

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!

February 18, 2024
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent

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

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Alec Wyton

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

WINCHESTER NEW

The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.

Call to Worship

The praise we come to share is praise of thanksgiving.

In our worship, we hold God's love close to our hearts.

We desire to surround ourselves with community.

As our songs echo, our prayers rise, claiming God as our strength.

*Hymn 81

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

*Call to Confession

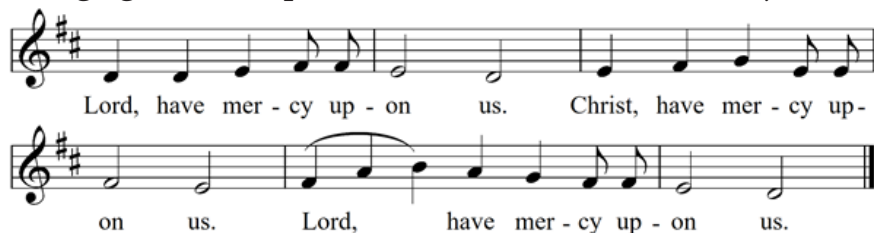
*Prayer of Confession

You are the creator of the cosmos, and yet you tend to our every need. With your voice you plant the seed of your will in our hearts, where Christ waters it with an unending flow of love and the Spirit tends it as we grow ever stronger in your ways. We pray that, like a seedling, we might reach for the light and stretch our roots deep into the soil of your blessed foundation. Amen.

*Silent Prayer

*Congregational Response

Healey Willan



**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).

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. It is set to a 16th-century English psalm tune.

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 Baptism 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.

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles' Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.

11:00 Lay Reader:
Daniel Baer

***Assurance of Pardon**

***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.

11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Baptism

Through baptism, we welcome James David (JD) Dantzler, son of James and Courtney Dantzler, grandson of Anne and David Dantzler, into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

***Question to the Congregation**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture JD by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ? If so, please stand.

***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.**

Hymn

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN



HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

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

First Lesson

Psalm 19:7-10 , page 488

11:00 Anthem

Wash Me Thoroughly

David Halls

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

Second Lesson

Mark 10:17-31, page 923

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

Sermon

Shocked

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 388**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

***8:45 a.m. Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

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

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Johann Sebastian Bach

***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 426**

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBUIRY

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal rive I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Postlude

Toccata in G minor

Johann Pachelbel

O Jesus, I Have Promised was written to highlight the promises made by the author's children at their confirmation. The text also recalls the promises of discipleship made in Baptism and the reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant.



You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your pledge through your bank, or donate online using this QR code or at firstpresathens.org/give. Thank you for your generosity.

Two great truths inform *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*: that the testimony of experience is powerful, and that no one should minister on one's own strength rather than God's.

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.

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located 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.

Red Cross Blood Drive

February 25, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code AFPC), or contact the church office. If you cannot give blood but would like to help check-in donors, please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer (jbneighb@bellsouth.net).

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Daniel Baer

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Mary Peace
11:00 a.m. Richard Lane (head),
Ethelyn Simpson, Marcia Talmadge

GREETER

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

FEBRUARY FLOWER TEAM

Susan Baldwin, Melanie Epting, Karen
Gilmore, Terry Nestor, 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, 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.

Wednesday@First Spring Programs 2024
February 21 - April 24

- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Parlor
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Shakespeare and Friends Homer’s Odyssey
Book 14, Room 308
- 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- *6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Meeting Jesus at the Table, Lenten Conversations
with Whitney and Ryan, Fellowship Hall Breakout Room
- *6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Room 202

**Childcare Provided*

Wednesday Night Dinner
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



\$12 adults, \$45 max per family (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.

Resources for Lent 2024 at FPC

This Lent, we have several opportunities and resources that you may use to guide your 40 days. We come to Christ's table hungry for many different things and there is always a seat for us there. However you choose to observe this season—in community or in solitude, with reflection or action – we pray that it is a time of intentionality and attentiveness to yourself and to your relationship with God.

Observing Lent with others:

Wed@First: *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, Lenten Conversations with Whitney and Ryan 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall Breakout Room, beginning February 21

Jesus spent much of his life and ministry breaking bread and sharing meals both ordinary and extraordinary with all types of people. Join us as we look at the journey toward Easter through the lens of these many holy encounters that happen when Jesus gathers at the table. We will be drawing from the Lenten study book *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, but there's no required reading. After Lent, plan to join us on April 10, 17, and 24 for continued learning together about the intersections of food and faith and how our congregation can respond to the needs of our neighbors. Come as you are and join the conversation!

Lenten Lunch (via Zoom, ID: 706-543-4338) – using *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!* by Kate Bowler – Thursdays at 12:30, beginning February 15.

Grab your lunch and sign on from your home or office to join us for a weekly group study written by Kate Bowler. Our time together will consist of reading scripture, discussion based on the week's Lenten theme, prayer, and a blessing for the week. This will coincide with Kate's daily Lenten email prompts, but you won't be lost without them – come as you are! This will be a meaningful time for us to grow closer together in community as we name and share the highs and lows in this mixed bag of Lent and of life.

Lenten devotionals to use on your own:

Local Pilgrim: a Wandering, Wondering Daily Devotional by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott and others. This daily Lent devotional from the Presbyterian Outlook invites you to explore and observe new and familiar places in your community. What will God reveal to you when you pause, ponder, and reflect? Click the link on FPC website to access a pdf of this devotional. If you would like a printed version mailed to you, please contact the church office (e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338).

***Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!* by Kate Bowler.** Click the link on FPC website to sign up for Daily Lenten Prompts delivered straight to your e-mail inbox for the 40 days of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 14).

Tread Lightly for Lent – a daily reflection-action calendar from Presbyterian Hunger Program, offering a lens of creation care to your Lenten practice. Click the link on FPC website to access a pdf of this resource. If you would like a printed version mailed to you, please contact the church office (e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338).

Children's Ministry plans for Lent: Click the link on FPC website to read *Making Room for Jesus*, *Making Room for Wonder*, Children's Ministry Newsletter with plans for Lent 2024.

Youth Ministry plans for Lent:

Middle School Sunday School – For Lent, we'll be learning more about Jesus and his relationship with outsiders, outcasts and outlaws, using the Adam Hamilton curriculum, *Luke*. How can stories of his interactions with the wealthy and powerful and with the poor, sick, and vulnerable help us to become more faithful Christians?

Youth Group – On Sunday nights, we'll focus on Holy Week. Delving into each day, we'll seek to understand how Jesus was feeling, what his disciples might have been thinking and the importance of each day in the journey to the cross. Based on these conversations, youth will design and create prayer stations in the PIT that will be open during Holy Week for the congregation.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 18 - First Sunday of Lent, First Things New Member Class

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship in the Atrium
- 12:15 p.m. Mission & Outreach Commission Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 1:30 p.m. First Things New Member Informational Class, Staff Conference Room

Monday, February 19 - Presidents' Day, Church Office Closed

Tuesday, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 21 - Wed@First Spring programs begin

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Homer's *Odyssey*, Book 14, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Supper - Saucehouse, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. *Meeting Jesus at the Table*, Lenten Conversations with Whitney and Ryan, Fellowship Hall Breakout Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, February 22

- 12:30 p.m. Lenten Lunch (Zoom ID: 706-543-4338)
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, February 25 - Red Cross Blood Drive, New Member Introduction and Reception

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 8:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 10:00 p.m. New Member Coffee with Session, Parlor
- 12:00 p.m. New Member Reception, Atrium
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir and Cherub Choir Rehearsals, Room 203
- 4:20 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Room 202
- 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 • Room 301

This class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come join for a time of fellowship and support.
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.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 380 330 5940, PW: 245449

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.

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.

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

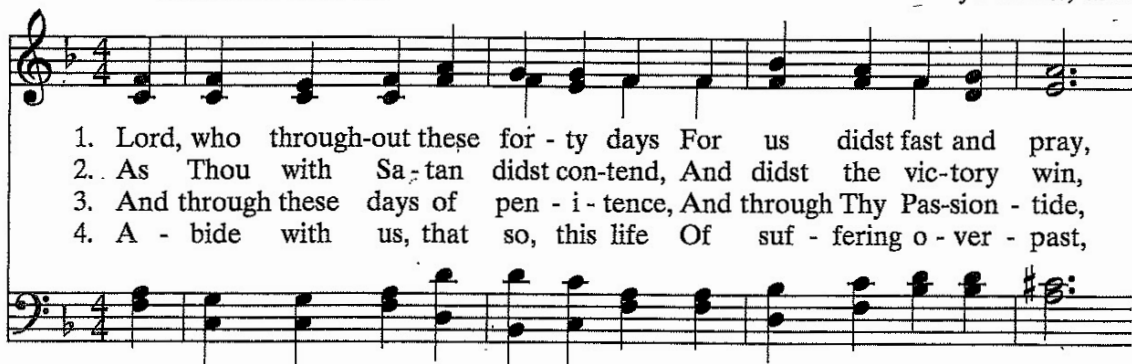
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81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

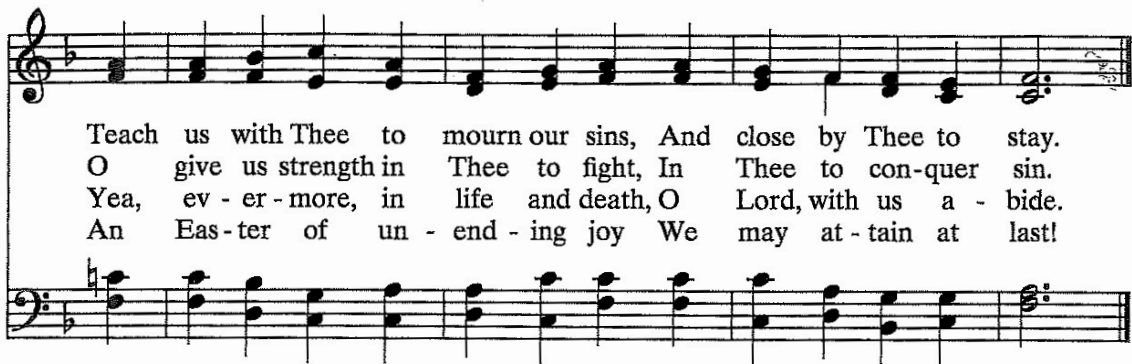
ST. FLAVIAN CM

Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Day's Psalter, 1562



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days For us didst fast and pray,
2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, And didst the vic-tory win,
3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy Pas-sion - tide,
4. A - bid with us, that so, this life Of suf - fering o - ver - past,



Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.
O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con-quer sin.
Yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bid.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

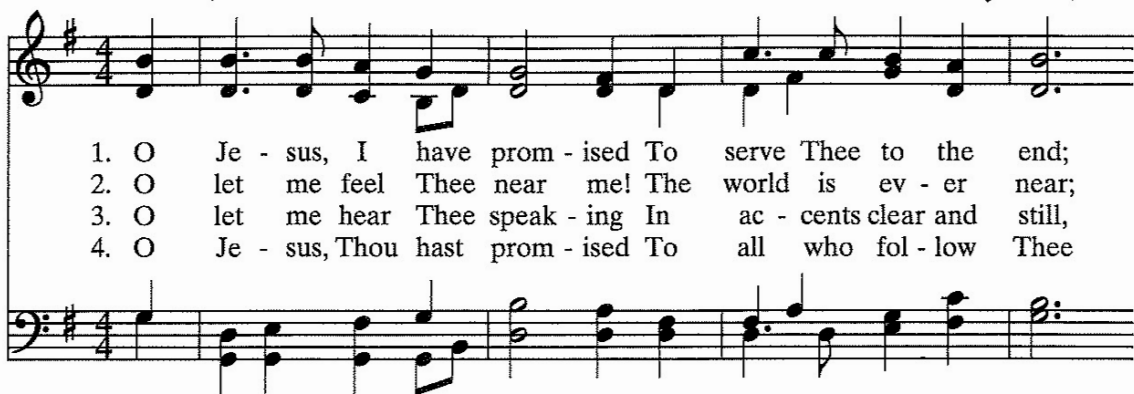
O Jesus, I Have Promised

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ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6 D

John Ernest Bode, 1868

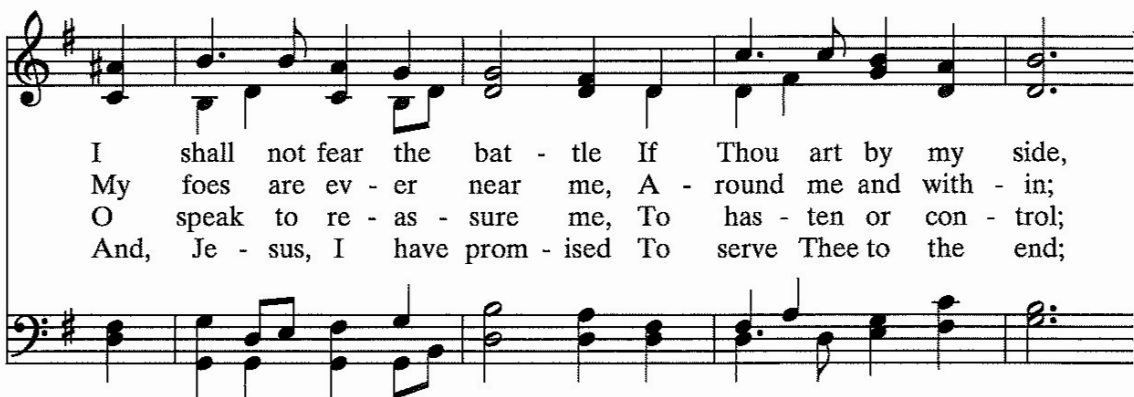
Arthur Henry Mann, 1881



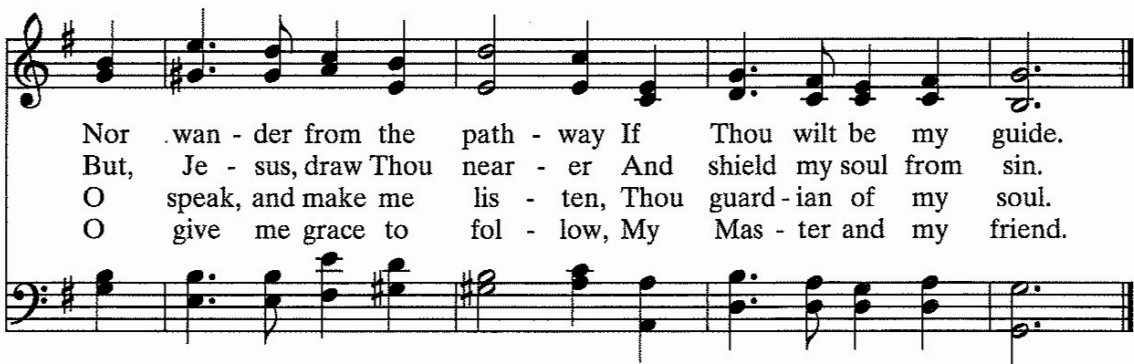
1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;
 2. O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
 3. O let me hear Thee speak - ing In ac - cents clear and still,
 4. O Je - sus, Thou hast prom - ised To all who fol - low Thee



Be Thou for - ev - er near me, My Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle, The tempt - ing sounds I hear;
 A - bove the storms of pas - sion, The mur - murs of self - will;
 That where Thou art in glo - ry There shall Thy ser - vant be;



I shall not fear the bat - tle If Thou art by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, A - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, To has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;



Nor wan - der from the path - way If Thou wilt be my guide.
 But, Je - sus, draw Thou near - er And shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, Thou guard - ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, My Mas - ter and my friend.

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak 426

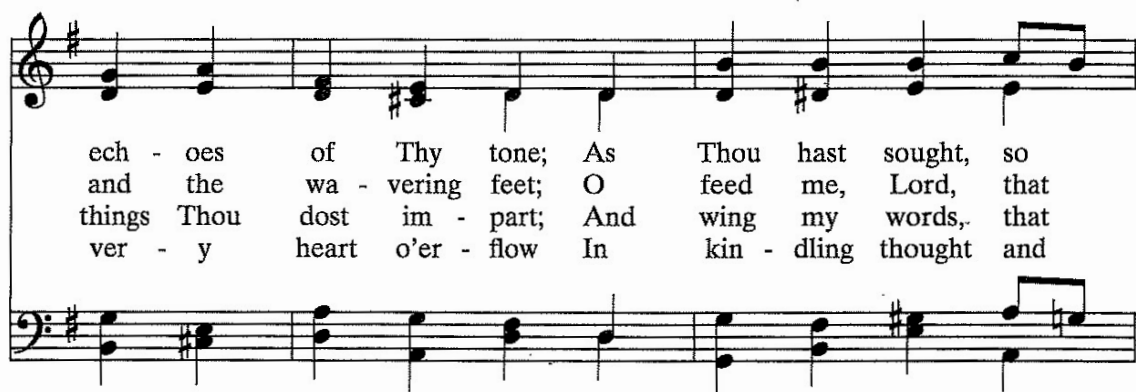
Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872

CANONBURY LM

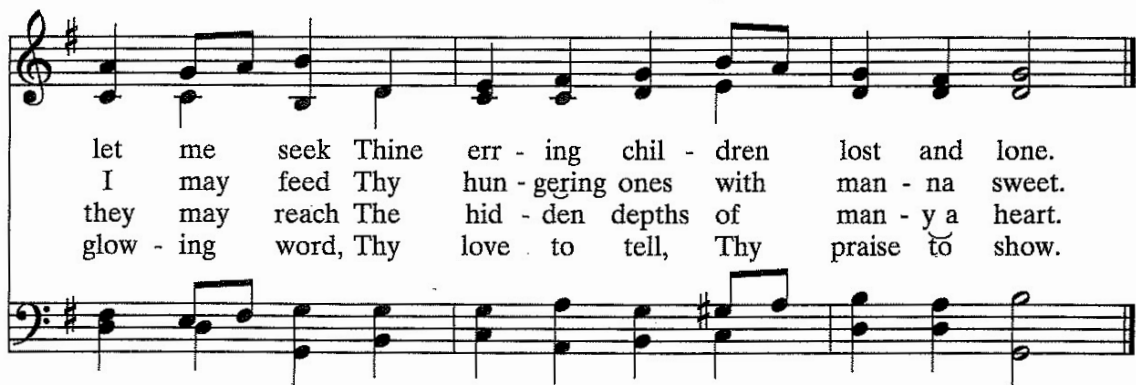
Robert Schumann, 1839



1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In liv - ing
 2. O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wan - dering
 3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The pre - cious
 4. O fill me with Thy full - ness, Lord, Un - til my



ech - oes of Thy tone; As Thou hast sought, so
 and the wa - vering feet; O feed me, Lord, that
 things Thou dost im - part; And wing my words, that
 ver - y heart o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and



let me seek Thine err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed Thy hun - gery ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach The hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

5. O use me, Lord, use even me,
 Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
 Until Thy blessed face I see,
 Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

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
Mark Hopkins
Matt Jones
Keith Oelke

CLASS OF 2024

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
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. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor* (whitney@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)
Ms. Gabrielle Mason, *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*