



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!

April 30, 2023
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Aria

George Frideric Handel
arr. Mark Schweizer

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

The prelude is played by the Handbell Choir with solo violinist Cynthia Prosser.

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

Hymn 121, stanza 1

**That Easter day with joy was bright,
the sun shone out with fairer light,
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord.**

Call to Worship

We come to worship the risen Christ.

Praise to Christ, the good shepherd!

Alleluia, praise to Christ, the gate!

Alleluia, praise to Christ, the lamb!

Alleluia, praise to Christ, our savior!

Christ is risen still! Alleluia!

*Hymn 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

O for a Thousand tongues to Sing is part of an eighteen-stanza hymn Charles Wesley wrote on the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion. The tune is an adaptation of a German tune.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of community, you call us to a world radically different from what we are used to. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of "mine" and "yours." You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting them more than we trust you. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us to truly believe in your just and peaceful realm and to work to make it so.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

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

11:00 Lay Reader:
Dan Nadinecek

The anthem was composed for the Church of St. Francis, Ngong, Kenya. The church has a mixed racial congregation with services in English and Swahili. The soprano soloist for the anthem is Francesca Mariano.

The text and tune of *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* were written by Scottish missionary Tom Colvin, who is said to have adapted it from a Ghanaian love song he heard at a conference in northern Ghana.

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** Hymn 104, stanza 1
Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

***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

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 327, stanza 1
O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high.
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

First Lesson Matthew 10:40-42, page 889
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Christ’s Flock* Martin Shaw
In Christ’s own flock let love be surely placed,
from Christ’s own flock let concord hate expel;
of Christ’s own flock let love be so embraced,
as we in Christ, and Christ in us may dwell.
Christ is the author of all unity, from whence proceedeth all felicity.
O sing unto this glittering glorious King,
let heart and voice like bells of silver ring. Alleluia!

Second Lesson Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18, page 1006
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *The Mission* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 367** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* CHEREPONI

11:00 a.m. Stephen Leaders Commissioning Becky Hartman
Susan Boatwright

***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 *Larghetto* G. F. Handel
***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 361** *How Firm A Foundation* FOUNDATION

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 121, stanza 3
**From every weapon death can wield,
your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.**

Postlude *How Firm A Foundation* Jeffrey Blersch



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

How Firm a Foundation was sung to the tune *Adeste Fideles* (“O Come, All Ye Faithful”) well into the 20th century due to a bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems more fitting especially with the final line’s reference to Hebrews 13:5.

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.

**Stephen Leaders Commissioning
Today, 11:00 a.m.**

Today, our congregation will commission new Stephen Leaders, Becky Hartman and Susan Boatwright. Throughout history, when God has called people to special ministry, members of their community have commissioned them for the important new work they are taking on. Now we invite you to help carry on that biblical tradition by being a part of commissioning those who have responded to God’s call to be part of our congregation’s Stephen Ministry.

Our Stephen Leaders completed substantial training to equip them for their task. We now lay hands on them, pray for them, and send them out to minister, asking for God’s blessing and the Spirit’s wisdom and power.

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. Dan Nadinecek

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Terry Nestor
11:00 a.m. John Turner (head), Randy Dudley,
Lisa Oelke, Chuck Toney

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

FELLOWSHIP HOST

New Voices Sunday School Class

APRIL FLOWER TEAM

Greta Covington (chair), Tootsie Adams,
Susan Banister, Judy Burch, Lauren Cook,
Andrea Doornbos, Susan Ferguson, Sydney
Jackson, Eve Morris, Jennifer Trapnell

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.

Scottish Reformation Sunday
May 7, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m

Join our annual celebration of our Scottish heritage at both worship services, along with recognition of local and state dignitaries at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to join the processional and recessional. If you need to borrow a kilt, please call Smith Wilson, 706-338-4646.

Food Sunday
May 7

You may bring donations of **pork ‘n beans, hamburger helper, and hygiene supplies (shampoo, lotion and deodorant)** to church **Sunday, May 7**. You may also bring food to the church office until **Friday, May 5**.

Alternatively, you may take your donations directly to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank 9:00 a.m. – noon, Monday-Friday at 640 Barber Street, Athens, 30601. Please put supplies on loading dock at far end of building. Thanks for your donations in April – our neighbors in need are grateful!

Graduation Sunday, May 14

Each year, we recognize our high school graduates in worship on Mother’s Day. Youth and their parents are invited forward for a blessing, with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. Whether active or not, we want to celebrate all our seniors! If you know of a High School Senior, please e-mail their information to Kim Ness at kness@firstpresathens.org so we can extend an invitation.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 30 – Stephen Minister Commissioning Service at 11:00 a.m.

- 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. Fellowship Refreshments, Atrium
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Montreat Meeting, The PIT
- 6:30 p.m. High School Montreat Meeting, The PIT

Monday, May 1

- 1:00 p.m. Suicide Prevention Group Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, May 2

- 12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group, Brides Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Diane Adams
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, May 3

- 12:00 p.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church
- 12:00 p.m. Weekday School Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare and Friends: Dante's Inferno, *via Zoom (e-mail Ron Bogue at rbogue@uga.edu to join)*
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, May 4

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

Sunday, May 7 – Communion Sunday, Scottish Reformation Sunday, Family Promise Host Weeks Begin

- 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. Scottish Reformation Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Volunteers Needed for Family Promise Host Weeks May 7-May 21

First Presbyterian will be the host church for Family Promise families May 7 - 21 and we need your help to fill the volunteer slots. The families will be at the Milledge Avenue Baptist Church static site. If you are able to help, please sign up in the church Atrium or by using the link here: tinyurl.com/FPChostweek2023. Training required for new volunteers is very simple: you just have to watch an online video. For more information or questions, please contact Susan Boatwright at boatwright.susan@gmail.com.

Our Daily Bread - Downtown Ministries

Volunteers from FPC provide and serve meals to our neighbors in need monthly at First Baptist Church: lunch on the first Wednesday, and breakfast on the second and fourth Tuesdays. For details and to help, please contact Ann Dunn at anndunn8@gmail.com or Fran Lane at fjlane@uga.edu.

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 (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)

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

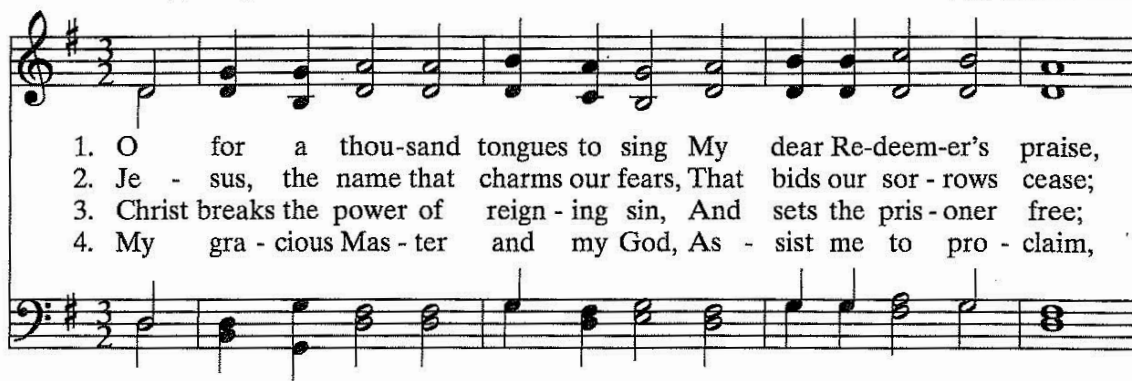
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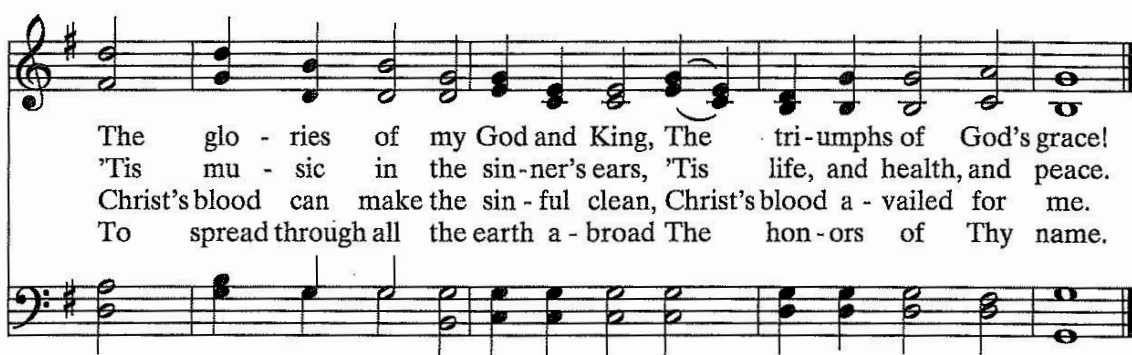
Charles Wesley, 1738; alt.

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839



1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My dear Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease;
3. Christ breaks the power of reign - ing sin, And sets the pris - on-er free;
4. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,



The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of God's grace!
'Tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
Christ's blood can make the sin - ful clean, Christ's blood a - vailed for me.
To spread through all the earth a - broad The hon - ors of Thy name.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHEREPONI Irregular with refrain

Ghanaian folk song
Trans. Tom Colvin, 1969Ghanaian folk melody
Adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963
Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with Your love, Show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from You. *Fine*

1. Kneels at the feet of His friends, Si - lent - ly wash - es their
2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, Var - ied in col - or and
3. These are the ones we should serve, These are the ones we should
4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, Serv - ing as though we are
5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, Si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
race, Neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
love. All are neigh-bors to us and You.
slaves, This is the way we should live with You.
feet, This is the way we should live with You. *D.C.*

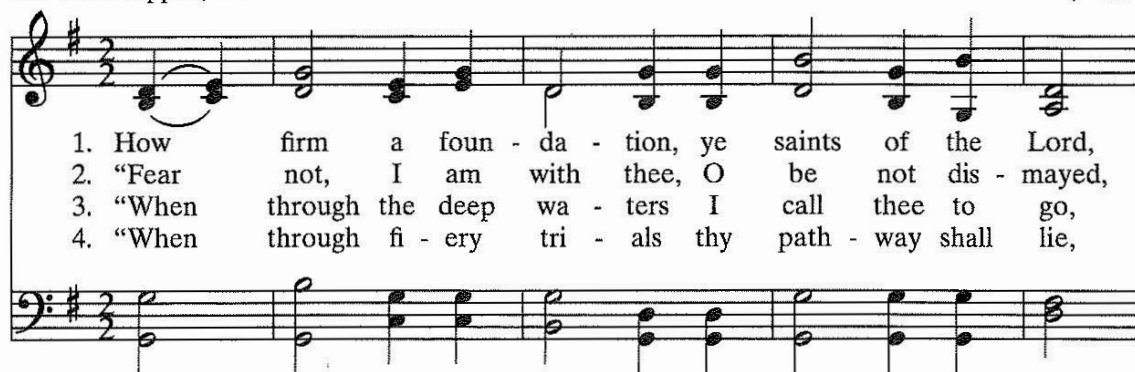
How Firm a Foundation

361

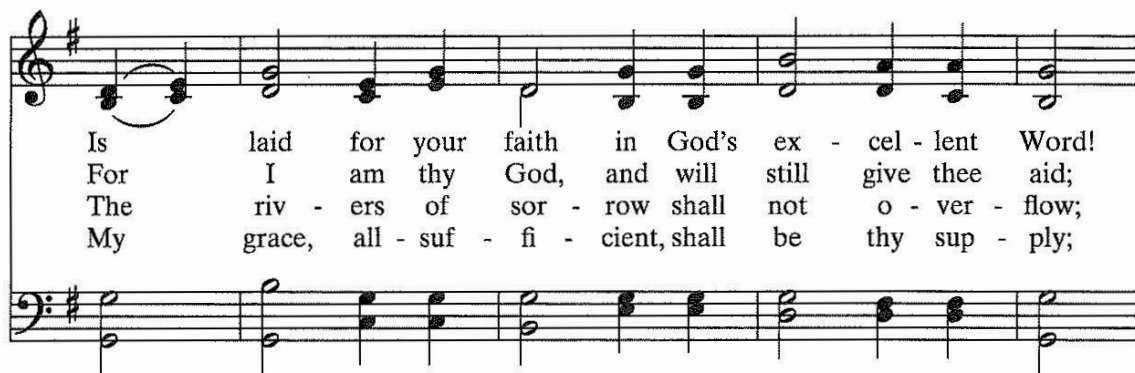
"K" in *A Selection of Hymns, 1787*
Ed. John Rippon; alt.

FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11

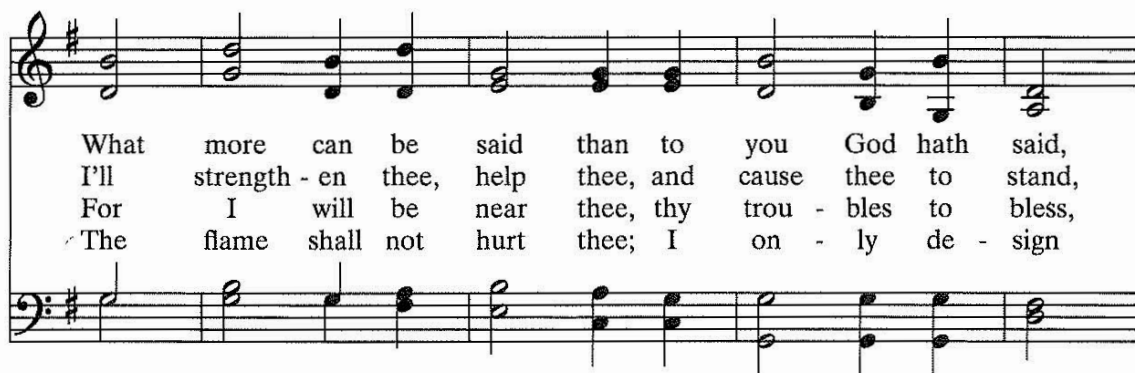
American folk melody
Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832



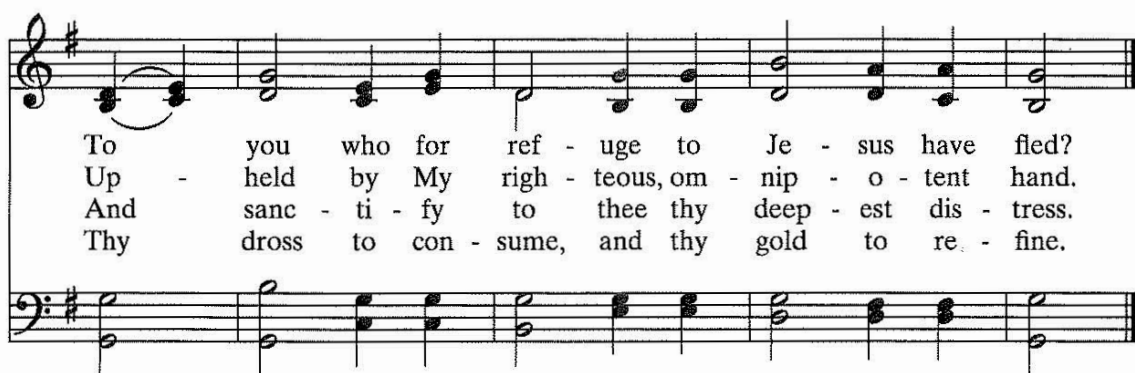
1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
4. "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,



Is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
The riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;



What more can be said than to you God hath said,
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
For I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
The flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign



To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand,
And sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
Thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.

5. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

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*