

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!

April 21, 2024
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Intrada

Grayston Ives

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

Hymn 474, stanza 1

**O splendor of God's glory bright, from light eternal bringing light;
thou light of life, light's living spring, true day, all days illumining.**

Call to Worship

The Holy Spirit calls you to this place.

We are inspired to hear and know God's word.

The Holy Spirit calls you to this place.

We are inspired to sing God's praises!

*Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of Grace, we know that you have chosen us, but we often forget that you have also chosen others. You call us to be imitators of Christ, yet many times we are imitators of the world. You challenge us to turn from our idols, but we are tempted to turn back to them again and again. Rescue us, Lord, from ourselves. Show us your way. Guide our every action, that we may live as you call us to live.

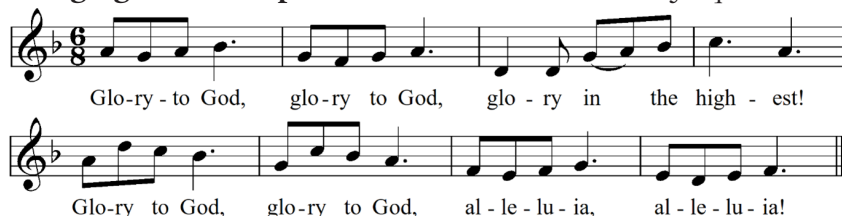
*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Jacques Berthier



**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).

The opening line of *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* was inspired by the three divine attributes in 1 Timothy 1 (King James Version). It continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The tune is a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

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.

Lay Readers:
8:45: Jean Martin-Williams
11:00: Daniel Baer

The anthem was written by English composer Martin Shaw for the 1923 Annual Festival of the Rochester Diocesan Church Choirs Association. Shaw has over 300 published works in many genres. His nephew, actor Sebastian Shaw, appeared in Return of the Jedi (1983).

Give Thanks, O Christian People was written by a Presbyterian director of Christian education in Washington, DC, to honor the ministry of a colleague leaving the area. It is a reminder that god's people serve in many vocations and ministries.



You may mail your check, set up an automatic gift 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 Hymn 339, stanza 1

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me, save that thou art –
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

First Lesson Mark 13:9-11, page 927

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

11:00 Anthem *With A Voice of Singing* Martin Shaw

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

Second Lesson Acts 17:1-9 (page 1012), 1 Thess 1:1-10 (page 1077)

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

Sermon *Gratitude* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 552** *Give Thanks, O Christian People*
ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

***8:45 a.m. 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.**

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 *Aria* Craig Phillips

***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**

11:00 a.m. Service of Ordination and Installation
Presentation of Elders-Elect to be Ordained* and Installed

*Susan Baldwin	*Jay Holloway
Bill Bushnell	*Tom Lane
Amy Cowsert	*Joan Pinson
*Matt Crim	Paige Simmons

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.
To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination
Profession of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Questions for Elders-Elect

Questions for Congregation

Do we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, accept these individuals as Elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Ordination Prayer and Installation
Declaration and Welcome
Charge to the Newly Ordained and Installed

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn insert** *God, Bless Your Church with Strength!* DIADEMATA

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 121, stanza 3
From every weapon death can wield,
your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.

Postlude *Praeludium in G* Dietrich Buxtehude

Pat Waldrup, Clerk of Session

God, Bless Your Church with Strength! was written in 1984 by a Presbyterian pastor in Indiana for the fiftieth anniversary of his church. The text focuses on the changing world and a Christian response to those changes. The author originally wrote the text with this tune in mind.

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

Elder Recognition Reception

Please join us today in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service to thank the elders in the Class of 2024 and welcome the Class of 2027 as they begin their service on the session.

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.

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.

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. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Readers

8:45 a.m. Jean Martin-Williams
11:00 a.m. Daniel Baer

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
11:00 a.m. Jimbo Laboon III (head),
Matthew Jones, Ethelyn Simpson

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Diane Hartzell
11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue, Laura Toney

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of the birthday of David H. Donnan by Kitty Donnan.

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Aiden Dowling

APRIL FLOWER TEAM

Greta Covington (chair),
Tootsie Adams, Judy Burch, Lauren Cook,
Andrea Doornbos, Jennifer Trapnell

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

All are invited for an ecumenical hymn festival hosted by Athens First United Methodist Church today at 3:00 p.m., led by renowned organist and conductor, Dr. Marilyn Keiser. Our Chancel Choir will join choirs and clergy from downtown Athens churches to celebrate the wonders of God’s creation through hymns, accompanied by handbells, brass, and organ. The event is free and open to the public, with a reception following the festival.

ALL GOD’S CREATURES

APRIL 23, 5:30 P.M., COURTYARD

The Weekday School invites church families to our “All God’s Creatures” at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23. We are bringing in our “Wildlife Wonders Zoo To You!” friends to present this hands-on fun exploring how God made each animal unique. Questions? Email WDS Director, Elaine Johnson, at elaine@firstpresathens.org.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 21 - Installation and Ordination of Elders

- 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. Installation & Ordination of Elders
- 12:00 p.m. Reception for Elders, Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. *For the Beauty of the Earth* Hymn Festival, First United Methodist Church
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, April 22

- 2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, April 23

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 1, Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. All God's Creatures, Courtyard
- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Wednesday, April 24 - Last Wed@First of Spring 2024

- 4:00 p.m. Knitting Purls 2, Front Office Reception Area
- 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 - Gusto!, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. *Feeding Our Neighbors at the Table*, Conversations about food insecurity, Fellowship Hall Breakout Area
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, April 25

- 9:05 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Quiet Oaks (Crawford)

Sunday, April 28

- 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
- 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 Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Conference Meeting, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. High School Montreat Meeting, The PIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

WED@FIRST

Dear Friends, please make plans to join us this Wednesday, April 24, for our last Wed@First of Spring 2024. There will be opportunities for all ages for fellowship, food, learning, and our last *Feeding our neighbors at the Table* (Conversations about food insecurity). Please see the full schedule of activities on our website, and don't forget to RSVP for dinner in the Atrium or online by Monday at 12 noon. To RSVP online, please go to tinyurl.com/WedAtFirst.

BOOKS FOR KEEPS BOOK DRIVE THROUGH MAY 23

Help make sure no child in our community goes a summer without great books to read. Please bring your used books to the bins in the Atrium or church office. Books for Keeps can accept books of all kinds ***except textbooks and encyclopedias***. To learn more about the organization, please go to booksforkeeps.org. Thank you!



Elders Class of 2027



Susan Baldwin moved to Athens with her family in 1967. Susan grew up at FPC, participating in youth groups and youth choir. She rejoined FPC in 2022 after relocating back to Athens from Atlanta in the Spring of 2021. Most recently, Susan has helped with Sanctuary Flowers and Congregational Response Teams to support church receptions. Susan retired from Southern Company this past July after 42 years in the IT Organization. Susan enjoys tennis, walking, gardening, decorating, and photography, and hopes to travel more since retiring.



Bill Bushnell joined FPC in 1970, prior to his marriage (March 1970) to his wife Betsy DuBose Bushnell. Bill has previously served as Clerk of the Session, Elder, Deacon, and on various committees: property, stewardship, personnel, and Weekday School. He is a practicing Attorney in Athens. He is also currently serving on the Athens Technical College Foundation Board of Directors. He and Betsy have one son, Dr. Brad Bushnell, his wife Kimberly, and two grandchildren, Bo (17) and Sarah Beth (14), living in Rome, Ga. He enjoys being of service to others, walking, reading and being with family and friends.



Amy Cowsert grew up in Athens and joined FPC in 1987, where she and her husband Bill were married that same year. Amy has previously served as an Elder and served on Congregational Care and the Personnel Committee. Over the years, she has volunteered on a search committee for an interim minister, been a confirmation mentor, taught Sunday School, and served on the flower committee. She and Bill served as youth group advisors as well. Bill and Amy have three grown children, three grandchildren and another on the way. Amy treasures spending time with her family (especially the grandchildren!) and loves visits to the beach. She is an avid gardener and enjoys cooking for family and friends.



Matt Crim grew up in the Presbyterian church and joined this congregation on relocating to Athens in 2017. He is an active member participating in worship, choir, Sunday school, committees, and with the youth and children's ministries, including the Weekday School. Matt works as a cardiologist and teaches at the medical school. He is a proud parent of Benjamin, Josie, and Stella. He enjoys food, music, and travel.

First Presbyterian Church of Athens

Elders Class of 2027



Jay Holloway and his wife Joy were first introduced to FPC when their daughter attended the weekday school and they joined in 2012. Jay is the son and grandson of United Methodist ministers, and he is a consultant at Boehringer Ingelheim. He is a member of the Builders Sunday school class, teaches Middle School Sunday school, and served on the associate pastor search committee that called Rev. Dr. Carol Strickland in 2014. Jay enjoys baseball, fishing, and travel. Jay and Joy have two children: Lane (17), and Jennings (13).



Tom Lane grew up as a member of FPC, attending Sunday school and church services from early childhood until 1970, when he moved to Atlanta. In 1986, he and his wife Anne joined and thereafter attended FPC of Marietta, from which they transferred in 2019 upon their return to Athens. While in Atlanta, Tom participated in a bible study program sponsored by Trinity Community Ministries, assisting drug-addicted men in returning to society. Tom and Anne have no children, but one Yorkie. Tom is a retired attorney who enjoys traveling, walking, reading, music, and spending time (especially mealtime) with family and friends.



Joan Pinson joined FPC in 1990. She raised her daughter, Katie, in the church with the help of so many kind members. Over the years, she has participated in many church activities: keeping the children on Wednesdays nights, teaching children's and Adult Sunday school, helping in the nursery, outreach at Denny Towers, Christmas presents for children of persons in prison, writing Lenten devotions, and was part of the Lay Callers Team and Education committee. Currently, she attends New Voices Sunday School Class, Circle 6, helps at Project Safe workdays and at Our Daily Bread. Since retiring from full time Home Health Nursing in 2022, Joan enjoys keeping her grand boys, being a docent at the Georgia Museum of Art, yoga, teaching CPR, and cycling.



Paige Simmons and her husband Robert have been members of FPC since 2000. Paige has previously served as an elder and was a member of the search committee for the Director of Music. She has taught Sunday School, VBS, has been a youth leader, a member of Circle 5, delivered Meals on Wheels and volunteered in other programs and ministries. She is currently the chair for the May Flower Committee. Paige also serves as facilitator of the Women's Small Group that meets every Tuesday in the Bride's Room. She is a Financial Consultant with The Flowers-Bradley Group at Truist Investment Services. She and Robert have three children, Elizabeth, Robert W., and Georgia Blue.

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)

NEW Bible Study Class • Moses Waddel Room

We hope you'll join us for this NEW 8-week Sunday School class for Bible study and discussion. This group (name TBD) has roots in the historic W.D. Hooper Bible class and is now growing into something new. Come and grow with us in faith!

For more information, please e-mail Elaine Johnson at elaine@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)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

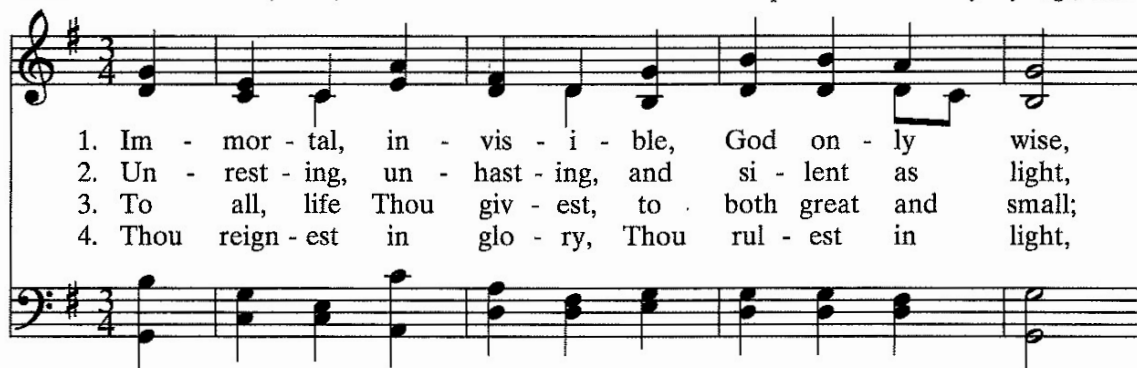
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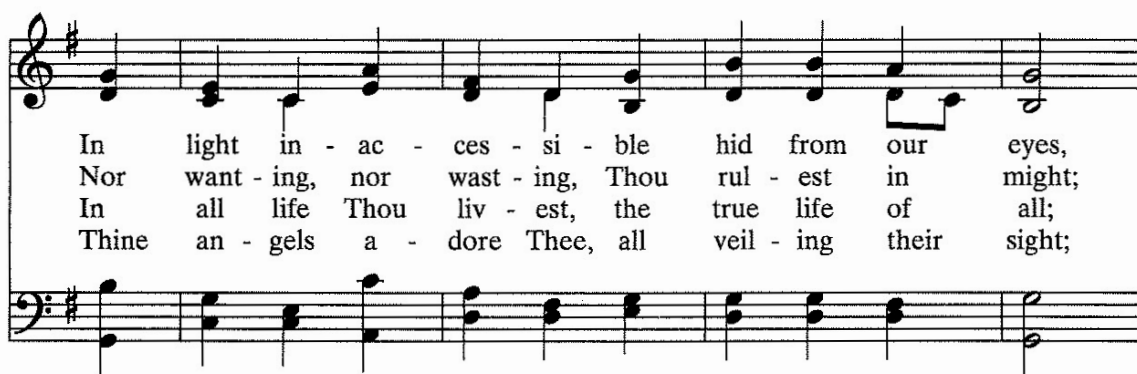
Welsh folk melody

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

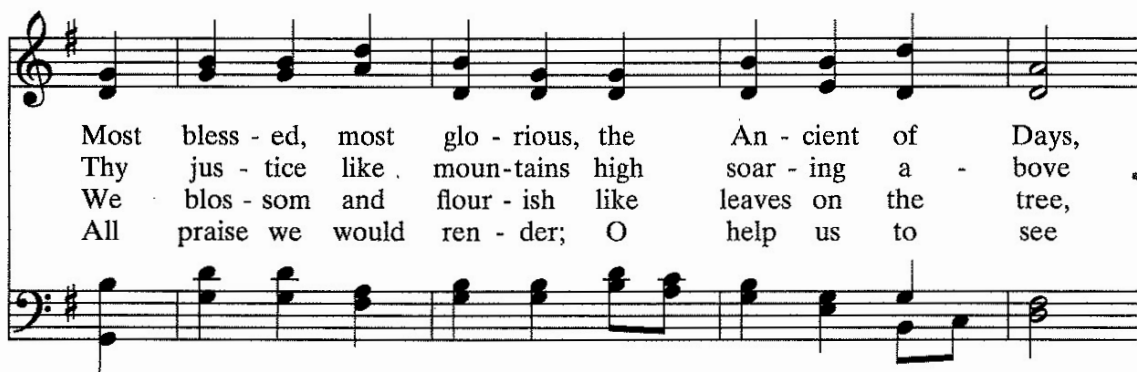
Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839



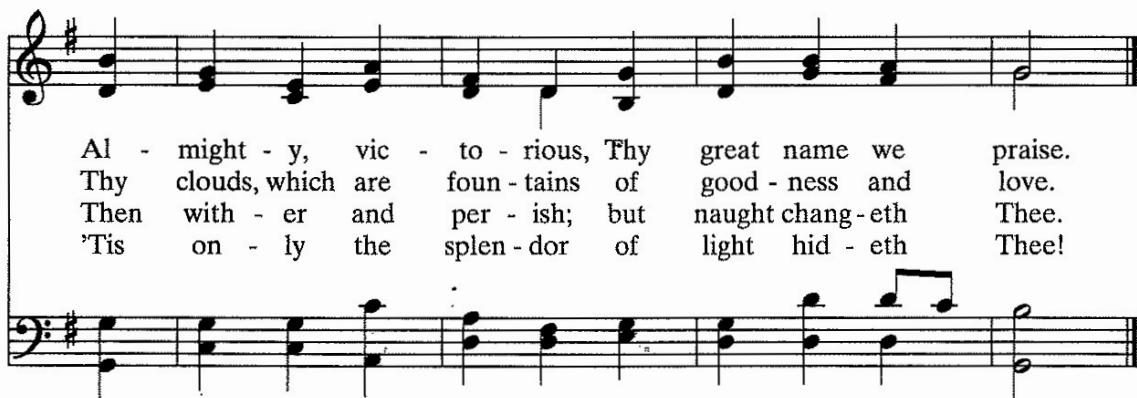
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Give Thanks, O Christian People

552

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN 7.6.7.6 D

Mary Jackson Cathey, 1984

Memmingen ms., 17th century
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904

1. Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, For work-ers of our day
2. Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, For lead-ers of our years
3. Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, For all who love the Lord,
4. Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, For life in fel-low - ship

Who heed the call to ser - vice And make it their life's way
Who live to share with oth - ers Our joy when Christ ap - pears,
Who live each day be - liev - ing In God's e - ter - nal Word:
With all who trust our Sav - ior Their serv - ing to e - quip

To go to feed the hun - gry, To tend to those in need,
To teach the ones who seek light, To guide the fal-tering feet,
To share Christ's love in liv - ing, To wit - ness with each deed,
To ease an - oth - er's bur - dens, To cope in joy and stress,

To work for e - qual jus - tice, Till all God's folk are freed.
To lead the fol - lowers for - ward Our liv - ing Lord to meet.
To use the tal - ents giv - en To plant the gos-pel seed.
To mag - ni - fy God's mes - sage And Christ's great love con - fess.

Text: Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit* by Lavon Bayler, 1986, The Pilgrim Press, 1981, New York, NY.

God, Bless Your Church with Strength!

DIADEMATA

John A. Dallas, 1984

George Job Elvey, 1868

1. God, bless your church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may be, up -
2. God, bless your church with life! May all our branch-es thrive, un -
3. God, bless your church with hope! De - spite cha - ot - ic days, may

build your ser - vants as we work in com - mon min - is - try. Urge
blem - ished, whole - some, bear - ing fruit, a - bun - dant - ly a - live. From
we in cha - os shine to light a path - way through life's maze. May

us from fledg - ling faith to ven - ture and to soar through
you, one ho - ly vine, in free - dom may we grow; sus -
just - tice be our aim, and kind - ness ours to share, in

o - pen skies, to sing the praise of Christ whom we a - dore.
tain us in our mis - sion, Lord, your love and peace to show.
hum - ble - ness O may we walk, as - sured our God is there!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system includes three numbered verses. The second and third systems provide the continuation of the lyrics for the verses. The score concludes with a double bar line.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrup, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2024

Sarah Bryan
Judy Burch
Kent Burel
Rod Canfield
Mark Hopkins
Matt Jones
Keith Oelke

CLASS OF 2025

Shannon Brooks
Phyllis Crowell
Denise Horton
Paul Lee
Sharon Logan Neff
Bruce Middendorf
Randy Riner
Chuck Toney

CLASS OF 2026

Lindsay Griffeth
Angela Hunt
Dan Nadenicek
Karen Phillips
Ethelyn Simpson
Jeffrey Trapnell
Pat Tritt
John Turner
Pat Waldrup

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)
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