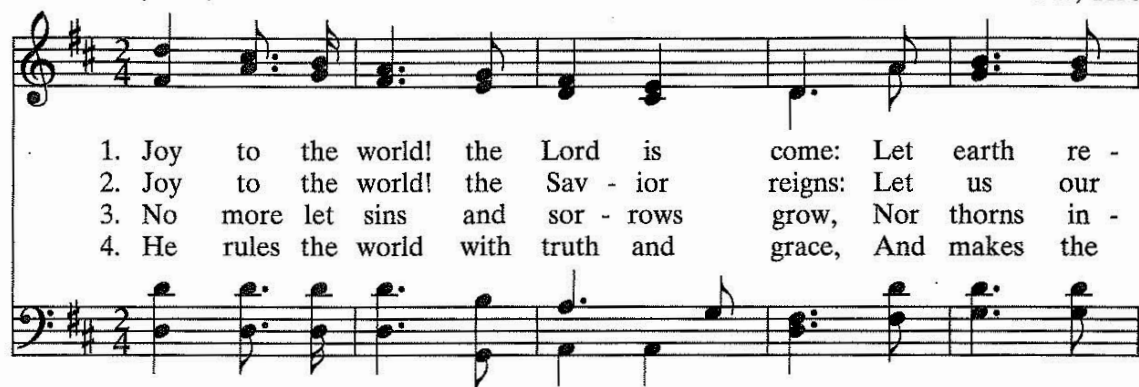


win - ter, When half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.
 was the

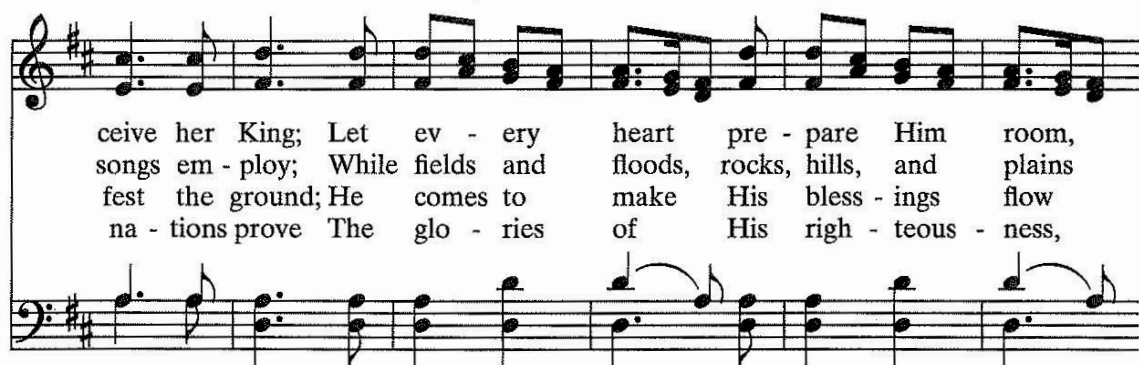
Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH CM with repeat

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836


1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 And heaven and na - ture sing,

And



sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heaven and na - ture sing,