



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!

February 19, 2023
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Transfiguration of the Lord

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

Unser Herrscher

John Ferguson

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Moment for Mission

Education & Discipleship Commission

Melinda DeMaria

*Song of Gathering

Hymn 474, stanza 1

**O splendor of God's glory bright, from light eternal bringing light;
thou light of life, light's living spring, true day, all days illumining.**

Call to Worship

The day has dawned, the morning star rises in our hearts.

We witness the glory of Christ!

God speaks to us in cloud and flame, in mysterious words and dazzling visions.

We witness the glory of Christ!

The Lord loves justice and equity, and is exalted over all the people.

We witness the glory of Christ! Praise the Lord!

*Hymn insert

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

UNSER HERRSCHER

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Magnificent God, we cannot stand before the glory of your presence. You shine with divine light, and we are overwhelmed by your goodness. Lift us in your mercy, release us from our fear, and fill us with your Spirit, that we might reflect your light and share your love, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

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

Some version of the Transfiguration is usually read on the last Sunday after the Epiphany. In *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*, that foretaste of Christ's glorification helps to prepare Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of "God's beloved Son."

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

11:00 Lay Reader:
Charlie Young

The anthem is a text by Brian Wren, set to music by contemporary Lutheran composer Paul Bouman.

Franz Liszt used the melody of *Fairest Lord Jesus* for a “Crusader’s March” on an oratorio, but the hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the original German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

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.

*Congregational Response Alleluia 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.

Introduction of New Members

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Psalm 41:7-10, page 504

11:00 Anthem *Christ upon the Mountain Peak* Paul Bouman

Christ upon the mountain peak
stands alone in glory blazing.
Let us, if we dare to speak,
with the saints and angels praise him – Alleluia!
Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the Law
shout through them their joyful greeting – Alleluia!
Swift the cloud of glory came,
God, proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as his Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder – Alleluia!
This is God’s beloved Son.
Law and prophets fade before him,
first and last and only One.
Let creation now adore him! – Alleluia!

Second Lesson Matthew 16:24-17:8, page 896

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

Sermon *The Mountaintop Experience* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 306 *Fairest Lord Jesus* CRUSADERS’ HYMN

*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.**

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	<i>Fairest Lord Jesus</i>	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 371	<i>Lift High the Cross</i>	CRUCIFER
*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	<i>Toccata</i>	Eugène Gigout



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.

Lift High the Cross celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

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 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, Pre K – 1st Grade, are invited to Children's Church during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Children's Church will be held downstairs in the Children's Ministry Suite. We will depart for Children's Church following the Passing of the Peace. To pick up your child after the service, please go to the church courtyard entrance of the Children's Ministry Suite.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLUMBARIUM DEDICATION, Today
Join us today after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for a ceremony of dedication of the new columbarium.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
FEBRUARY 22**
Join us for a traditional service including the imposition of ashes at 12:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. The 7:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

**USHER TRAINING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 12:00 P.M.**
Ushers play a very important role for our church family. They serve as a church ambassador by meeting, greeting, and assisting members and visitors as they attend services. If you feel called to learn more and serve as an usher, please join us for a training in the Sanctuary next **Sunday, February 26**, after the 11:00 a.m. service. For more information, please contact Jennifer Sunderlin at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org.

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. Charlie Young

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann (head), Carla Buss
11:00 a.m. Don DeMaria (head),
Leslie DeSimone, Michael Earl,
Ethelyn Simpson, Tom Wilfong

GREETERS

11:00 a.m. Carol McKay

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Presbyterian Women, Circle 7

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Allison Bishop Hayes for her Birthday by Janet and Bob Bishop and Will and John Hays.

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.

Meet our Newest Members - Winter 2023



Martha Clay

joins FPC by letter of transfer from Conyers Presbyterian Church, where she served as an elder. Martha is a retired church musician and has graced us with her talents by playing the organ on few occasions during Sunday morning worship. Martha has two adult sons and enjoys hiking and genealogy.

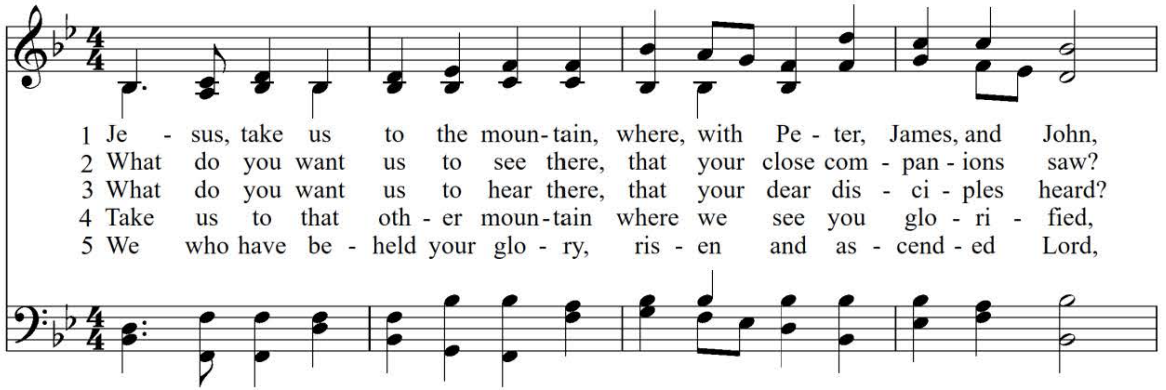
Tony and Anne Marie Miller

join FPC by letter of transfer from Decatur Presbyterian Church, where they both served as elders. Tony is a retired public librarian and enjoys music and writing. Anne Marie is a retired high school substitute teacher and enjoys knitting, reading, and music. They have three adult children.

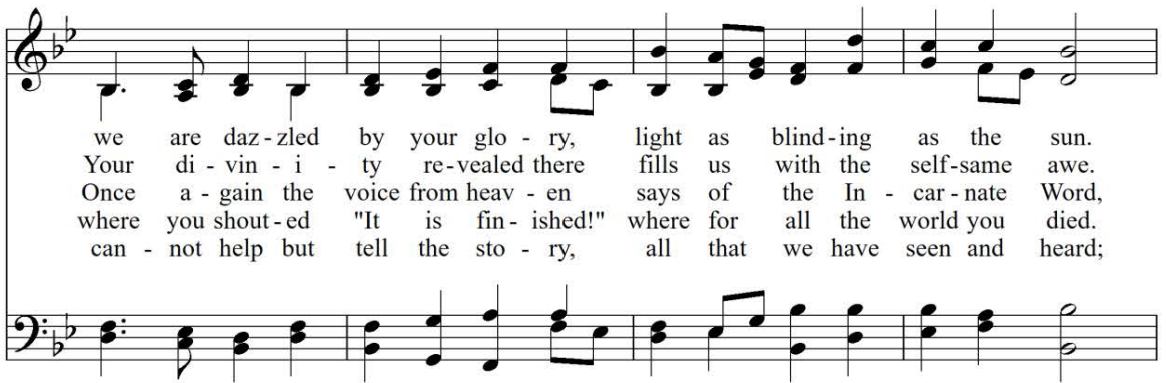


Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

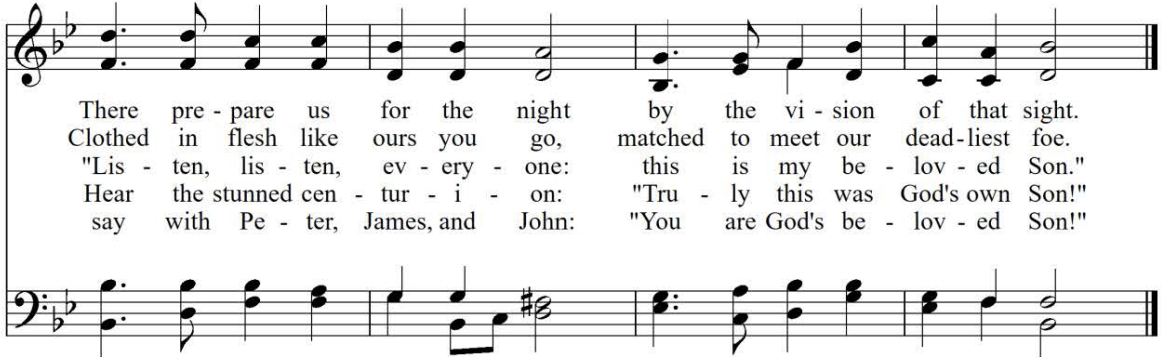
UNSER HERRSCHER



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter, James, and John,
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com - pan - ions saw?
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis - ci - ples heard?
4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you glo - ri - fied,
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as - cend - ed Lord,



we are daz - zled by your glo - ry, light as blind - ing as the sun.
Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there fills us with the self - same awe.
Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car - nate Word,
where you shout - ed "It is fin - ished!" where for all the world you died.
can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that we have seen and heard;



There pre - pare us for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go, matched to meet our dead - liest foe.
"Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."
Hear the stunned cen - tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"
say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991

Music: Joachim Neander, 1680, harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863 alt.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 19 - New Members Introduction

- 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 (hosted by Circle 7)
- 12:00 p.m. Columbarium Dedication
- 12:30 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, February 20 - President's Day, Church Office Closed

Tuesday, February 21

- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday

- 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Services, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching
- 4:30 p.m. Crochet & Knitting Group, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare and Friends: Dante's Inferno, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Supper, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, February 23

- 10:00 a.m. Flower Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Presbyterian Village of Athens

Saturday, February 25

- 9:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting, Belle Terrace Presbyterian Church, Augusta

Sunday, February 26 - Campus Ministry Sunday, Red Cross Blood Drive

- 8:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Will Norman preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. A Special Lenten Godly Play (Families are invited to join), Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 12:00 p.m. Usher Training, Sanctuary
- 12:30 p.m. Education and Discipleship Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 2:00 p.m. Project Safe Work Day, Project Safe Thrift Store (995 Hawthorne Avenue)
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir and Cherub Choir Rehearsals, Room 203
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Youth Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Red Cross Blood Drive **Sunday, February 26, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Please join us in the 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).

Project Safe Work Day **Sunday, February 26, 2:00-5:00 p.m.**

Help tidy the Project Safe Thrift Store in Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7. The store will be closed to shoppers during our work time. Project Safe works to end domestic violence. Please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com to volunteer.



Spring Programs 2023 February 8 - March 29

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Crochet and Knitting Group, Parlor

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Shakespeare and Friends:
“Dante’s Inferno”, 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: Conversations on
the Confession of Belhar” 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.

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!

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.

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: 674 533 8902

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

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)

Fairest Lord Jesus

306

CRUSADERS' HYMN 5.6.8.5.5.8

Münster *Gesangbuch*, 1677

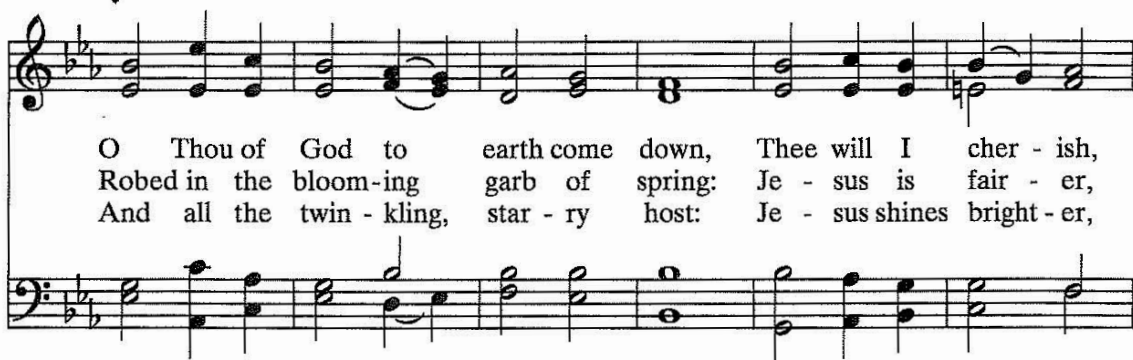
Trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850; alt.

Silesian folk melody

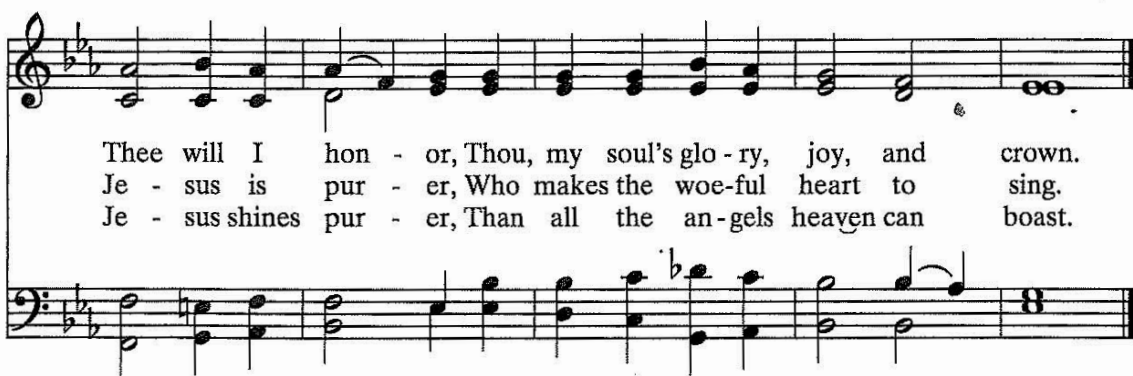
In *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,



O Thou of God to earth come down, Thee will I cher - ish,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twin - kling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,



Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

Lift High the Cross

George William Kitchin (1827-1912)
 Rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt.
Refrain and Descant

CRUCIFER 10.10 with refrain

Sidney Hugo Nicholson, 1916
 Desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim.

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name. *Fine*

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Repeat Refrain

The Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
 Your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session

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

CLASS OF 2025

Lindsay Griffeth
Angela Hunt
Dan Nadenicek
Karen Phillips
Ethelyn Simpson
Jeffrey Trapnell
Pat Tritt
John Turner
Pat Waldrip

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor* (lbonner@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
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, *Director of Communications* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Accounting Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@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*
Mr. Wayne Brock, *Sexton*