



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!

August 6, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Gerre Hancock

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

HOLY MANNA

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.

Come from loneliness and longing.

Here, in peace, we have been led.

Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Call to Worship

We come, carrying just what we need for the journey:

five loaves, two fish.

We come, bringing whatever we have to offer:

our time, our talents, our gifts.

We come, knowing God will multiply our offerings:

in God's hands, what we have is enough.

*Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Generous God, you freely offer us all we need. You offer us the bread of life, so we may never be hungry again. You offer us living water, so we will never thirst. But we scoff at your gifts, wasting our money, time, and energy on things that do not satisfy. Forgive us and call to us again, reminding us of your gifts of new life that are ours if we would only accept them.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

**Those who are able please 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).

The opening line of *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy. It continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite experience. The text is set to a Welsh tune shaped by many three-note units.

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."

Lay Reader:
Jean Martin-Williams

Bread of the World in *Mercy Broken* is a prayer divided into two halves, the first addressed to Christ, and the second a series of petitions. The tune is one of the most majestic to emerge from the tradition of Reformed psalmody.



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.

*Congregational Response

Hymn 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

*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.

Back-to-School Blessing

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

PROSPECT



First Lesson

Luke 8:22-25, page 944

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

Second Lesson

Proverbs 8:22-36, page 580

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

Sermon

Wisdom and Order

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 502

Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

RENDEZ À DIEU

*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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up. (*cont.*)

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

***Doxology**

Hymn 592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The musical setting of the communion liturgy is based on the American folk hymn LAND OF REST, arranged by American composer Richard Proulx.

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain.

The Great Amen



God, You Spin the Whirling Planets was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, "In the Image of God," is variously considered in this hymn as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity.

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

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

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.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 285** *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* AUSTRIAN HYMN

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 538, stanza 1

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Postlude

Rendez à Dieu

Craig Phillips

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.

Nursery Play for children 4 years old and younger is available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., are located in our Children's Playroom area next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Back-to-School Biscuits and Faith Formation Leader Workshop, Today

Today, August 6, we will celebrate the beginning of the new school year with a biscuit brunch after the morning worship service. Our FPC faith formation leaders (Sunday School teachers, Presbyterian Women leaders, youth advisors, Godly play volunteers, etc.) are invited to come to the breakout area of the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. to celebrate and prepare for Fall programming.

New Member FirstThings Class

Join us for our next FirstThings gathering on **Sunday, August 20** from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This will be a time to get better acquainted, to meet the church staff, and to talk about what makes First Presbyterian Church unique. A light lunch will be provided. Please call the church office (706-543-4338) or e-mail Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org by **Wednesday, August 16**, to make a reservation. *Child care available upon request.*

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

Jean Martin-Williams

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Dick Ferguson, John Simpson

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 63rd anniversary of the marriage of Bertis E. Downs III (1933-1964) and Ann Bryan Downs at Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church in Watervliet, New York, August 4, 1955.

AUGUST FLOWER TEAM

Jennifer Poole (chair), Mary Adams,
Susan Baldwin, Karen Gilmore,
Rosemary Stancil

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 10:00 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.

August Matthew 25 Trip

The Matthew 25 Commission plans to annually lead tours to various Civil Rights Trail sites. For the first trip, scheduled for **Saturday, August 19, 2023**, we will stay close to home with a visit to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights.

The MLK National Park Walking Tour will take about two hours and includes the visitor center exhibit, historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church: New Horizon Sanctuary, the National Civil Rights Walk of Fame, the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Dr. King's Tomb, and King's early home. At the National Center for Civil and Human Rights we will see an evocatively designed building that expresses the civil and human rights theme through its architecture. Inside the doors, you will visit a series of exhibits and galleries, which trace the journey from Martin Luther King, Jr., the broader civil rights era from the segregation of Jim Crow to King's Assassination, to an international human rights movement.

RSVP (tinyurl.com/FPCM25Trip) will be needed by **noon on Tuesday, August 15**. A maximum of 14 people may ride in the church van, but if more are interested in the trip, we will arrange for ride sharing opportunities. For more information and questions, please contact Dan Nadenicek at dnadeni@uga.edu or call (706) 540-6013.

Itinerary:

- 8:00 a.m.: Leave from church parking lot
- 9:45 a.m.: MLK Park tour
- 12:00 p.m.: Lunch (location TBD)
- 1:15 p.m.: National Center for Civil and Human Rights visit
- 4:30 p.m.: Picnic and discussion at Leigh Bonner and Adam Graham's home
- 8:00 p.m.: Arrive back in Athens (*those needing to arrive home earlier will be accommodated*)

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 6 - Communion Sunday, Back-to-School Blessing + Food Sunday, Blessings & Biscuits Brunch

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Blessings & Biscuits Brunch, Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Faith Formation Leader Gathering, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area

Tuesday, August 8

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group, Brides Room
- 1:00 p.m. Stephen Minister Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Thursday, August 10

- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Friday, August 11 - Sunday, August 13 - Montreat Women's Connection Conference

Sunday, August 13

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Pool Party, Ness Home
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group Parents Meeting, Fellowship Hall

LOOKING AHEAD

August 16 – Chancel Choir rehearsal resumes

August 17 – Stated Session Meeting

August 19 – August Matthew 25 Trip, Atlanta Civil Rights Trail sites

August 20 – New Member First Things Class, Youth Group meetings begin

August 21 – WDS First Day of school

August 27 – New Member Reception, Fall 2023 Kickoff Sunday,
Presbyterian Women New Year's Party

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

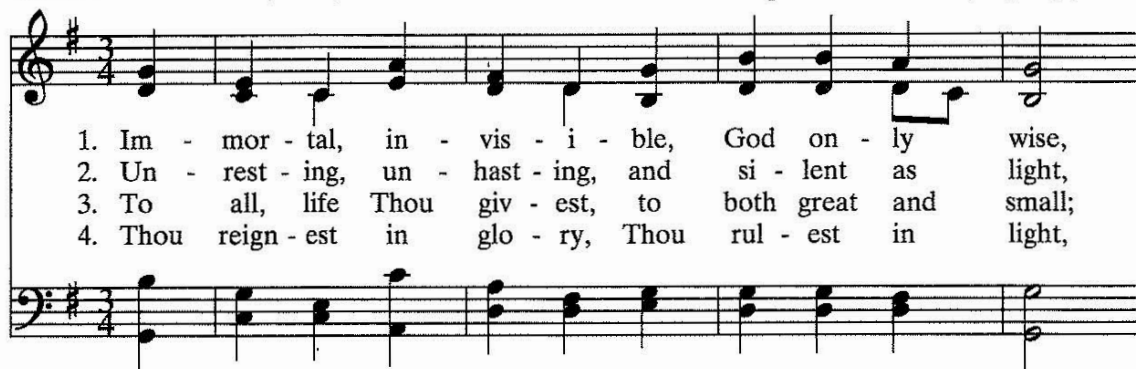
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ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11

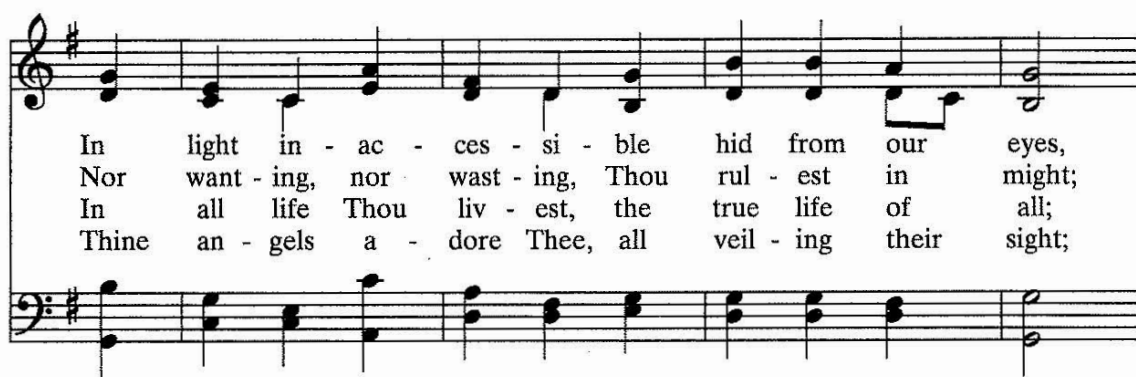
Welsh folk melody

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

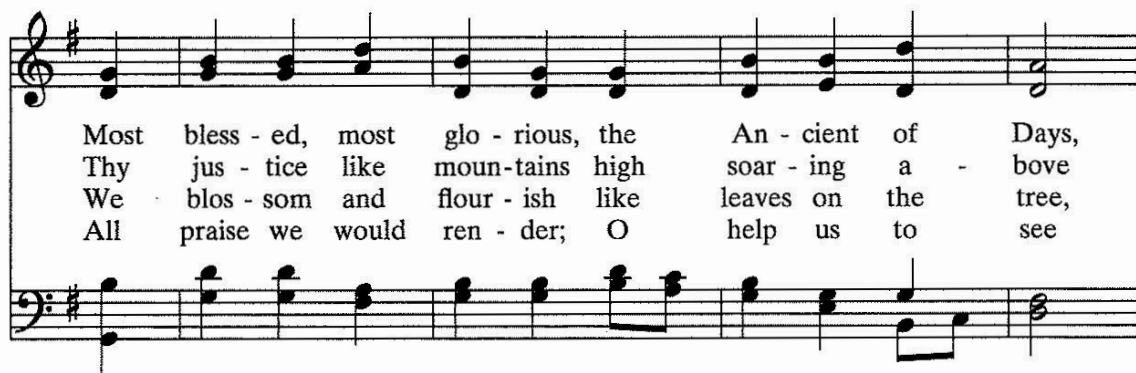
Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839



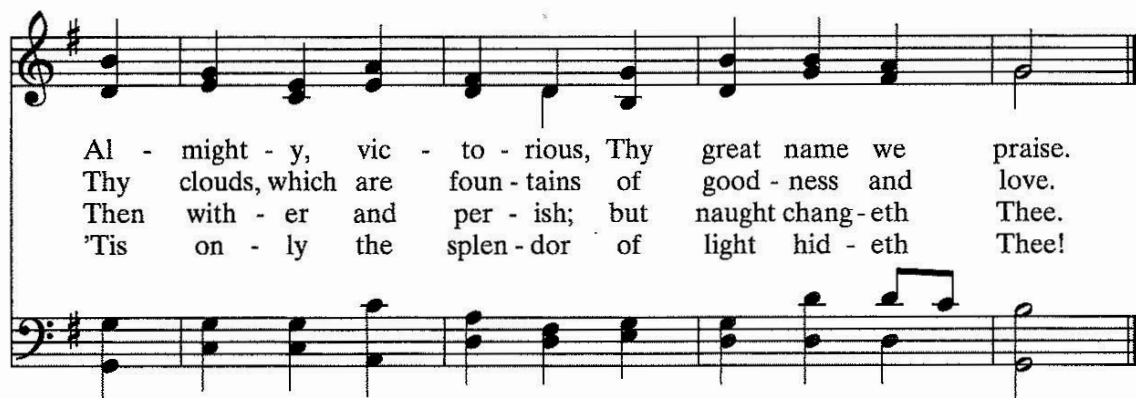
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

502 Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

RENDEZ À DIEU 9.8.9.8 D

Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

As in *Hymns Written and Adapted*, 1827

Louis Bourgeois, 1543; rev. 1551

Bread of the world in mer-cy bro - ken, Wine of the soul in mer - cy shed,

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in D major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble, and the bass line provides harmonic support. The lyrics are: "Bread of the world in mer-cy bro - ken, Wine of the soul in mer - cy shed,"

By whom the words of life were spo - ken, And in whose death our sins are dead:

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "By whom the words of life were spo - ken, And in whose death our sins are dead:"

Look on the heart by sor-row bro - ken, Look on the tears by sin - ners shed;

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Look on the heart by sor-row bro - ken, Look on the tears by sin - ners shed;"

And be Thy feast to us the to - ken That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

The fourth system concludes the hymn with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "And be Thy feast to us the to - ken That by Thy grace our souls are fed."

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

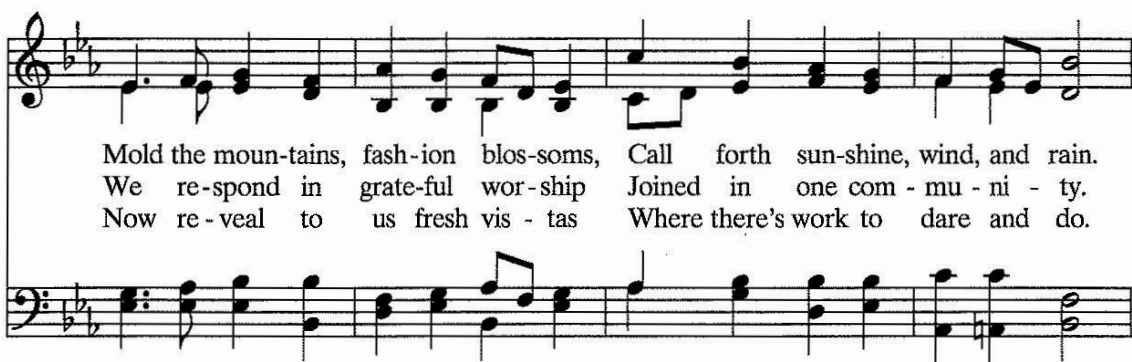
AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1978

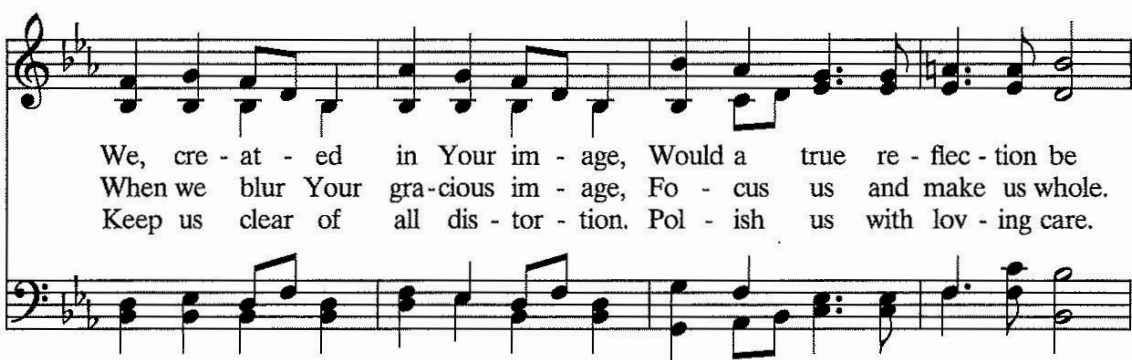
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797



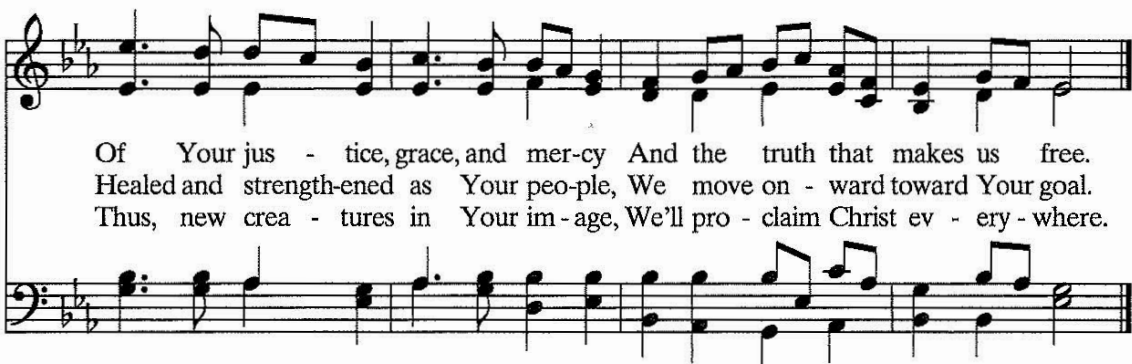
1. God, You spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,
 2. You have called us to be faith-ful In our life and min - is - try.
 3. God, Your word is still cre - at - ing, Call - ing us to life made new.



Mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, Call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.
 We re-pond in grate-ful wor-ship Joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.
 Now re-veal to us fresh vis - tas Where there's work to dare and do.



We, cre - at - ed in Your im - age, Would a true re - flec - tion be
 When we blur Your gra-cious im - age, Fo - cus us and make us whole.
 Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.



Of Your jus - tice, grace, and mer-cy And the truth that makes us free.
 Healed and strength-ened as Your peo-ple, We move on - ward toward Your goal.
 Thus, new crea - tures in Your im-age, We'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

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*