



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!

September 3, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Fourteenth 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

Land of Rest

Don Hustad

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

Come, behold the feast of heaven. Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
"Come, the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!

Call to Worship

God calls us each by name as we gather on holy ground.
We come to this place, seeking to know the great I AM.
Let us worship God.

*Hymn 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Sometimes it sounds too hard: deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us. We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace.

*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.**

**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).

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharist emphasis of *For the Beauty of the Earth* has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. The tune is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

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:
Carol McKay

Take My Life is a hymn of consecration that radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a full survey of a person's attributes and possessions, giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.



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.

***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

PROSPECT

E - ter - nal light, shine in my heart; e - ter - nal hope, lift
up my eyes; e - ter - nal power, be my sup -
port; e - ter - nal wis - dom, make me wise.

First Lesson

Luke 16:12-21, page 956

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

Second Lesson

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, page 604

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

Sermon

Wisdom and Time

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 391**

Take My Life

HENDON

***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

Shepherd of Souls

Alfred V. Fedak

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless thy chosen pilgrim flock
with manna from the wilderness, with water from the rock.
We would not live by bread alone, but by thy word of grace,
in strength of which we travel to our abiding place.
Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread thy table in our heart.
Lord, sup with us in love divine, thy body and thy blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.

***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

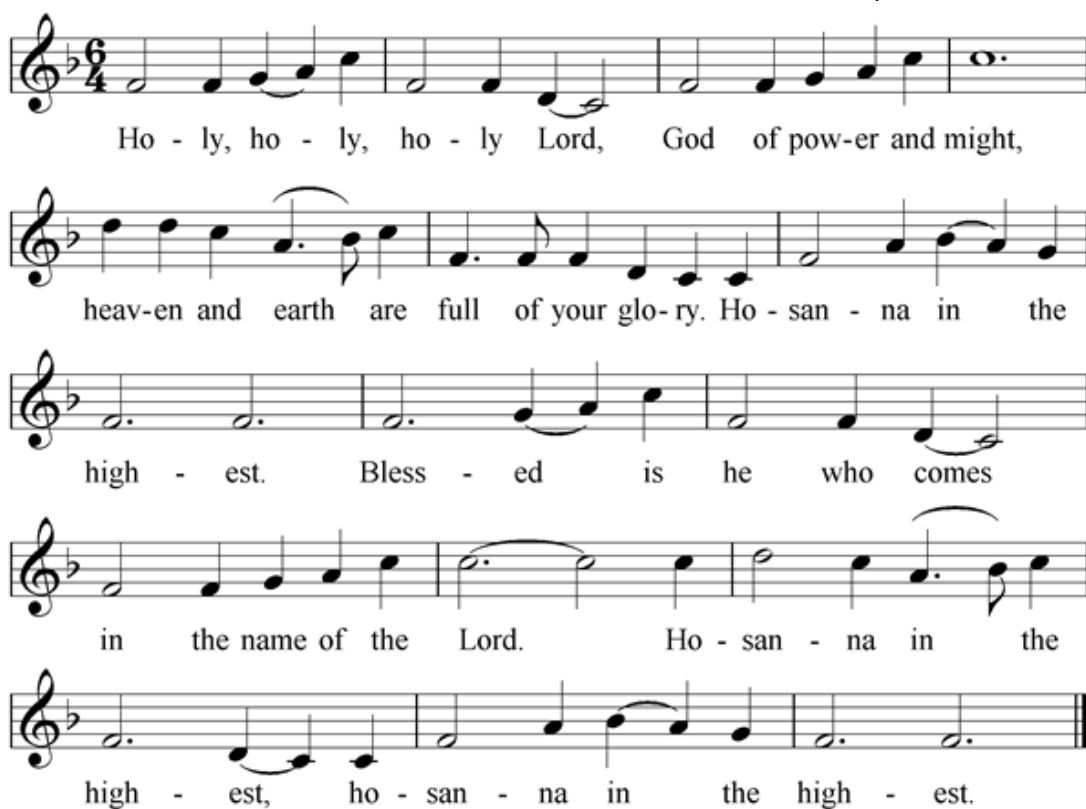
Invitation to the Lord's Table

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...

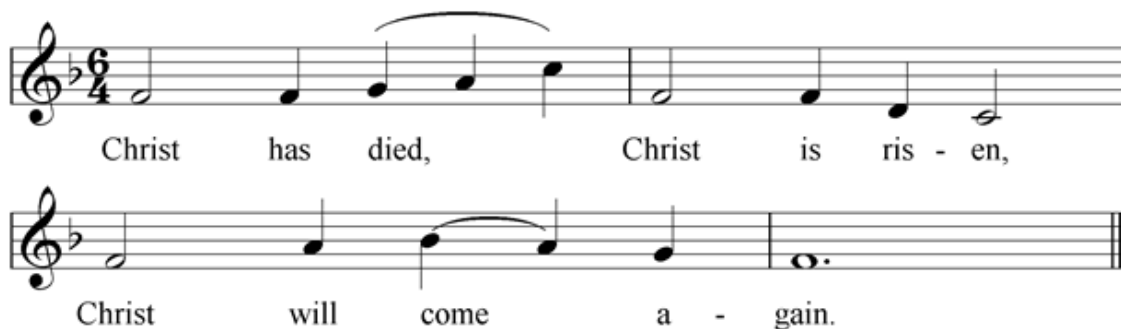
The musical setting of the communion liturgy is based on the American folk hymn LAND OF REST, arranged by American composer Richard Proulx.

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



Using Jesus' harvest imagery in John 4, Matthew 9, and Luke 10, *Come Labor On* sounds a compelling call to Christian service. The words gain energy from the strong unison tune in the English cathedral style, whose name echoes the Benedictine motto "Prayer is work."

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 415**

Come, Labor On

ORA LABORA

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you;

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Postlude

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Michael Burkhardt

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.

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. RSVP deadline is **Tuesday, September 5**. For additional information and questions, please contact Rev. Leigh Bonner (lbonner@firstpresathens.org).



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

Carol McKay

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon III (head),

Keith Oelke, John Simpson

GREETERS

Carol McKay, Dan Nadenicek

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

SEPTEMBER FLOWER TEAM

Betsy Bushnell (chair), Eve Morris,

Lois Neighbors, Beverly Phares,

Jennifer Poole, Gail Wilfong

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

WED@FIRST BEGINS SEPTEMBER 20

Wed@First provides an opportunity to experience Christian fellowship and growth in a relaxed atmosphere. It includes dinner, children's' choirs, and Shakespeare and Company, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. Dinner opens at 5:30 p.m. Our after-dinner program, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., will have a study led by Dr. Ryan Baer:

“Bumper Sticker Theology”

Join us after our Wed@First dinners in Moses Waddel Room for a series of conversations with Dr. Baer titled, “Bumper Sticker Theology.” We’ll explore phrases like, “God only gives you as much as you can handle,” and “In case of rapture, this car will be unmanned.” We’ll ponder the origins of these phrases, consider their usefulness, and put them in conversation with biblical texts. All are welcome, and no advance preparation is required.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

We are brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that’s not God’s plan. Galatians 6:2 says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” God wants us to care for others – and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you are sad or struggling inside, don’t suffer alone. Ask for help. We’ve got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It’s confidential too!) Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with 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

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!

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, September 4 - Labor Day, Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 5

12:15 p.m. Women's Small Group, Brides Room

1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Home of Kitty Donnan

7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, September 6

11:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

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

Thursday, September 7

2:00 p.m. Mellows Rehearsal, Room 202

Sunday, September 10 - Food Sunday, Sunday School Begins

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play

11:00 a.m. Atrium 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 Youth Group, The PIT

6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

LOOKING AHEAD

September 17 – Small Groups Begin (week of September 17)

September 20 – Wed@First Begins

Dot's Closet

Dear friends, we are in need of the following items for Dot's Closet: **lightweight wheelchairs, shower chairs, bedside commode, walkers**. Please bring them to church office during business hours (Mon-Thu 8:30-4:30 p.m.; Fri 8:30-2:00 p.m.). For more information and questions, please contact Jennifer Sunderlin at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org.

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.



For the Beauty of the Earth

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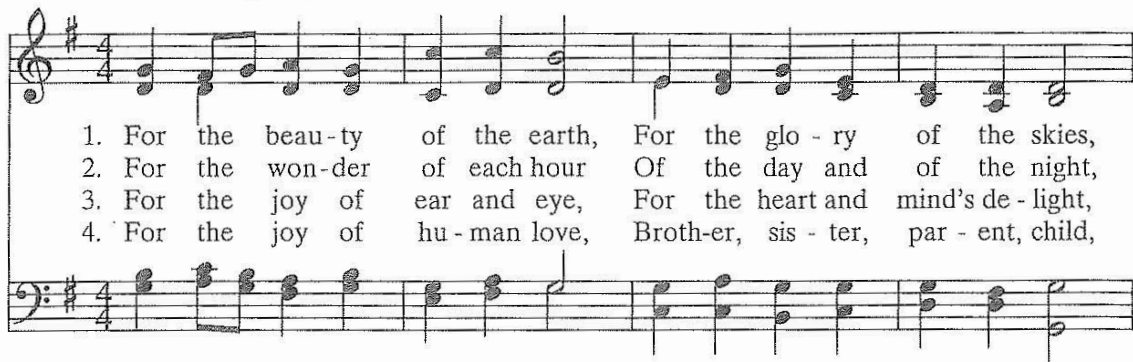
DIX 7.7.7.7.7

Conrad Kocher, 1838

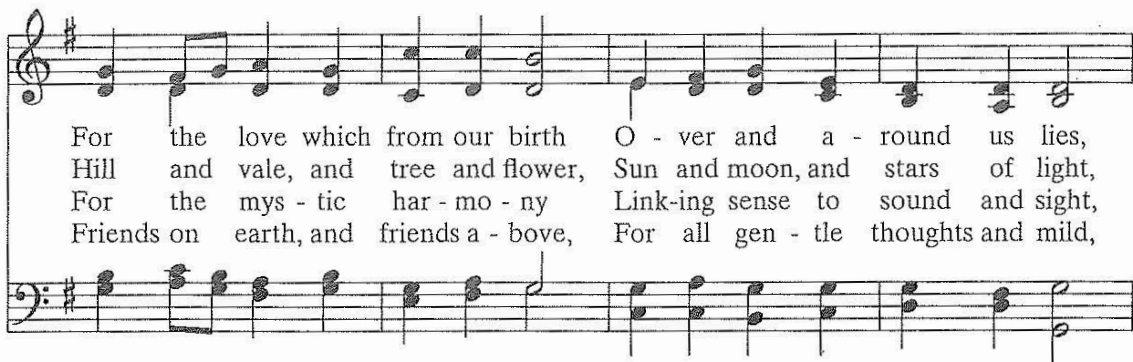
Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864

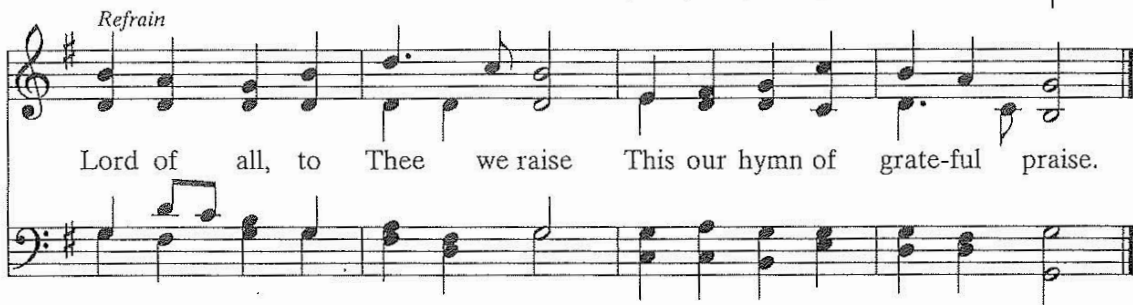


1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo-ry of the skies,
 2. For the won-der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, Broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
 For the mys-tic har-mo-ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, For all gen-tle thoughts and mild,

Refrain



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

5. For Thy church that evermore
 Lifteth holy hands above,
 Offering up on every shore

Her pure sacrifice of love,
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise
 This our hymn of grateful praise.

Take My Life

HENDON 7.7.7.7

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874

H. A. César Malan, 1827

1. Take my life, and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee.
 2. Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love.
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, Al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold;

Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in
 Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti -
 Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sa -
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as

cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 ges from Thee, Filled with mes - sa - ges from Thee.
 Thou shalt choose, Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it Thine;
 It shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is Thine own;
 It shall be Thy royal throne,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 At Thy feet its treasure store.
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for Thee,
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

Come, Labor On

415

ORA LABORA 4.10.10.10.4

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; rev. 1863; alt.

Thomas Tertius Noble, 1918

1. Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain
 2. Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
 3. Come, la-bor on. A - way with gloom-y doubts and faith-less fear!
 4. Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west-ern sky,

While all a - round us waves the gold-en grain? And to each ser - vant
 To young and old the gos - pel glad-ness bear. Re - deem the time; its
 No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here; Though fee - ble a - gents,
 Till the long shad-ows o'er our path-way lie, And a glad sound comes

does the Mas-ter say, "Go work to - day."
 hours too swift-ly fly. The night draws nigh.
 may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.
 with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

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
Keith Oelke

CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Kemp Gaskill
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Logan Neff
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*