



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!

October 15, 2023
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Twentieth 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

Improvisation: Variations on Shepherd's Pipes

John Coble

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**Let every voice on earth resound,
and joyful hearts hold God adored;
in gladness may God's courts abound
with songs of praise unto the Lord.**

Call to Worship

from Psalm 146

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

We will praise the Lord as long as we live.

God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

God keeps faith forever.

God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.

The Lord will reign forever, our God for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

*Hymn 330

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

SHEPHERD'S PIPES

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of the afflicted, we confess that we often place judgment on the choices of those in distress. We expect your blessing to fall only on those who practice loyalty to family and not on those who return home by another way. We do not attempt to understand those who follow difficult cultural norms just to survive. Forgive our reluctance to accept your justice. Help us open our eyes to see faithfulness where once we saw none. Help us practice (cont.)

**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).

Deep in the Shadows of the Past reminds us to two truths we often forget: how deeply our faith is rooted in God's enduring covenant with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and how much we can learn from their story. The tune began life as the setting for a family Christmas card.

**your justice, your feeding, your openness, your lifting up, and
your protecting of the vulnerable.**

***Silent Prayer**

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



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 a.m. Lay Reader:
Ella Stewart

The anthem is a
familiar text that offers
a reminder that the
model for our dealings
with others should be
God’s generosity rather
than limited human
tolerance. The tune was
written by American
church musician Calvin
Hampton.

*O God of Bethel, by
Whose Hand*, headed
“Jacob’s Vow; from
Genesis 28:20-22”
by the author, is a
paraphrase of the story
of Jacob making a vow
with God at Bethel.
The revision in the
Scottish Paraphrases
brings us personally
into the story and into
a covenant with God.

***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 454, stanza 3

**Glorious Lord, yourself impart!
Light of light, from God proceeding,
open now our ears and heart, help us by your Spirit’s pleading;
hear the cry that we are raising;
hear, and bless our prayers and praising.**

First Lesson

Mark 3:31-35, page 915

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy* Calvin Hampton

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows up the Head.
For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Second Lesson

Ruth 1:1-18, page 238

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

Sermon

Family Business

The Rev. Leigh Bonner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 269**

O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand

DUNDEE

***Affirmation of Faith**

from *The Confession of Belhar*

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who
gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.
We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the (cont.)**

communion of saints called from the entire human family.
We believe that God has revealed God’s self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows.
We believe that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things. 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 *Adagio* Antonio Vivaldi

***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 insert** *For All the Faithful Women* NYLAND

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** SINE NOMINE
Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry “Amen!” Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude *Grand Choeur* Théodore Dubois



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.

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.

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.

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. Ella Stewart

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw (head),
Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney (head), Laura Toney

GREETER

8:45 a.m. Mary Peace

ATRIUM FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Circle Two

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Paulo Santos

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

OCTOBER FLOWER TEAM

Betsy Canfield (chair), Judy Burch,
Sydney Jackson, Susan Landrum,
Wanda Neislar, Leslye Queen, Judy Scanlon

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Ned and Beverly Phares.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of Theo Emmanuel Toney on August 30, 2023. Parents are John and Kelly Toney and grandparents are Chuck and Laura Toney.

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

AthHalf Pre-Race Service October 22

Invite your racing friends and supporters to our informal worship at 6:30 a.m. on the Atrium.
Due to the race there will be no 8:45 a.m. service on October 22.

M25 Movie and Conversation

The Matthew 25 Commission will be hosting a documentary viewing about water poisoning in Flint, MI, discussing race and the church's involvement in advocating for those affected on the following Sunday nights: 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12. Stay tuned for details and sign-up information. For more information, please contact Dan Nadenicek at dnadeni@uga.edu.

Volunteers Needed for Family Promise Host Weeks October 29 - November 12

First Presbyterian will be the host church for Family Promise families October 29 - November 12 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 volunteer, please see a Family Promise Team member in the church atrium on Sunday morning, scan the QR code, or go to this webpage: 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.



THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 15

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching
- 9:45 a.m. *God's Mission Today* Small Group, Room 309
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Fellowship Refreshments
- 12:30 p.m. Faith Formation Leader Gathering, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area

Monday, October 16

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 7:30 p.m. High School Girls Bible Study Group

Tuesday, October 17

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

Wednesday, October 18

- 4:00 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Homer's *Odyssey*, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Supper - Tamez BBQ, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. "Bumper Sticker Theology" with Ryan Baer, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, October 19

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Athens Heritage
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, October 22

- 6:30 a.m. AthHalf Pre-Race Service, Atrium, **No 8:45 a.m. Service**
- 9:30 a.m. Ways To Serve Fair, Atrium
- 9:45 a.m. *God's Mission Today* Small Group, Room 309
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 11:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Fellowship Refreshments
- 12:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. M25 Movie and Conversation, Moses Waddel 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

LOOKING AHEAD

October 29 - Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Offering, Confirmation Kick-off

Casa Christmas Gift Cards

Aid low income Latino and Hispanic families with donations to provide \$45 gift cards by **November 6**. Please make your check to First Presbyterian Church and note "Casa Christmas" in memo line - or give online at FirstPresAthens.org/giving (please select "General Fund" under "Select a Fund," and in the optional memo write "Casa Christmas"). The cards will be distributed earlier this year so families can use them for holiday gifts, food, etc. Thank you for your generosity!



Fall Programs 2023

September 20 - November 15

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Parlor

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Homer's
Odyssey, Room 308**

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner (Tamez BBQ), Fellowship Hall

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. “Bumper Sticker Theology” with
Ryan Baer, Moses Waddel Room**

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Room 202

Wednesday Night Dinner

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



\$12/person, \$45 family max (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.

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 – 5th Grade are invited to Children's Church after the passing of The Peace. We will continue worshipping together in the Children's Ministry Suite by listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God and giving to God.

**No Children's Church on the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday. All children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on this special Sunday 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 the Sparkhouse curriculum called Echo: The Story. Each class begins with a video, then we delve into the Bible. In just 36 weeks, we'll travel from Genesis to Revelation, through stories, games and activities!

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 Pieces of Faith. Youth will gather in the PIT to talk about different aspects of faith and the spiritual practices we need to help our faith grow stronger.

Middle School meets 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

High School meets 6:30 – 8:00 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 email Kim at kness@firstpresathens.org.

For more information about youth ministry at FPC, visit www.fpcathenspit.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Builders • Moses Waddel Room

This class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come join for a time of fellowship and support. This fall, the Builders will study the Hebrew Bible – commonly called the Old Testament – by engaging with the *DISCIPLE Fast Track* Bible study.

Coordinator: Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org)

HYBRID (*in person and over Zoom*)

Del Dunn Sunday School Class • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture, offering a collegial environment and welcoming all who seek to enrich their understanding of the Bible and its application to our daily lives. This fall, we will continue a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of the Gospel of Matthew.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 875 216 0708, PW: 634175

New Voices • Room 310

This class explores theological and church issues. Class leaders engage participants by inviting them to share their stories and perspectives on the topics being discussed. This fall, we will get to know some similar Biblical women (and some evangelically maligned men) through the discussion of the book *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* by Beth Allison Barr.

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. This fall, we will be watching and discussing the series *From Jesus to Constantine: A History of Early Christianity* by UNC-Chapel Hill professor Bart D. Ehrman.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jjscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

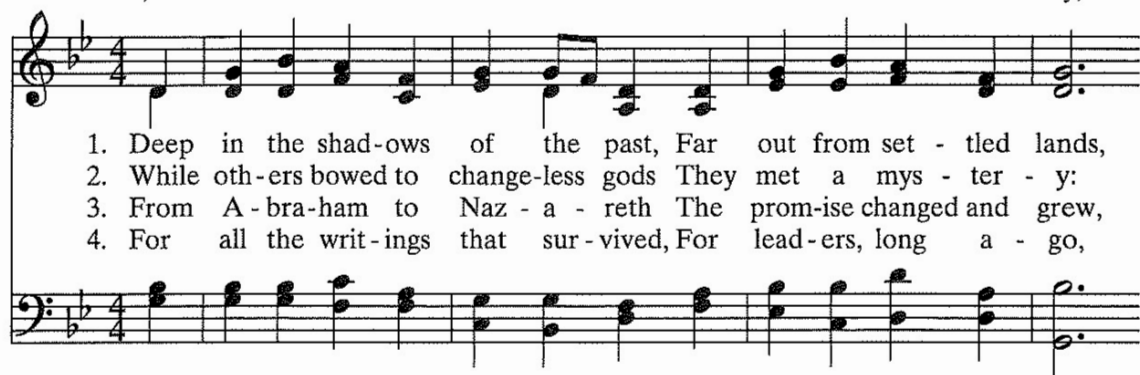
Deep in the Shadows of the Past

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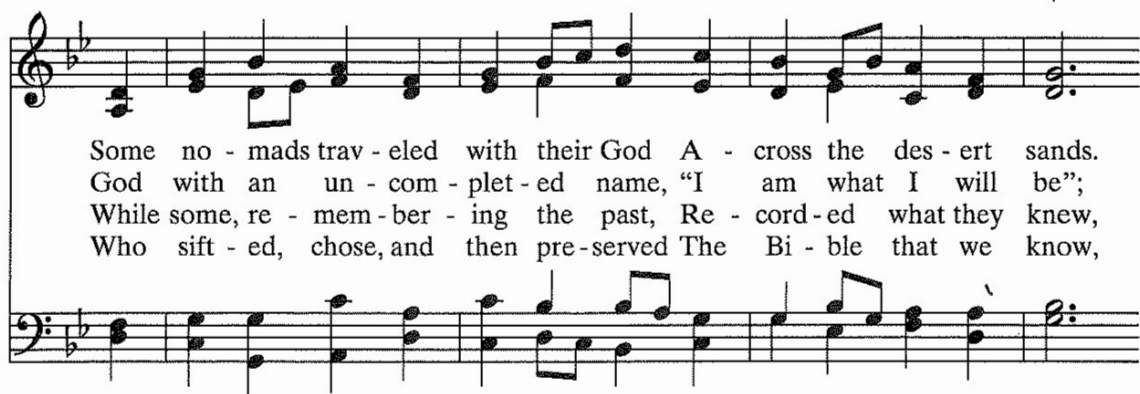
SHEPHERDS' PIPES CMD

Brian Wren, 1973

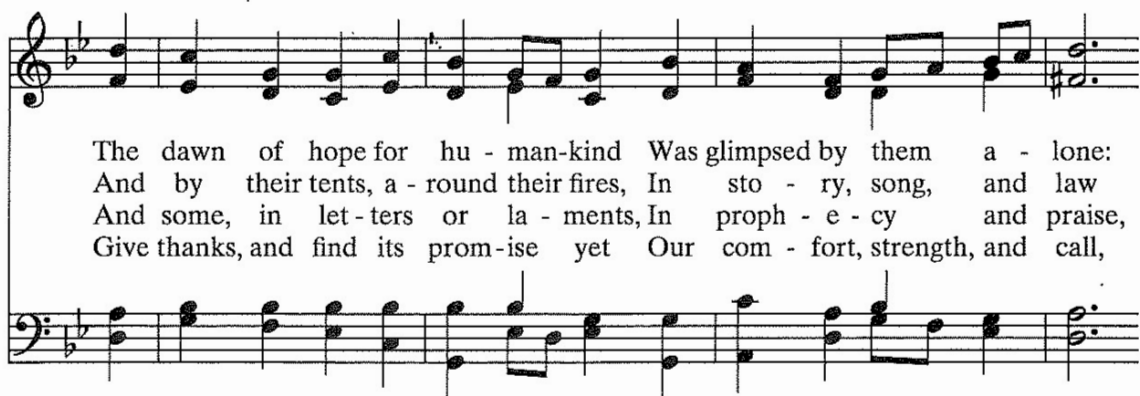
Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1952



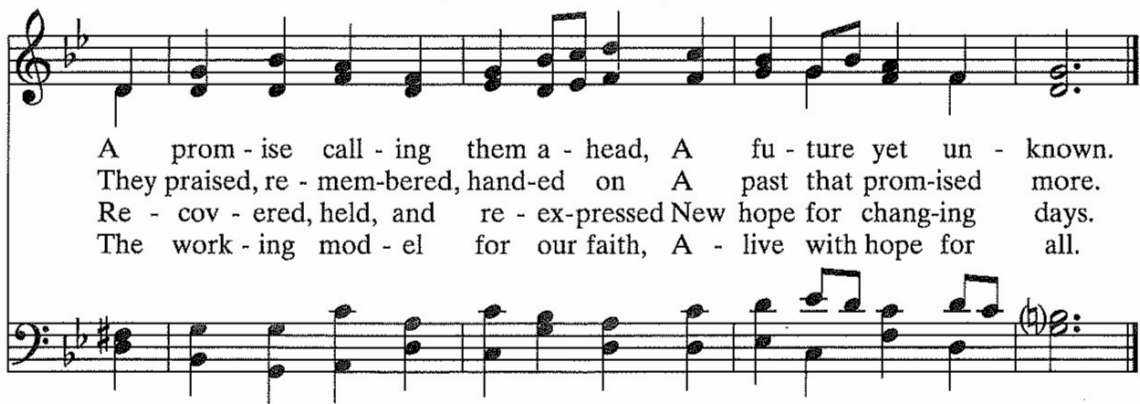
1. Deep in the shad-ows of the past, Far out from set - tled lands,
 2. While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods They met a mys - ter - y:
 3. From A - bra-ham to Naz - a - reth The prom-ise changed and grew,
 4. For all the writ-ings that sur - vived, For lead-ers, long a - go,



Some no - mads trav - eled with their God A - cross the des - ert sands.
 God with an un - com - plet - ed name, "I am what I will be";
 While some, re - mem - ber - ing the past, Re - cord - ed what they knew,
 Who sift - ed, chose, and then pre - served The Bi - ble that we know,



The dawn of hope for hu - man-kind Was glimpsed by them a - lone:
 And by their tents, a - round their fires, In sto - ry, song, and law
 And some, in let - ters or la - ments, In proph - e - cy and praise,
 Give thanks, and find its prom-ise yet Our com - fort, strength, and call,



A prom - ise call - ing them a - head, A fu - ture yet un - known.
 They praised, re - mem - bered, hand - ed on A past that prom-ised more.
 Re - cov - ered, held, and re - ex - pressed New hope for chang-ing days.
 The work - ing mod - el for our faith, A - live with hope for all.

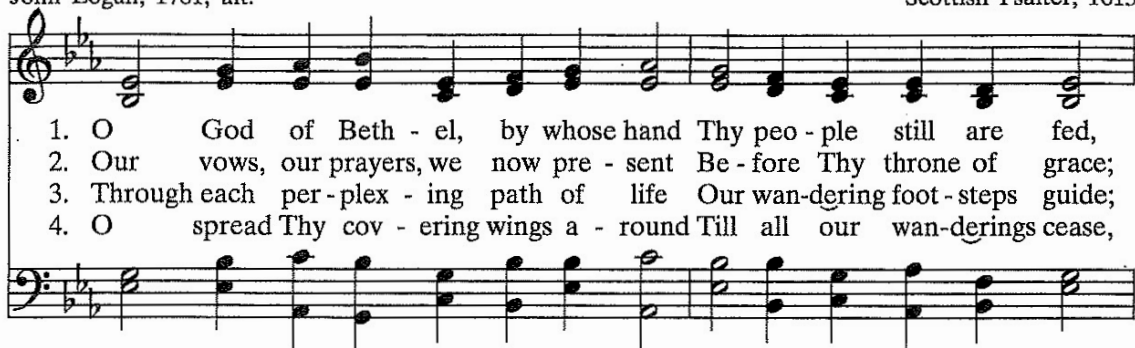
O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

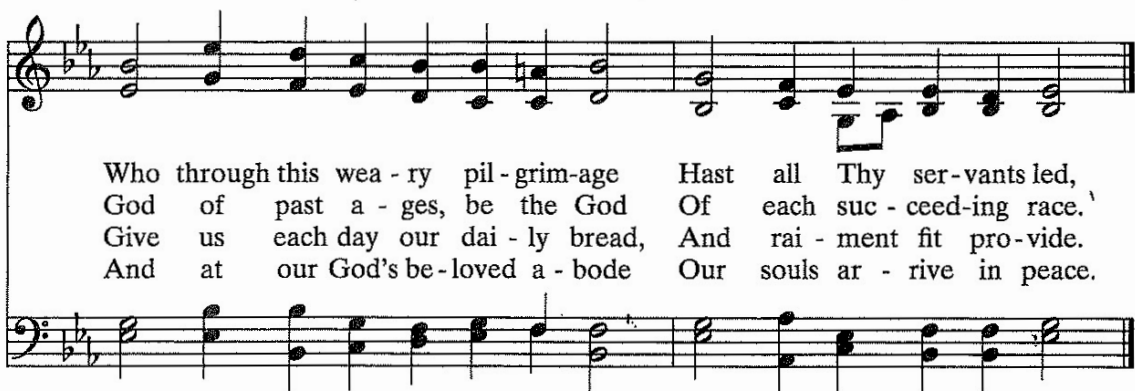
DUNDEE CM

John Logan, 1781; alt.

Scottish Psalter, 1615



1. O God of Beth - el, by whose hand Thy peo - ple still are fed,
 2. Our vows, our prayers, we now pre - sent Be - fore Thy throne of grace;
 3. Through each per - plex - ing path of life Our wan - dering foot - steps guide;
 4. O spread Thy cov - ering wings a - round Till all our wan - derings cease,



Who through this wea - ry pil - grim-age Hast all Thy ser - vants led,
 God of past a - ges, be the God Of each suc - ceed - ing race.¹
 Give us each day our dai - ly bread, And rai - ment fit pro - vide.
 And at our God's be - loved a - bode Our souls ar - rive in peace.

For All the Faithful Women

NYLAND 7.6.7.6 D

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr, 1975, alt.

Finnish folk melody;
adapt. and harm. David Evans, 1927



1. For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old, to
2. We praise your name for Mir - iam, who sang tri - um - phant - ly while
3. We sing of bus - y Mar - tha, who toiled with pot and pan while
4. Lord, hear our praise of Dor - cas, who served the sick and poor. Her



you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their sto - ry told. They
Pha-raoh's vaunt - ed ar - my lay drowned be - neath the sea; for
Mar - y sat in si - lence to hear the word a - gain. We
hands were cups of kind - ness, her heart an o - pen door. O



served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave. To
Ruth, who left her home - land and ven - tured forth in faith, who
praise the oth - er Mar - ry, who has - tened to the tomb and
God, for saints and ser - vants, our fer - vent prayer we raise, that,



you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your power to save.
pledged to serve and wor - ship Na - o - mi's God till death.
found her Lord a - ri - sen, dis - pel - ling doubt and gloom.
faith - ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

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)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lacy Mims Lian, *Receptionist* (frontdesk@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*