



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!

November 5, 2023
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
All Saints' Sunday

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

Dale Wood

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

Beverly Phares

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

Our God, indeed, is God alone!

Our God, indeed, is God alone!

Let us put nothing before our God.

We will worship only God.

***Hymn 483** *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of eternal life, we gather in gratitude for all the saints of the ages and our lives. We also confess our sorrow as we ache from their absence. We hear you call us blessed when we mourn, but we do not find the comfort you promise. Be with us in our remembrance and strengthen us until the day we join them, singing your praises in the great multitude.

*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 regal divine imagery of *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* will not be new to most, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description from Isaiah 66. The Bohemian Brethren tune resembles Genevan psalm tunes.

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.”

Children are invited to remain in the Sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

11:00 a.m. Lay Reader:
Allen Crowell

Jerusalem, My Happy Home is not to be taken literally about an earthly city, but rather the holy city, New Jerusalem, as found in Revelation 21. It is the “happy harbor of the saints,” where “no sorrow may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.”



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 anthem is setting of the Revelation 21:1-2, 4, set to music by contemporary English composer Malcolm Archer.

***Congregational Response**

Jacques Berthier

Glo-ry - to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***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

TALLIS' CANON

**Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
eternal power, be my support; eternal wisdom, make me wise.**

First Lesson

Mark 9:2-4, page 921

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

Second Lesson

1 Kings 18:17-39, page 321

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

Sermon

No Contest

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn insert**

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

LAND OF REST

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Faithful Departed

James Baird Pope, Jr.
December 13, 2022

Loretta Worsham Hayes
June 26, 2023

Richard Cloud Ferguson
January 19, 2023

Jerris Eugene Hayes
July 9, 2023

Davidson Bryan Cole
February 24, 2023

Melanie Powers
July 20, 2023

Sarah Andersen Lawrence
March 20, 2023

Audrey June Kretzschmar
July 23, 2023

Audrey Millstead Cheek
April 6, 2023

Robert (Bob) Davis Bishop
October 20, 2023

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 Offertory

For All the Saints

Flor Peeters

11:00 Offertory

And I saw a new heaven

Malcolm Archer

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying: neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

***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

A - men, a - men, a - men.

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 526** *For All the Saints* SINE NOMINE

***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 *Sine Nomine* William Bates

*Texts and music for hymns and
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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 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.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’s Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

***Requiem for the Living* by Dan Forrest**

Today, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series presents *Requiem for the Living*, by Dan Forrest, today at 4:00 p.m. It will be sung by the Chancel Choir with special guests, accompanied by chamber orchestra.

Called Congregational Meeting

November 12, after 11:00 a.m. service

The Session has called a Congregational meeting for November 12 to act on a recommendation from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The meeting will be in the Sanctuary following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. A brochure with information about the Associate Pastor candidate to be presented by the APNC will be available on November 12.

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. Allen Crowell

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Mary Peace
11:00 a.m. Tommy Jackson (head),
Jimbo LaBoon III, Rob Haire

GREETER

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of the saints of the church.
The flowers in the Narthex are in celebration of the wedding of Bashiru Balogun and Msano Mandalasi.

NOVEMBER FLOWER TEAM

Susan Ferguson (chair),
Mary Adams, Susan Barrett, Amy Cowsert,
Page Pate, Jennifer Trapnell

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

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.

Casa Christmas Gift Cards

Aid low income Latino and Hispanic families with donations to provide \$45 gift cards by **tomorrow, 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!

Stewardship Commitment Sunday
November 12

Next Sunday, November 12, we will dedicate our Commitments for 2024 at both services. You may mail your estimate of giving or turn it in online at firstpresathens.org/give/ or contact Jennifer Adams at jadams@firstpresathens.org. Thank you for prayerfully considering your estimate of giving as we continue growing in grace and gratitude!

Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday is Sunday, November 12

Can you provide a bag of food that can be used by an Athens family of four to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner? Please bring the items on the list below in a reusable bag to church on November 12 or drop them off at the church during normal business hours by **Friday, November 10**. Alternatively, you can send a check for \$50 to the church or donate at firstpresathens.org/give (please select General Fund and add “Thanksgiving bags” in the memo box).

2023 Shopping List (* not in bags delivered prior to November 12)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Cranberry sauce | ☐ Mac & Cheese |
| ☐ Chicken broth | ☐ Instant potatoes |
| ☐ French fried onions (that go on top of green bean casserole) | ☐ Rice |
| ☐ Corn | ☐ Gravy (cans or jars) |
| ☐ Stuffing/Dressing mix | ☐ Cookies |
| ☐ Cornbread mix | ☐ Fresh sweet potatoes* |
| | ☐ Brown and serve rolls* |

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 (Barberitos)**, Fellowship Hall

Dinner menu: Taco Bar, Cookies* (* = gluten free options available)*

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.

M25 Movie and Conversation

The Matthew 25 Commission is hosting a documentary viewing about water poisoning in Flint, MI, on the following Sunday nights: 11/5, and 11/12, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Moses Waddel Room. Even if you missed the previous week's conversation, you are still welcome to attend our next two sessions. The documentary and discussion guide are offered by the PC(USA), and various members of the Matthew 25 Commission will facilitate our conversations on racial and environmental justice.

Please RSVP at tinyurl.com/FPCM25Movie. Light snacks will be provided. For more information, please contact Dan Nadenicek at dnadeni@uga.edu.

Project Safe Work Day

Sunday, November 19, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Help tidy the Project Safe Thrift Store in Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7. The store will be closed to shoppers during our work time. Project Safe works to end domestic violence. Please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com to volunteer.

Holiday Meals on Wheels

Every Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day volunteers from First Presbyterian Church deliver nutritional meals to homebound seniors. FPC also pays for the meals on these three days. The cost is generally around \$1,000. Volunteers meet at the Council on Aging at 135 Hoyt St. at 10:00 a.m. The routes take 30 minutes to an hour to complete.

If you are interested in delivering meals, please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com. Since this is a popular family event, please be sure to sign up early. Donations can be made by writing a check to First Presbyterian (noted “MOW”) or give online at firstpresathens.org/giving and select “Meals on Wheels.” under “Select a fund.”

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 5, All Saints' Sunday, Communion Sunday, Daylight Savings Ends, Family Promise Host Weeks Begin

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer 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
- 4:00 p.m. *Requiem for the Living* by Dan Forrest, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 5:30 p.m. M25 Movie and Conversation, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, November 6

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting via Zoom
- 2:00 p.m. Circle Two, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 7:30 p.m. High School Girls Bible Study Group

Tuesday, November 7

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

Wednesday, November 8

- 9:15 a.m. Circle Seven, Presbyterian Village
- 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 - Barberitos, 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, November 9

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Avery Place
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Saturday, November 11 - Sunday, November 12 - Confirmation Retreat@Montreat

Sunday, November 12, Stewardship Sunday, Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer 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. Called Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Fellowship Refreshments
- 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

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

483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7

Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675

Trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864; alt.

Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

*
1. Sing praise to God, who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre -
2. What God's al-might - y power hath made, God's gra - cious mer - cy
3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, But through all grief dis -
4. Thus all my glad-some way a - long, I sing a - loud Thy

a - tion, The God of power, the God of love, The God of
keep - eth; By morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade God's watch - ful
tress - ing, An ev - er pres - ent help and stay, Our peace, and
prais - es That all may hear the grate-ful song My voice un -

our sal - va - tion; With heal-ing balm my soul is filled, And
eye ne'er sleep - eth; With - in the king-dom of God's might, Lo!
joy, and bless - ing; As with a moth-er's ten - der hand, God
wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both

ev - ery faith-less mur-mur stilled:
all is just and all is right:
gent-ly leads the cho - sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry!
soul and bod - y take your part:

*May be sung in unison.

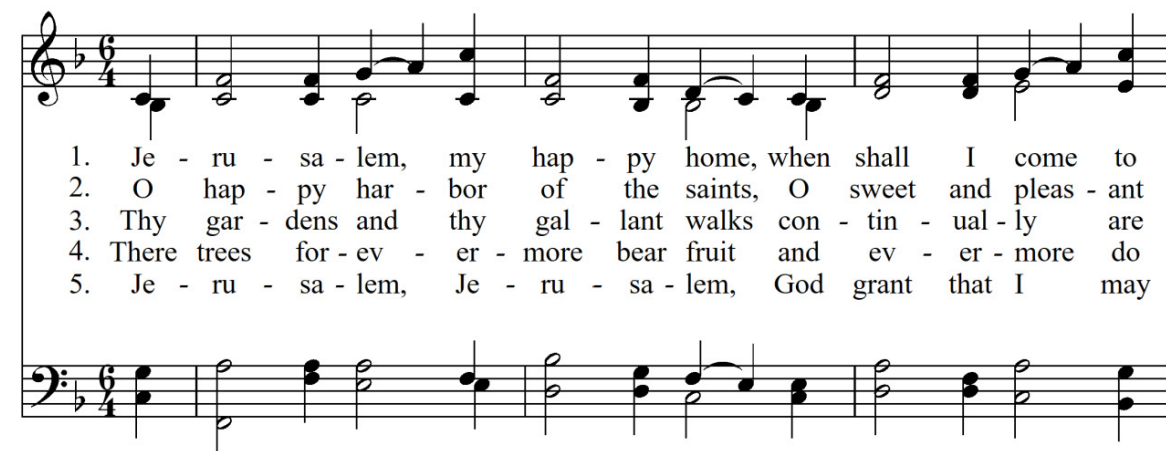
This tune in a lower key, 7

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

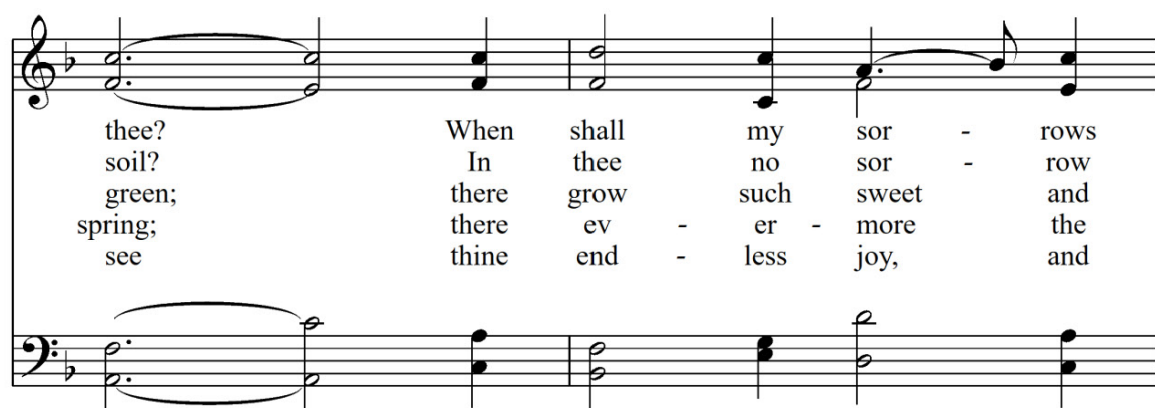
LAND OF REST CM

F.B.P., 16th cent

American folk hymn



1. Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to
2. O hap - py har - bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas - ant
3. Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks con - tin - ual - ly are
4. There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit and ev - er - more do
5. Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may



thee? When shall my sor - rows
soil? In thee no sor - row
green; there grow such sweet and
spring; there ev - er - more the
see thine end - less joy, and



have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.
pleas - ant flow'rs as no - where else are seen.
an - gels sit and ev - er - more do sing.
of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE 10.10.10 with alleluias

William Walsham How, 1864

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who
 2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
 *3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
 **4. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through

Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy
 Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
 We feeble struggle, they in glory shine; Yet
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host,

name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
 Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
 Sing - ing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Harmony, stanza 3

3. O blest com - mu - nion, fel-low-ship di - vine! We fee-bly strug-gle,

they in glo-ry shine; Yet all are one in Thee, for all are

D.C. for stanza 4

Thine. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**(May be sung before stanza 3)*

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*** (May be sung before stanza 4)*

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!