



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 28, 2024
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fifth 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

Festal Flourish

Gordon Jacob

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

Come let us serve one another in Christ.

As Christ loved and served, so will we.

Come let us serve one another in Christ.

We will rejoice in the love of this community.

*Hymn 411

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, all is not right. We are not right with you or with each other. Anger and fear and disappointment rest uneasily in our hearts. It is hard to trust and it is even harder to forgive. Help us to turn to you to find the strength we need. Help us to look to the example of Jesus to see how to love. Help us look deep within ourselves for our own fault. We pray for your forgiveness, and we pray to be forgiven. In Christ's name we pray.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).

Echoing images from Isaiah 61 and other passages, *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* was created as an inclusive language alternative to an older hymn using this 19th-century tune. It is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise.

**Those who are able may stand.*

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 Reader:
11:00: Kent Burel

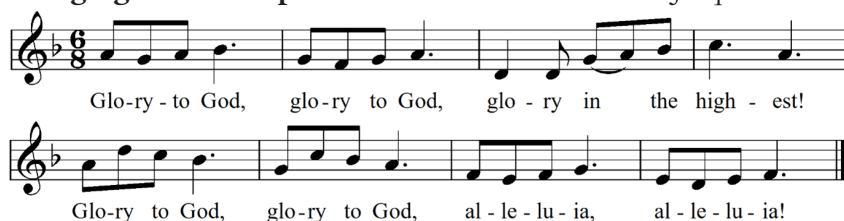
The anthem was written for the Church of St. Francis, Ngong, Kenya, named that for the birds that flew in through the open windows. The church was built by African and Asian craftsmen. It is a mixed racial congregation with services in English and Swahili.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, a familiar text from the 18th century, grew out of Isaac Watts’ desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. The 19th-century tune was inspired by patterns of Gregorian chant.

Scholars debate whether this powerfully poetic text is an early Christian hymn which Paul is quoting or his own composition. It is one of the best-known and most influential passages in the Pauline corpus.

*Congregational Response

Jacques Berthier



*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 9:34–35, page 922

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

11:00 Anthem *Christ’s Flock* Martin Shaw

In Christ’s own flock let love be surely placed,
from Christ’s own flock let concord hate expel:
of Christ’s own flock let love be so embraced,
as we in Christ and Christ in us may dwell.
Christ is the author of all unity,
from whence proceedeth all felicity.
O sing unto this glittering glorious King,
O praises bring from every living thing:
let heart and voice like bells of silver ring. Alleluia!

Second Lesson Acts 18:1–4, page 1013, 1 Cor 1:10–18, page 1053

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

Sermon *Trouble* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 101 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* HAMBURG

*Affirmation of Faith *Philippians 2:5–11*

**Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name
that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and
under the earth, and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

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

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.



Offertory

Rockingham

Raymond Haan

***Doxology**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be -
low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven-ly
host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 421**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

***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

We All Believe in One True God

Johann Sebastian Bach

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The Church of Christ in Every Age is a challeng-
ing text by a British
Methodist minister. It
develops the images of
“the servant church”
with the many needs
of the world, ending
with the true source of
strength for the task.

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 Reader

11:00 a.m. Kent Burel

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Jimbo Laboon III (head),
Lisa Oelke

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Diane Hartzell

11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Collier Elizabeth Cobb and Jonathan Christopher Reinhold.

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

CONGRATULATIONS PHYLLIS CROWELL!

The Presbyterian Women are proud to announce our newest recipient of an Honorary Lifetime membership. Phyllis Crowell was recognized at the April combined meeting of the Presbyterian Women Circles. Phyllis was honored for her many years of faithful service to our church and to our Presbyterian Women's Circles.

BOOKS FOR KEEPS BOOK DRIVE THROUGH MAY 26

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!

Scottish Reformation Sunday

May 5, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m., Reception at 12:00 p.m.

Join our annual celebration of our Scottish heritage at both worship services, along with recognition of local and state dignitaries at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to join the processional and recessional. If you need to borrow a kilt, please call Smith Wilson (706-338-4646) or Lee Epting (706-353-1913).

Week of Wonder (VBS) 2024

Week of Wonder (VBS) 2024 Registration is now open! Children going into Pre-Kindergarten through 6th Grade are invited to join us for this super fun week at First Presbyterian Church of Athens Sunday, **July 14 – Wednesday, July 17**. This summer's Week of Wonder is all about God's Gift of Food! Stay tuned for more exciting details.

Registration Link: tinyurl.com/FPCWoW2024. Please register by **Friday, May 10**, to guarantee a spot. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Bishop, Director of Children's Ministry, at natalie@firstpresathens.org.

THIS WEEK

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 Meeting, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. High School Meeting, The PIT

Monday, April 29

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, April 30

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls 1, Parlor

Wednesday, May 1

- 11:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church
- 5:30 p.m. FARMRx Food Classes, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, May 2

- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, The Landing
- 5:30 p.m. WDS Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Saturday, May 4

- 8:30 p.m. Session Retreat, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, May 5 – Communion Sunday, Food Sunday, Scottish Reformation Sunday

- 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. Scottish Reformation Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach and Matthew 25 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 Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group End of Year Party, Fellowship Hall

Food Sunday May 5

You may bring donations of **cold breakfast cereal, plain white rice, saltine crackers** to church **Sunday, May 5**. You may also bring items to the church office until **Friday, May 3**. Our neighbors in need are very grateful for your donations! Many thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Women's Connection Conference at Montreat

Save the date and plan to join us for the Women's Connection the weekend of **August 9–11, 2024** in the beautiful mountains of Montreat, North Carolina. This year's keynote speaker is Becca Stevens, a nonprofit leader, entrepreneur, priest, survivor, and founder and President of Thistle Farms.

Sign up today to stay at the Georgia Lodge as space is limited! Cost per person is \$85 for both nights: tinyurl.com/FPCWCC2024.

Registration and information about the conference can be found at montreat.org/events/wc-2024. Conference registration costs \$247 (and increases to \$272 after June 25).

Please contact Beverly Phares (bpphares@aol.com or 706-255-6990) or Julie Jagmin (juliebjaigmin@bellsouth.net or 678-852-7310) if you have any questions. If you need scholarship assistance, contact Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org).

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

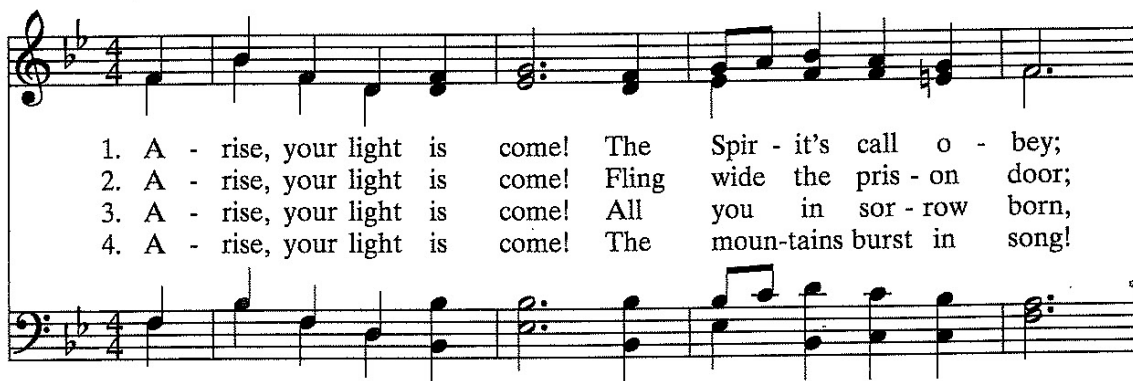
Arise, Your Light Is Come!

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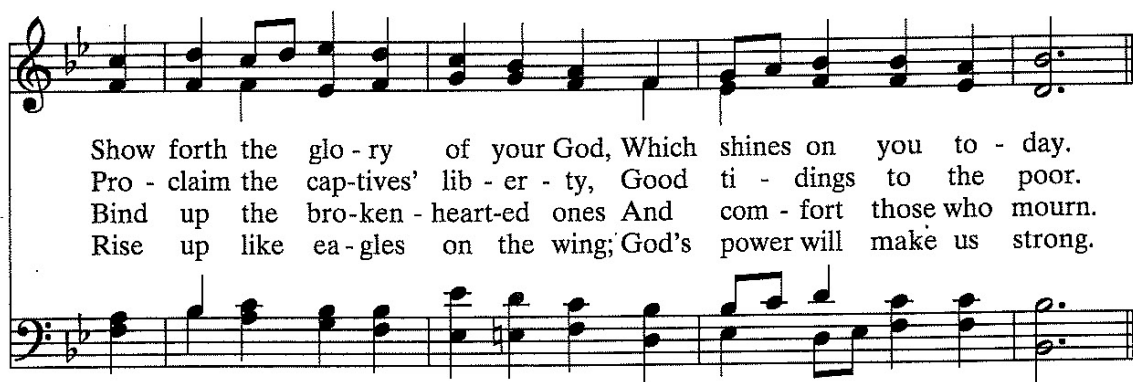
FESTAL SONG SM

Ruth Duck, 1974

William H. Walter, 1894



1. A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2. A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3. A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4. A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God, Which shines on you to - day.
Pro - claim the cap-tives' lib - er - ty, Good ti - dings to the poor.
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones And com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 101

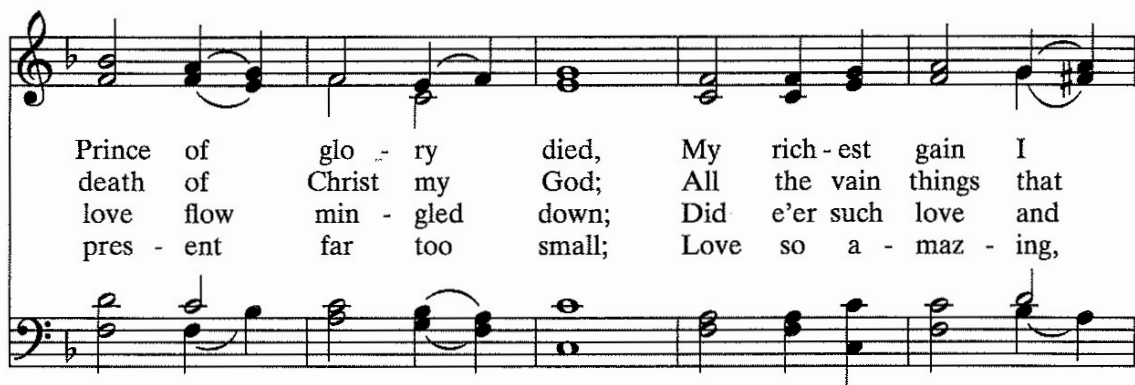
HAMBURG LM

Isaac Watts, 1707

Lowell Mason, 1824



1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the
 3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

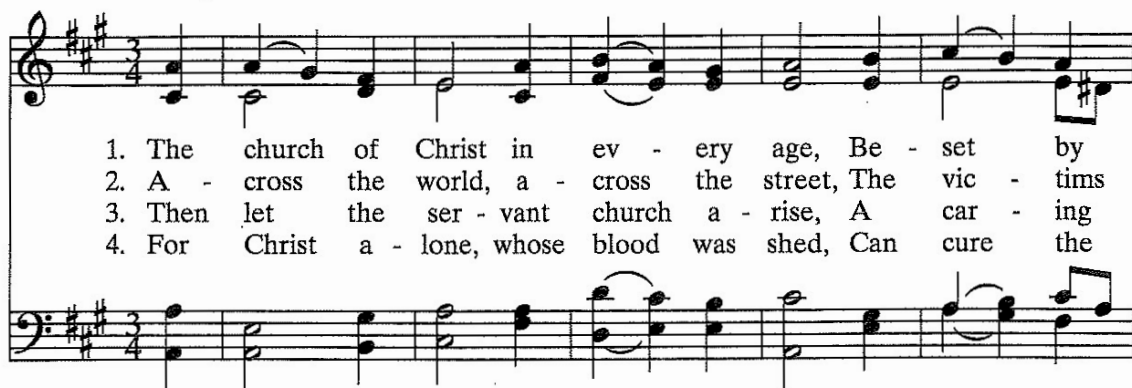
The Church of Christ in Every Age

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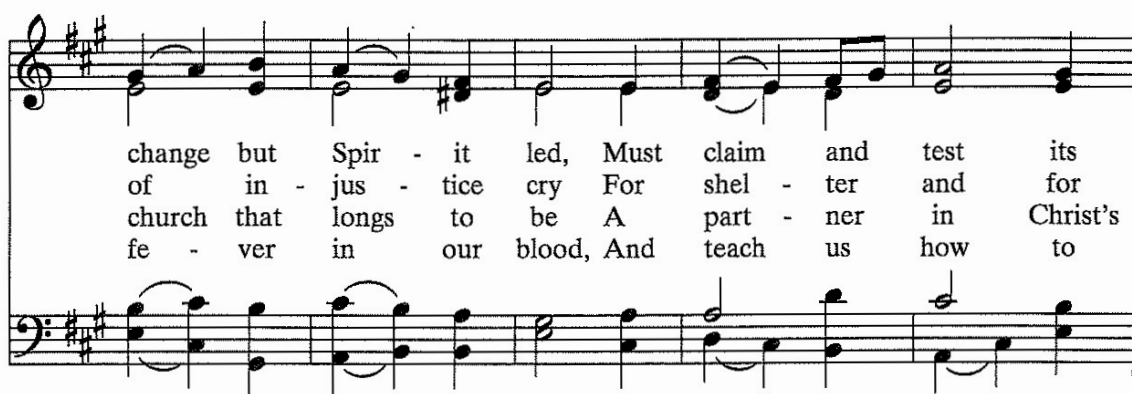
WAREHAM LM

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

William Knapp, 1738



1. The church of Christ in ev - ery age, Be - set by
 2. A - cross the world, a - cross the street, The vic - tims
 3. Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, A car - ing
 4. For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, Can cure the



change but Spir - it led, Must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry For shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be A part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, And teach us how to



her - i - tage And keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, And nev - er live un - til they die.
 sac - ri - fice, And clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread And feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.

5. We have no mission but to serve
 In full obedience to our Lord:

To care for all, without reserve,
 And spread Christ's liberating word.

Another harmonization of this tune, 265

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session

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 Waldrip

CLASS OF 2027

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

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. Sheff Newland, *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*