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 27, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Thirteenth 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 *Variations on Westminster Abbey* Richard Proulx

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering Hymn 489, st. 1
Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.

Call to Worship
Family of God, as we gather today, Jesus asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"
You are our Messiah, the Son of the living God!
Family of God, as we gather today, the Holy Spirit asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"
You are our Comforter, Advocate, and Sustainer!
Family of God, as we gather today, God the Father asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"
You are our Creator, Provider, and Healer!
Family of God, as we gather today, the Triune God asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"
You are Love that creates, saves, and enfolds us into the family of God! May we be instruments of Love in all that we are and all that we do. Amen.

***Hymn 416** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* WESTMINSTER ABBEY

***Call to Confession**

**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).

Although *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza refers to the people of God, and the second to the place where they meet. The hymn is named for the edifice where the composer, Henry Purcell, served as organist and is buried.

***Prayer of Confession**

Messiah, Christ, Savior, Redeemer, we confess that who we say you are often does not match up with the ways we live our lives. We tend to name and claim you as Lord and Savior without living as if we knew who you are. Help us to build your Church not on physical rocks or on the rocks of what our lips proclaim to believe but on the love, forgiveness, grace, peace, and justice you embody. Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***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.

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."
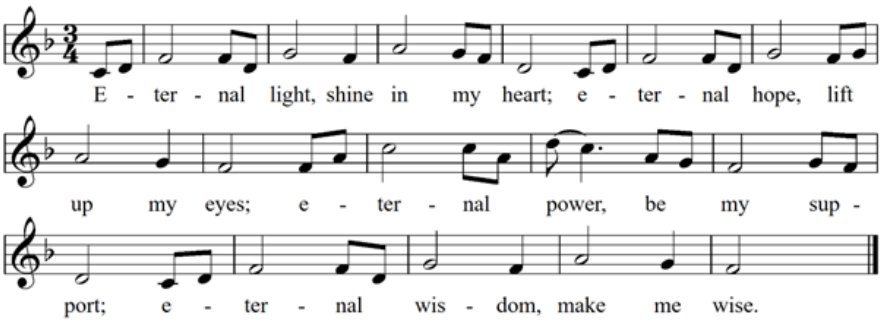
***The Peace**

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

Congregational Prayer for Illumination PROSPECT



Lay Reader: Jim Dove

First Lesson Ecclesiastes 2:18-23, page 604

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

The anthem, by English composer Martin Shaw, was composed for the 1923 Annual Festival of the Rochester Diocesan Church Choirs Association.

Anthem *With a Voice of Singing* Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.
O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

Second Lesson Matthew 16:13-20, page 895

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

Sermon *On This Rock* The Rev. Leigh Bonner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts on poverty and homelessness. The stanza sung at the beginning and end makes clear such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

***Hymn insert** *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* MC KEE

***Affirmation of Faith** from *The Second Helvetic Confession*

The church has always existed and will always exist. The Church is an assembly of the faithful called or gathered out of the world; a communion of all saints. They are all citizens of the one city, living under the same Lord, under the ***(cont.)***

same laws and in the same fellowship of all good things. We call this Church catholic because it is universal, scattered through all parts of the world, and extended unto all times, and is not limited to any times or places. From all these people there was and is one fellowship, one salvation in the one Messiah, all united together in the same faith, partaking also of the same spiritual food and drink. Yet here we acknowledge a diversity of times, and a diversity in the signs of the promised and delivered Christ.

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 *Trumpet Tune on Westminster Abbey* Richard Proulx

***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 423** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* DUKE STREET

***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 *Recessional in D Major* David Lasky

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.*

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun is a classic example of Isaac Watts Christianizing the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72, by turning messianic language to New Testament equivalents.

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.

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.

Fall 2023 Kickoff Sunday
Today, 11:00 a.m.

Join us today after worship in Fellowship Hall for bagels, greet our new members, and learn more about opportunities for ministry and faith formation at FPC this fall. Information will be available about how you can get involved in a variety of church ministries, from Sunday school to small groups, from mission to fellowship. We hope that you will find your calling among the many ways to get connected in the congregation.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS
Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor*
Mrs. Martha Clay, *Guest Organist*

Lay Reader
Jim Dove

USHERS
Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Jim Dove, John Simpson

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN
Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER
Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS
The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Annie D. Lawson, Preston E. Terrell, and Nancy Pittman by Beverly and Ned Phares.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PW NEW YEAR'S PARTY
Today, 11:30 a.m.
Come join the Presbyterian Women for a New Year's Party! Stop by the parlor and make a friend, take a look at our study guide, and learn more about our small groups. All are welcome. For more information, contact Jamie Baer at jamielbaer@yahoo.com or Betsy Canfield at betsycanfield@gmail.com.

PROJECT SAFE WORK DAY
Today, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Help tidy the Project Safe Thrift Store in Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7. Project Safe works to end domestic violence. Please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com for more information and to volunteer.

STEPHEN MINISTRY
In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job - it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.

If you know of someone who is going through a difficult time, contact one of our Stephen Leaders:

Susan Boatwright: boatwrightsusan@gmail.com 706-255-2250
Margaret Davis: margaret@firstpresathens.org, 706-206-9896
Becky Hartman: hartmanbecky494@gmail.com 706-254-4504
Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com, 706-540-4251

Youth Kickoff Potluck
Today, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

All Middle and High School youth and parents are asked to attend the kickoff dinner/meeting. We'll go over plans for the year, complete paperwork, sign up for trips, and get to catch up over a meal together. The church will provide fried chicken, water, and lemonade. Please bring a dish to share.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 27
9:30 a.m. New Members Coffee with the Session, Parlor
10:00 a.m. Service, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching
11:00 a.m. New Member Reception & Fall 2023 Kickoff Sunday, Fellowship Hall
11:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women New Year's Party, Parlor
2:00 p.m. Project Safe Thrift Store Work Day, Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7
6:00 p.m. Youth Kickoff Potluck, Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 28
2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, August 29
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

Wednesday, August 30
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Sunday, September 3 - Communion Sunday, Last 10:00 a.m. service of the Summer
10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
11:00 a.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium

LOOKING AHEAD

September 10 – Food Sunday, Sunday School Resumes, Worship Service at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Small Groups

This fall, we will begin convening short-term, topic-based small groups. These groups are different from Sunday school classes in that they require a bit more commitment, either for attendance, for reading, or for both.

Small groups will meet weekly in the church building or on Zoom starting the week of September 17, and most will have their last meeting during the week of November 12 (9 weeks). Some groups may choose to meet for a few more sessions before the end of the year.

Please use this QR code to read more and choose a group based on your schedule and interest. For additional information and questions, please contact Rev. Leigh Bonner (lbonner@firstpresathens.org).

Food Sunday
September 10

You may bring donations of **canned diced tomatoes, hot breakfast cereal (grits or oatmeal), canned tuna** to church on **Sunday, September 10**. You may also bring food to church office until **Friday, September 8**. Thanks for your donations in August - our neighbors in need are grateful!

Meet our Newest Members - Summer 2023

Robbie Brandon
Robbie Brandon joins FPC by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's, Ga. He works for W&A Engineering firm as a land surveyor. Robbie enjoys UGA athletics and home improvement projects.

Hailey Campbell
Hailey Campbell joins FPC by Profession of Faith. She is a Nurse Practitioner in the Pediatric Neurology Department of Athens Neurological Associates. Hailey has two daughters: Zoe (13) and Kyah (11). Hailey enjoys art and hiking.

Derek & Jennifer Eberhart
Derek & Jennifer Eberhart join FPC by Letter of Transfer from Oconee Presbyterian Church, Watkinsville, Ga. Derek works in the Office of Research at UGA as the Associate Vice President for Research and Executive Director of Innovation Gateway. Jennifer is the administrator of and UGA academic advisor for the UGA Exploratory Center. Derek enjoys golf and travel, and Jennifer enjoys reading and travel.

Chris & Lindsay Jones
Chris & Lindsay Jones join FPC by Letter of Transfer from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. Chris is a producer and Vice President of H&H Insurance Services and enjoys hiking and mechanics. Lindsay is an Assistant Professor of Legal Studies at the Terry College of Business and enjoys hiking, broadway, and reading. They have seven-year-old twin boys Evan and Sawyer.

Bryan McArthur
Bryan McArthur joins by Letter of Transfer from Oconee Presbyterian Church, Watkinsville, Ga. His wife Anna is an ordained PCUSA minister and stay-at-home mom. She loves gardening, reading, and yoga. Bryan is in Medical Sales and enjoys biking, kayaking, and bee keeping. They have four children: Caroline, a senior at UGA; Caleb, a senior at University of Michigan; and twin daughters Elizabeth and Kathryn, who are in the ninth grade at Clarke Central.

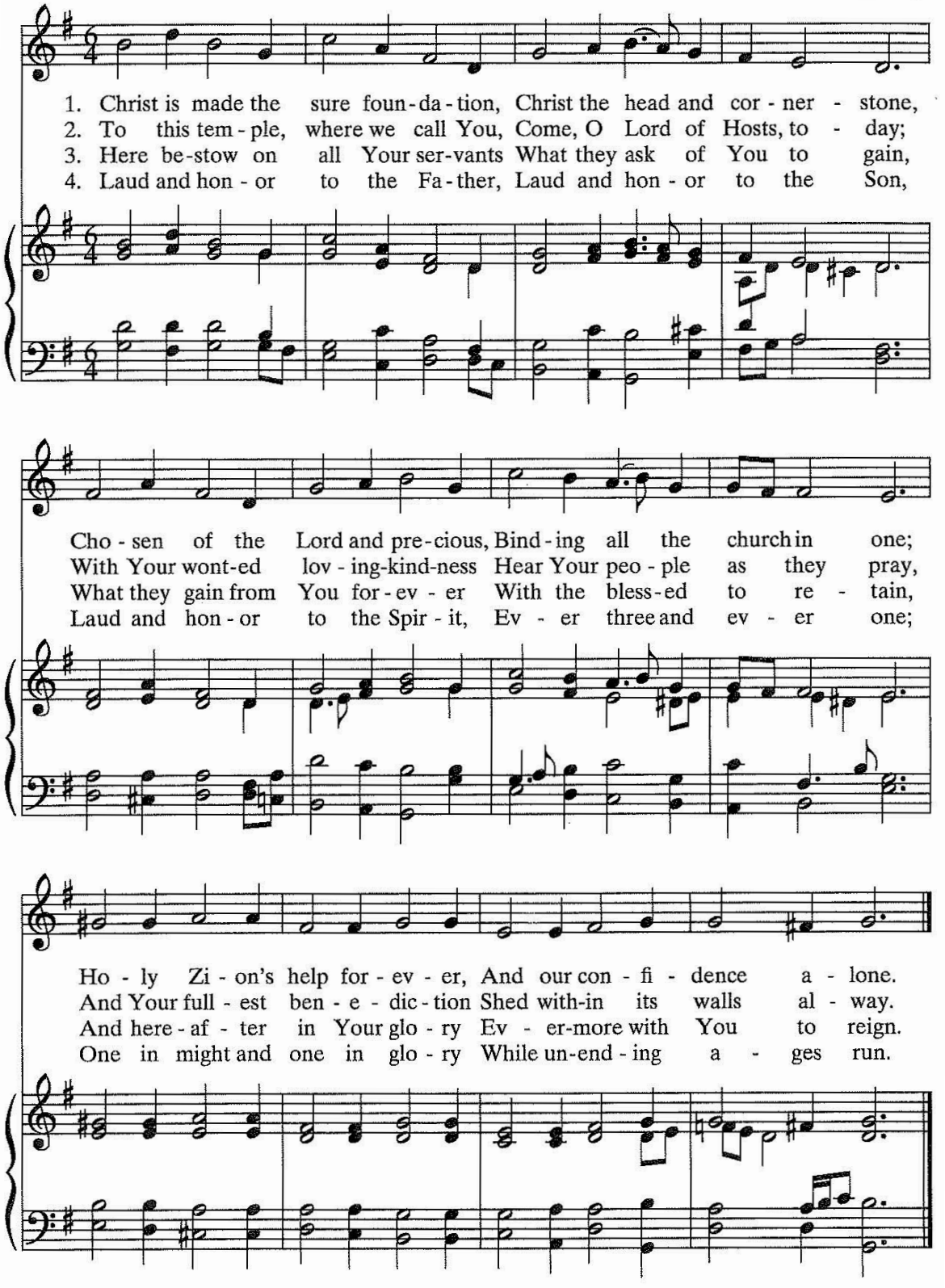
Patrick Sheridan
Patrick Sheridan joins FPC by Letter of Transfer from First Scots Presbyterian Church, Charleston, SC. Patrick is a PhD student at UGA and enjoys hiking and reading.

416 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7

7th century, Latin
Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1861, 1972

Henry Purcell (1659–1695), adapt.
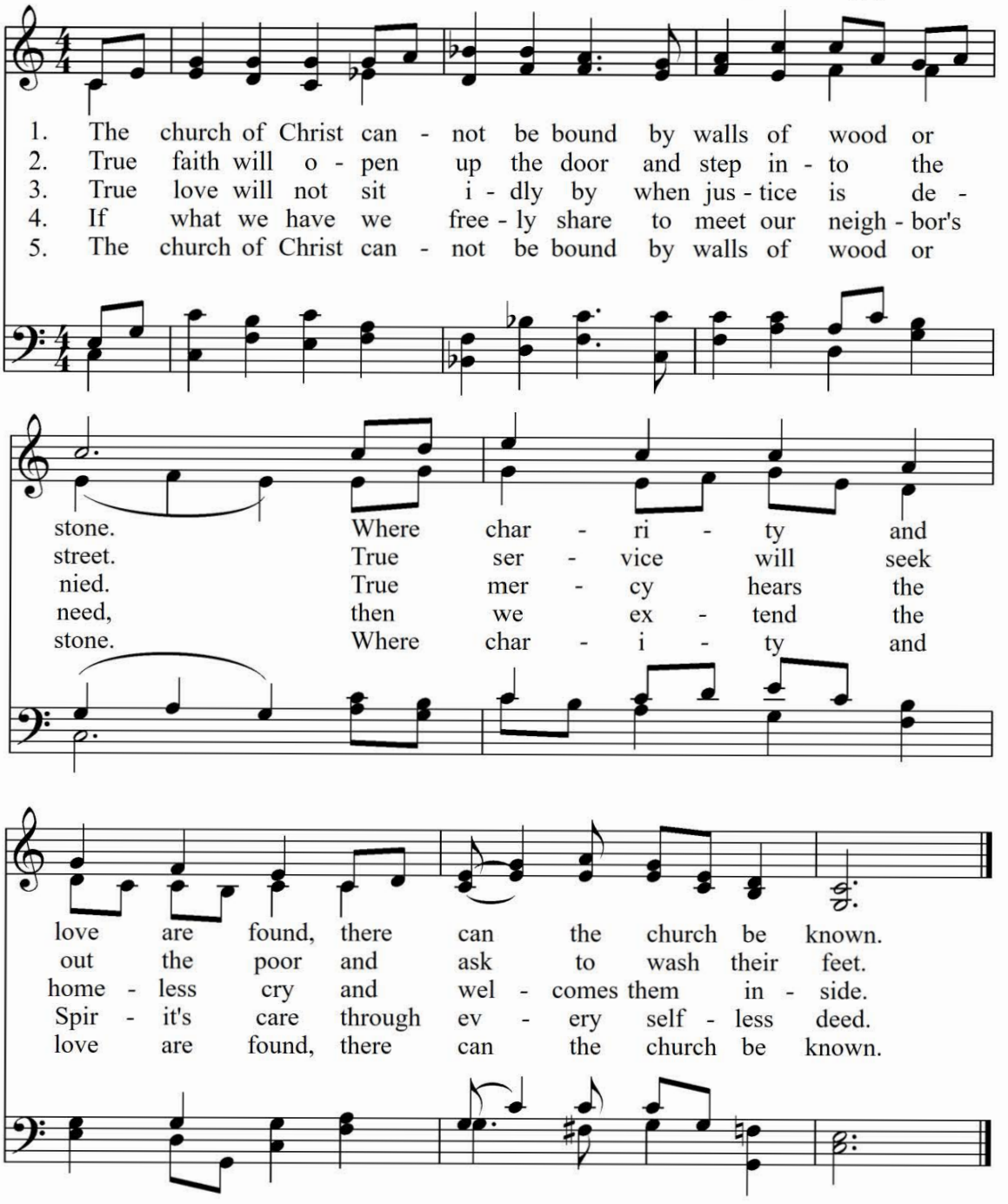


The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

MC KEE CM

Adam M. L. Tice, 2005

African American spiritual
Jubilee Songs, 1884
Adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940
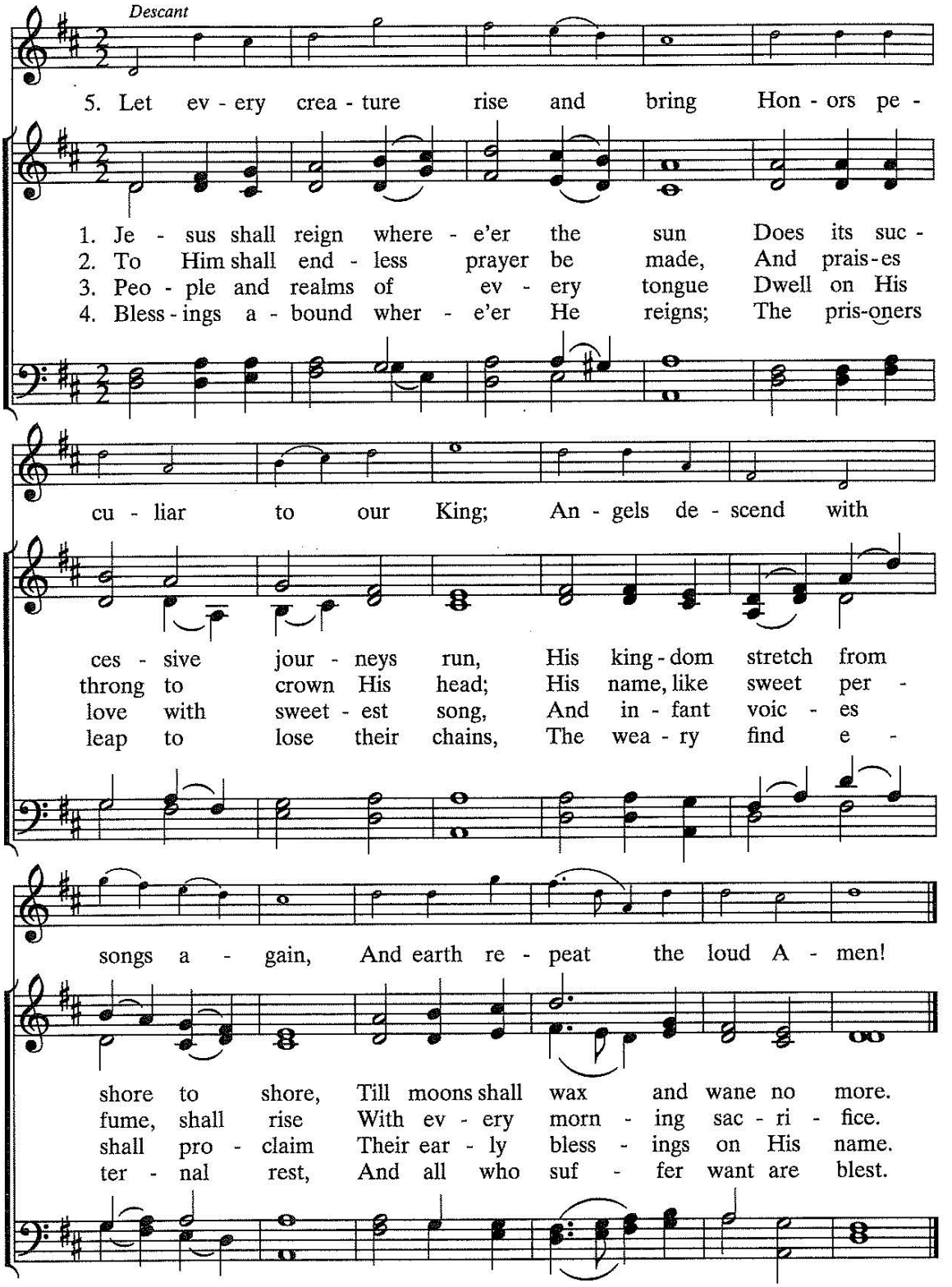


423 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET LM

Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

John Hatton (d. 1793)
Desc. David McKinley Williams, 1959



5. Let every creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Sarah Bryan	Shannon Brooks	Lindsay Griffeth
Judy Burch	Phyllis Crowell	Angela Hunt
Kent Burel	Kemp Gaskill	Dan Nadenicek
Rod Canfield	Denise Horton	Karen Phillips
Melinda DeMaria	Paul Lee	Ethelyn Simpson
Jim Dove	Sharon Logan Neff	Jeffrey Trapnell
Mark Hopkins	Bruce Middendorf	Pat Tritt
Matt Jones	Randy Riner	John Turner
Keith Oelke	Chuck Toney	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*