

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 26, 2023
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fifth 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

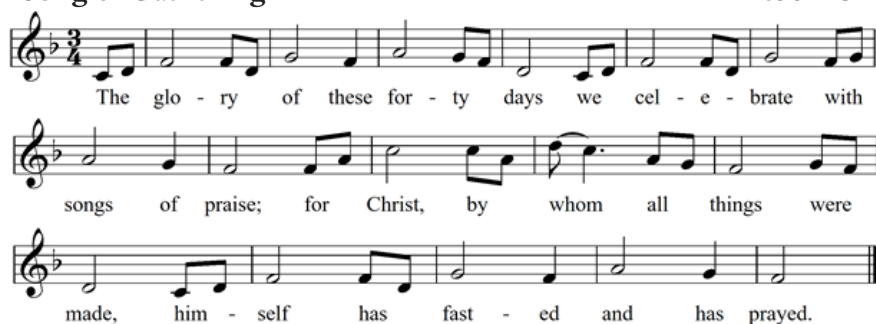
A Thornbury Fanfare

Malcolm Archer

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

PROSPECT



Call to Worship

Wait for the Lord.

Our souls wait and hope in God's word.

Hope in the Lord.

With God there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem.

Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

*Hymn 151

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of resurrection, We know the power of death. We have seen its works, we have felt its sting. We have been to the valley of despair, and felt like there was no chance for life. We do not believe in your power to resurrect. We do not believe in your power to redeem our pain, and fashion something beautiful in this world. Forgive us. We cry from the depths— however faint our call may be, we pray you hear our voice.

*Silent Prayer

**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).

Crown Him with Many Crowns is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

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 Children’s Church held in the Children’s Ministry Suite on the first floor.

11:00 Lay Reader:
Chuck Toney

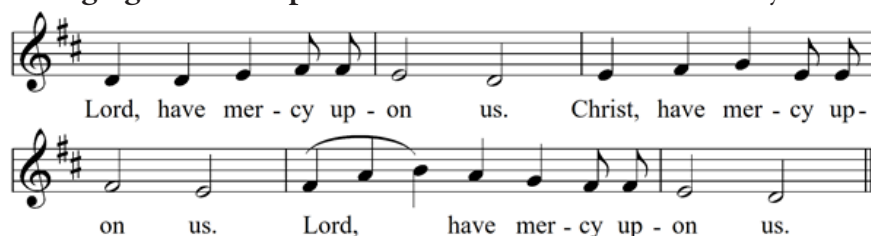
The anthem is a paraphrase of Psalm 98, set to a Genevan Psalter tune, in an arrangement by contemporary American church musician John Ferguson.

The Church of Christ in Every Age is a challenging text by a British Methodist minister. It develops the image of “the servant church,” the many needs, and the true source of strength for the task.

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

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 98:7-9, page 540

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

11:00 Anthem

New Songs of Celebration Render

John Ferguson

New songs of celebration render to God who has great wonders done;
love sits enthroned in ageless splendor; come and adore the mighty One.
God has made known the great salvation which all the saints with joy confess.
God has revealed to every nation truth and unending righteousness.
Joyfully, heartily resounding, let every instrument and voice
peal out the praise of grace abounding, calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion such sounds as make the heaven ring;
all things that live in earth and ocean, sound forth the song, your praises bring.
Rivers and seas and torrents roaring, honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
mountains and stones, look up adoring, and find a voice to praise God’s name.
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious, praises be sung that never cease;
just is our God, whose truth victorious establishes the world in peace.

Second Lesson

Matthew 25:31-46, page 906

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

Sermon

Taking it Personally

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 421

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

*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 *Kelvingrove* Charles Callahan
***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 434** *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* KINGSFOLD

***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 Kingsfold* 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/give. Thank you for your generosity.



Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples was written by a retired Presbyterian minister. It places stewardship in the context of faithful witness. The tune recalls the Sussex village where the arranger, Ralph Vaughan Williams, first heard the melody.

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 – 5th 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.

Children's Ministry Mini Mission Project – Summer Camp Fun!

Dear Church Family, please help us continue to share God's love by helping our Bethel Buddy neighbors get to go to summer camp. Lay Park Community Center is a camp for kids and does fun things like sports, crafts, and all other kinds of fun stuff! This camp runs for eight weeks, Monday-Friday. It is \$100 for all 8 weeks, per child. Thank you so much! Love, *The Children of First Presbyterian*

You may make an online donation, mail a check, place a check in the offering plate or place on the church's reception desk. Please be sure to note that it is for "Children's Ministry Mini Mission Project – Summer Camp Fun." If you have any questions, contact Natalie Bishop, Director of Children's Ministry at natalie@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*
Ms. Emily Elmore, *Flute*
Mr. Sam Seward, *Percussion*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Terry Nestor
11:00 a.m. Matt Bishop (head), Abigale Bishop,
Jimmy Bishop, Andrew Griffith

GREETERS

11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek, Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Fellowship & Evangelism Commission

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory
of God in memory of Del Dunn by his family.

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

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
Join us on March 29 for the last Wed@First of the Spring

- 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. Faithful Conversations with Rev. Bonner,
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Sunday
April 2

You may bring donations of **canned sweet peas, cold breakfast cereals, and spaghetti (dry pasta)** to church **Sunday, April 2**. You may also bring items to the church office until **Friday, March 31**. Thanks for your donations in March, it makes a big difference to our neighbors in need.

Holy Week Services & Activities

Palm Sunday, April 2

Everyone is invited to the upper parking lot to follow the donkey in the palm procession at 10:40 a.m.

Holy Week, through Wednesday, April 5, 1:00-3:30 p.m.,

Self-guided spiritual practices (lectio divina, visio divina, and labyrinth-walking) in Fellowship Hall.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, Dinner and Service at 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

We will recall the night of Jesus’ arrest and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Good Friday Service, April 7, Friendship Presbyterian Church, 7:00 p.m.

Our siblings from Athens area Presbyterian churches and campus ministry will gather for the annual Good Friday service, hosted this year by Friendship Presbyterian Church.

Easter, April 9

Easter Sunrise Service, 6:45 a.m.

Oconee Hill Cemetery invites everyone to the Wingfield Chapel within the cemetery grounds for an Easter Sunrise Service led by Dr. Ryan Baer at 6:45 a.m. Gates will open at 6:15 a.m. Please dress comfortably and consider bringing a flashlight and folding chair.

Easter Worship Services: 8:45 & 11:00 a.m., One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Join us for the celebration of the risen Christ. We will receive an offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing, which will be used to help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People through the Presbyterian Church USA.

Easter Egg Hunt, 9:15 a.m., Courtyard

Children are invited to hunt for Easter Eggs in the Courtyard before heading to our Biscuit Brunch.

Biscuit Brunch, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Between services, instead of Sunday School, we will all gather as a church family for fellowship.

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 at tinyurl.com/FPCLily2023, 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

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 26 - Fifth 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
- 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

Monday, March 27

- 2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom
- 5:15 p.m. Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, March 28

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, March 29

- 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. Faithful Conversations with Rev. Bonner, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 30

- 9:10 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, ACC Council for Aging

Sunday, April 2 - Palm/Passion Sunday, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 10:40 a.m. Palm Processional, Upper Parking Lot
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium

LOOKING AHEAD

April 6 - Maundy Thursday, Dinner and Service at 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

April 7 - Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m., Friendship Presbyterian Church

April 9 - Easter Sunrise Service at Oconee Hill Cemetery, Easter Services, Easter Egg Hunt, Biscuit Brunch, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

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 the Gospel of Matthew. 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 (jjscanlon@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)

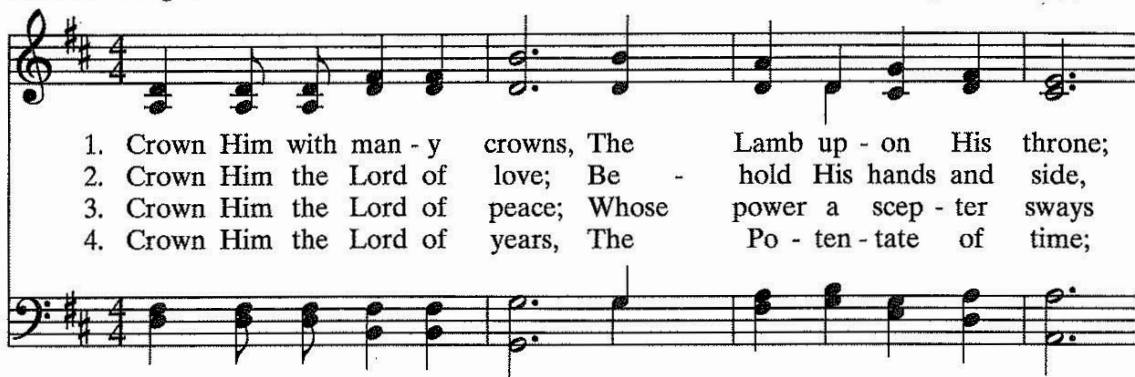
Crown Him with Many Crowns

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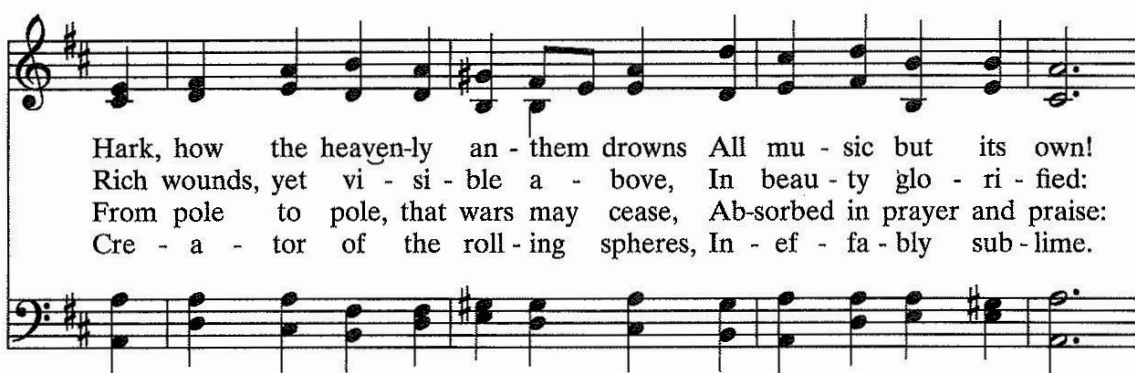
DIADEMATA SMD

Matthew Bridges, 1851

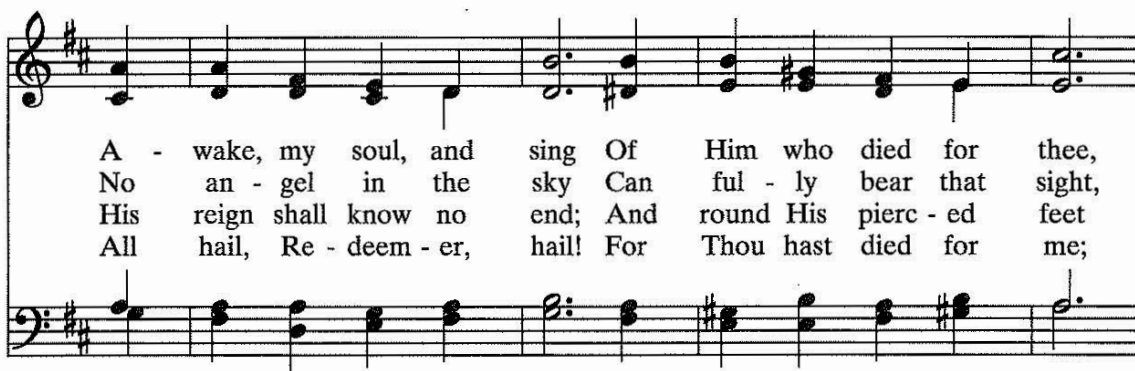
George Job Elvey, 1868



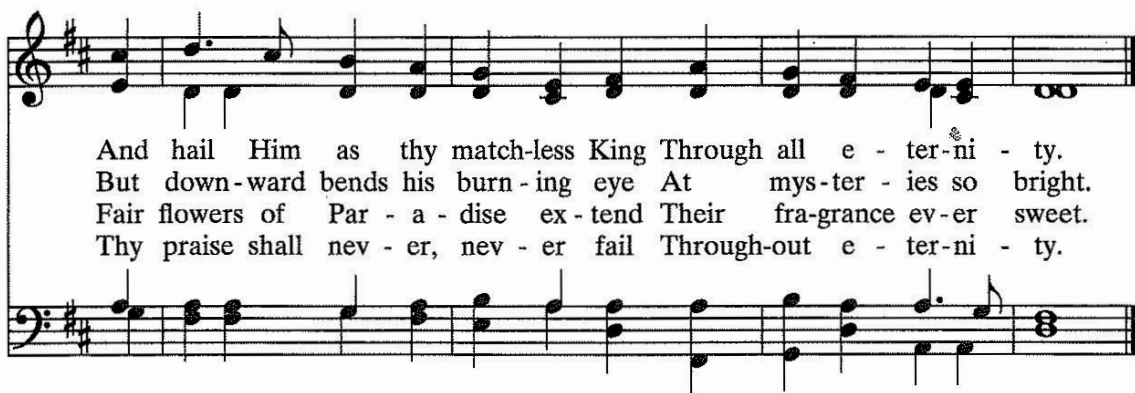
1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
 2. Crown Him the Lord of love; Be - hold His hands and side,
 3. Crown Him the Lord of peace; Whose power a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown Him the Lord of years, The Po - ten - tate of time;



Hark, how the heav - en - ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own!
 Rich wounds, yet vi - si - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease, Ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
 No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; And round His pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For Thou hast died for me;



And hail Him as thy match - less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 But down - ward bends his burn - ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 Fair flowers of Par - a - dise ex - tend Their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 Thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

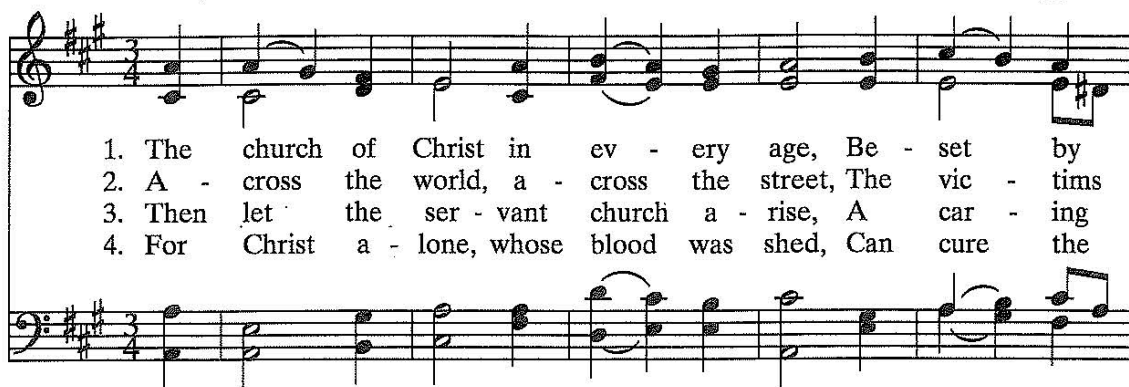
The Church of Christ in Every Age

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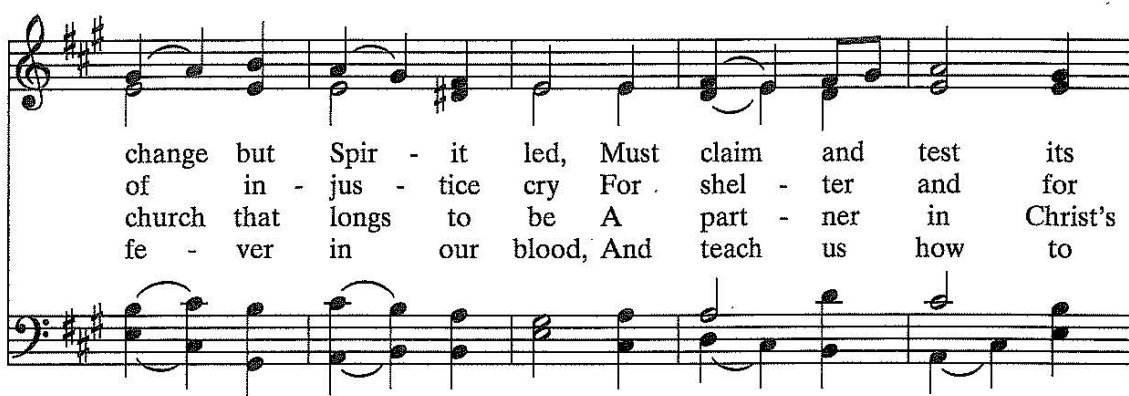
WAREHAM LM

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

William Knapp, 1738



1. The church of Christ in ev - ery age, Be - set by
 2. A - cross the world, a - cross the street, The vic - tims
 3. Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, A car - ing
 4. For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, Can cure the



change but Spir - it led, Must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry For shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be A part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, And teach us how to



her - i - tage And keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, And nev - er live un - til they die.
 sac - ri - fice, And clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread And feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.

5. We have no mission but to serve
 In full obedience to our Lord:

To care for all, without reserve,
 And spread Christ's liberating word.

Another harmonization of this tune, 265

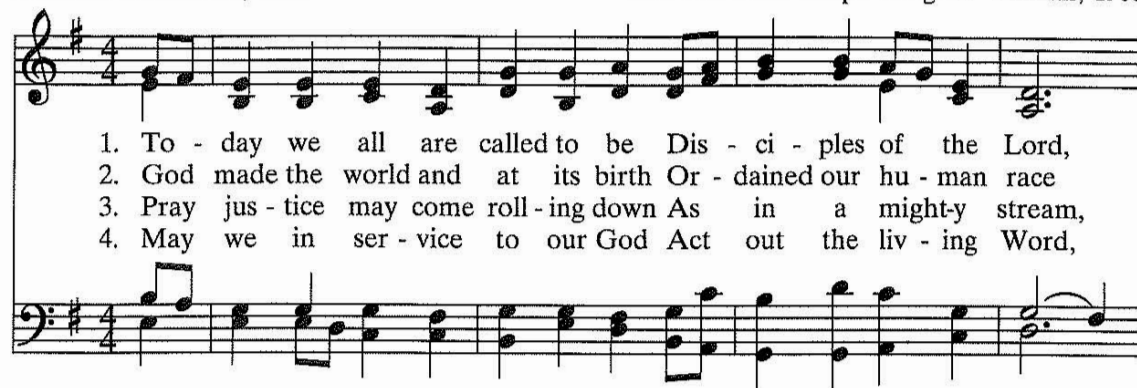
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Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples 434

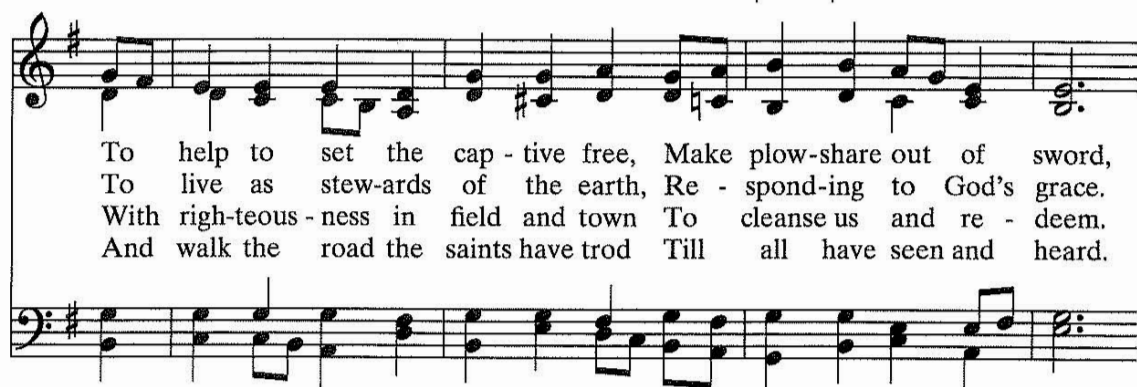
KINGSFOLD CMD

H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985

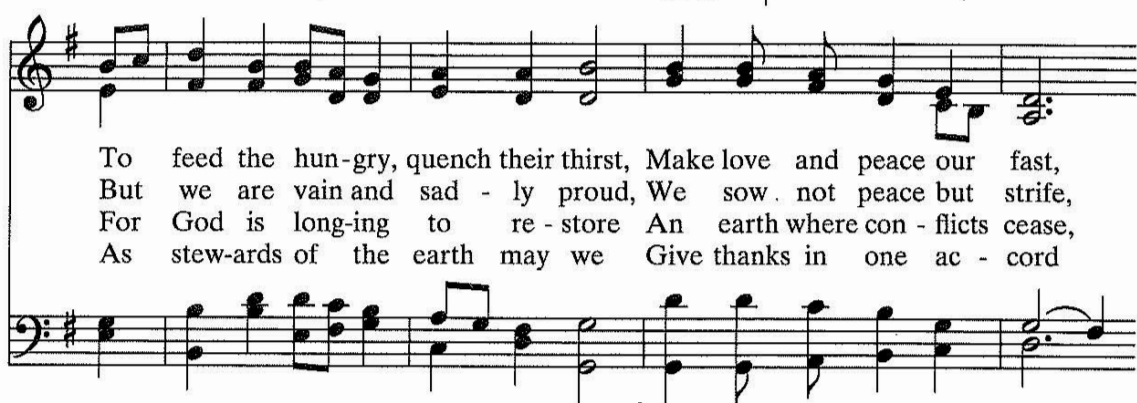
English Country Songs, 1893
Arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



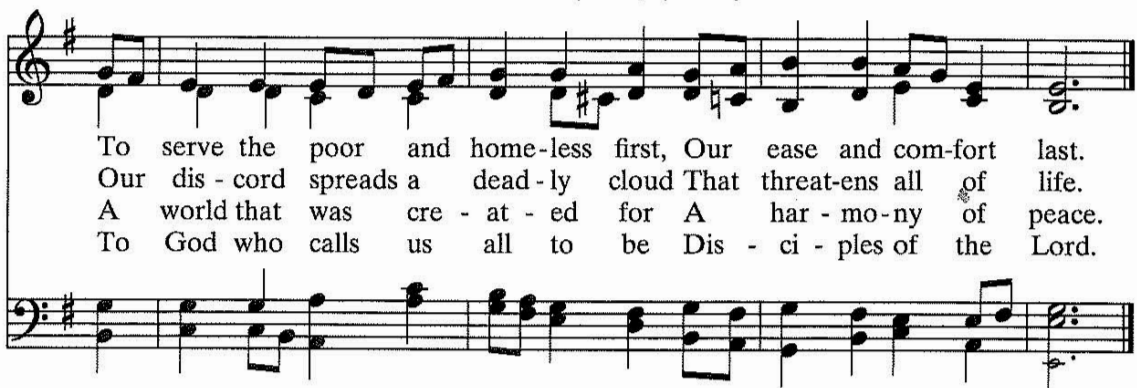
1. To - day we all are called to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord,
2. God made the world and at its birth Or - dained our hu - man race
3. Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down As in a might-y stream,
4. May we in ser - vice to our God Act out the liv - ing Word,



To help to set the cap - tive free, Make plow-share out of sword,
To live as stew-ards of the earth, Re - spond-ing to God's grace.
With high-teous - ness in field and town To cleanse us and re - deem.
And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard.



To feed the hun - gry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast,
But we are vain and sad - ly proud, We sow not peace but strife,
For God is long-ing to re - store An earth where con - flicts cease,
As stew-ards of the earth may we Give thanks in one ac - cord



To serve the poor and home-less first, Our ease and com-fort last.
Our dis - cord spreads a dead - ly cloud That threat-ens all of life.
A world that was cre - at - ed for A har - mo - ny of peace.
To God who calls us all to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

Text: © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael.

Music: Arrangement and harmonization from the *English Hymnal*, 1906. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.