



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!

March 12, 2023
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Third Sunday in Lent

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

Allegretto

Charles V. Stanford

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

Children's Ministry Mini Missions

Natalie Bishop

Song of Gathering

PROSPECT



Call to Worship

Come into God's presence with thanksgiving!

Let us sing to the rock of our salvation.

Even in the deserts of our lives,

God is among us.

Come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

*Hymn 142

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Jesus, friend of all, once again, we come to you knowing our words have stung, our actions have harmed, and our indifference has let evil have its day. Our hearts yearn for you, our souls thirst for you, yet we do not imitate you in our lives. We scorn those who are different from us, and relish our own comfort. Once again, forgive us, O God. Give us your living water, that we might tell the world all you have done for us.

**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).

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!, an 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ, has been through many alterations before reaching its present form. It is set to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since its first publication in 1793.

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 5, are invited to a special Lenten Children's Church held in Fellowship Hall.

11:00 Lay Reader:
Mark Hopkins

The anthem is a text attributed to St. Patrick, set to music by American composer Mark Schweizer.

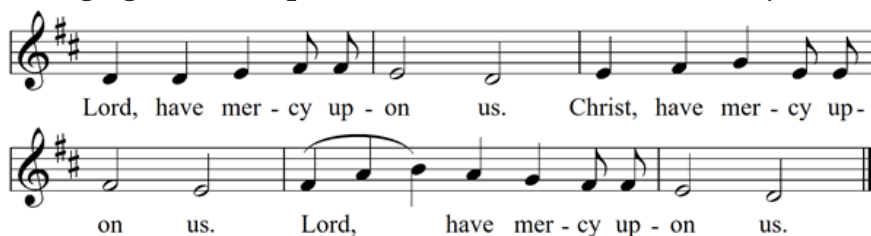
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart is a reflection on Galatians 5:25, written by an Anglican priest whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches.

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.

*Silent Prayer

*Congregational Response

Healey Willan



*Assurance of Pardon

*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 45:3-4, page 506

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

11:00 Anthem

Prayer of St. Patrick

Mark Schweizer

Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.

Second Lesson

Matthew 22:1-14, page 902

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

Sermon

The Wedding

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 326

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

*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 *Morecambe* Pamela Decker
*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 408 *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* GERMANY

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Postlude *Improvisation on St. Patrick’s Breastplate* John Coble

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/
home/giving. Thank you
for your generosity.



*Where Cross the Crowded
Ways of Life* is a vivid
evocation of urban
needs that connects to
our own day as well as
to Jesus’ lament over
Jerusalem in Matthew
23. The tune was first
used with this text.

*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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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 – 5th Grade, are invited to Children’s Church during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Children’s Church will be held in Fellowship Hall. We will depart for Children’s Church following the Passing of the Peace. To pick up your child after the service, please go to Fellowship Hall.

Spiritual Practices in Fellowship Hall

Each Sunday during Lent, Sunday school classes are invited to sign up for one Sunday to join Rev. Leigh Bonner in Fellowship Hall for a time of guided spiritual practices (lectio divina, visio divina, and labyrinth-walking). All are welcome to attend any Sundays. Each week will have a different set of scripture, art, and prayers to explore together. Alternatively, you are welcome for a self-guided spiritual practices in Fellowship Hall during lent, Mondays through Thursdays between 1:00–3:30 p.m.

Books for Keeps Book Drive, March 12 - May 28

Since 2009, Books for Keeps has given more than one million books to children from low-income families in grades Pre-K through 12. FPC has become a large supporter of Books for Keeps with our annual book drive.

You can help make sure no child in our community goes a summer without great books to read. Please bring your used books to the bins in the Atrium or church office. Books for Keeps can accept books of all kinds except textbooks and encyclopedias. Any books that are not right for their program go to the annual BFK Book Sale, with proceeds used to buy new children’s books. To learn more about the organization, go to booksforkeeps.org. Thank you!

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),
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw

11:00 a.m. Matt Bishop (head)

GREETER

11:00 a.m. Beverly Phares

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Beverly & Ned Phares

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Julia Bates Breland by Julie and Lance Jagmin.

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Paulo Santos

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is 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.

Wednesday@First Spring Programs 2023
February 8 - March 29

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Connecting Threads (Crochet & 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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 12 – Third Sunday in Lent, Daylight Saving Time Begins, Books for Keeps Book Drive Begins

- 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
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir and Cherub Choir Rehearsals, Room 203
- 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

Monday, March 13

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

Tuesday, March 14

- 11:45 a.m. Knitting Purls, DePalmas East
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, March 15

- 4:30 p.m. Connecting Threads (Crochet and Knitting Group), Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare and Friends: Dante’s Inferno, Room 308
- 4:45 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. “This I Believe: Conversations on the Confession of Belhar”, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 16

- 9:10 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children’s Ministry Suite
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Saturday, March 18

- 9:00 a.m. Northeast Georgia Presbyterian Women’s Gathering, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary

Sunday, March 19 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 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. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir and Cherub Choir Rehearsals, Room 203
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Youth Choir Room

Easter Lily Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, April 3**. Each dedication is \$10. You may place your completed form and check in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, order online, or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications. Each dedication will be listed in the April 9 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

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)

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION 8.6.8.6.8.6

Stanzas 1-3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780

Stanzas 2-3, alt. John Rippon, 1787

Stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787

Oliver Holden, 1793

Desc. Michael E. Young, 1979

Descant

4. O that with yon-der sa-cred throng We at His feet may fall!

1. All hail the power of Je-sus' name! Let an-gels pros-trate fall;
 2. Ye cho-sen seed of Is-rael's race, Ye ran-somed from the fall,
 3. Let ev-ery kin-dred, ev-ery tribe, On this ter-res-trial ball,
 4. O that with yon-der sa-cred throng We at His feet may fall!

We'll join the song and crown Him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem, And crown Him Lord of all!
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!
 To Him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, And crown Him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song, And crown Him Lord of all!

We'll join the song and crown Him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem, And crown Him Lord of all!
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!
 To Him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, And crown Him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song, And crown Him Lord of all!

326 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10

George Croly, 1854

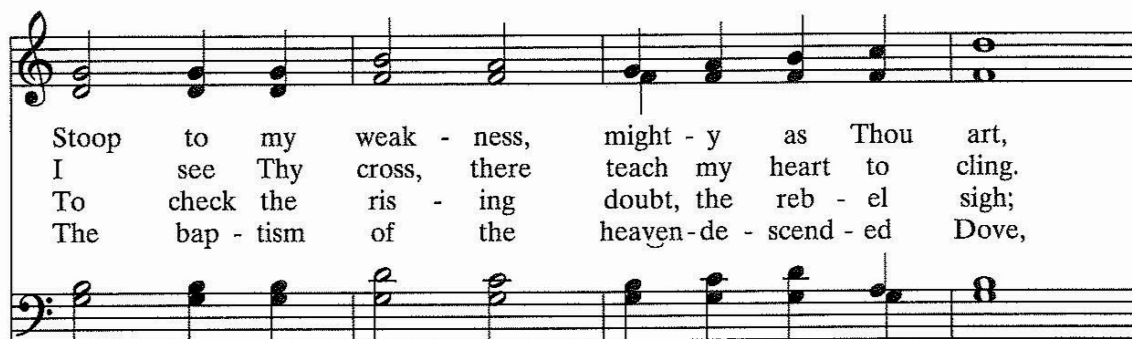
Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870



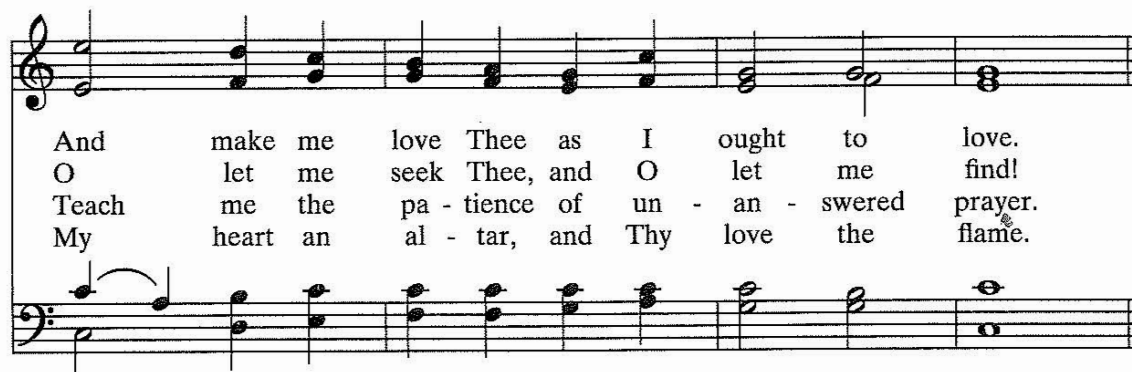
1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
 3. Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh;
 4. Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love,



Wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as Thou art,
 I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,



And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
 O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame.

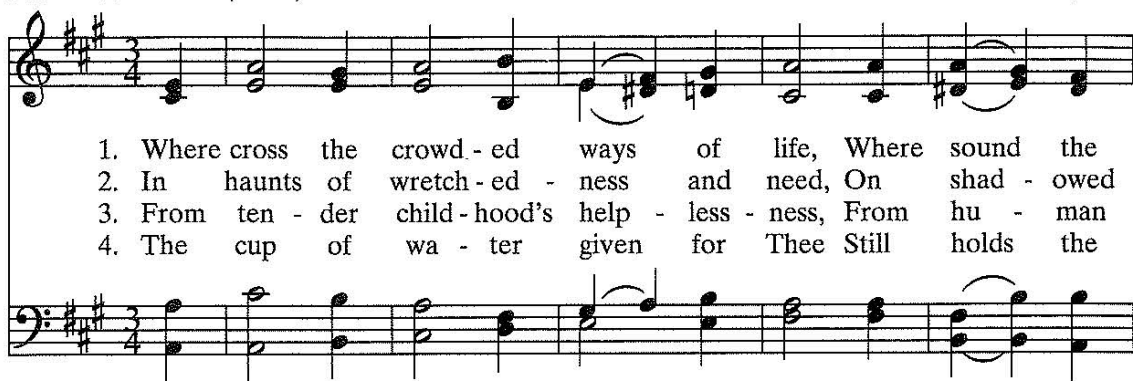
408 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

GERMANY LM

Attr. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

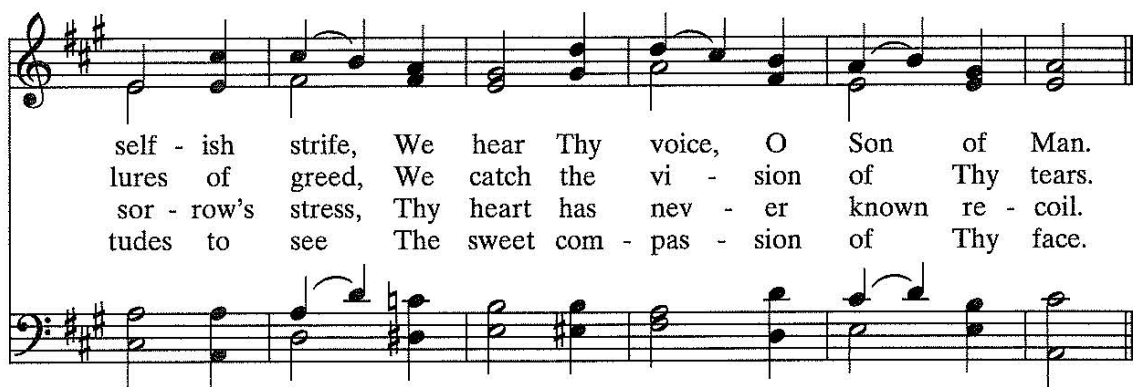
Frank Mason North, 1905; alt.



1. Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, Where sound the
2. In haunts of wretch-ed-ness and need, On shad-owed
3. From ten-der child-hood's help-less-ness, From hu-man
4. The cup of wa-ter given for Thee Still holds the



cries of race and clan, A-bove the noise of
thresh-olds fraught with fears, From paths where hide the
grief and bur-dened toil, From fam-ished souls, from
fresh-ness of Thy grace; Yet long these mul-ti-



self-ish strife, We hear Thy voice, O Son of Man.
lures of greed, We catch the vi-sion of Thy tears.
sor-row's stress, Thy heart has nev-er known re-coil.
tudes to see The sweet com-pas-sion of Thy face.

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.

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*