



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!

January 26, 2025
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

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

Variations on "Kelvingrove"

Antony Baldwin

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

We have laid aside our nets.

We have followed Jesus to this place.

We will be nourished on word and sacrament,

And go forth to fish for people through our words and our actions.

*Hymn 457

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of light, you reveal yourself to us, but we do not see. You call to us, but we do not hear. You reach out to us, but we do not feel. Instead we live as though you are not our God. We act in ways that bring disunity, oppression, and pain to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world. Forgive us for our constant wandering. Draw us back into your loving arms and re-direct our steps onto your path of love, justice, and healing, for the sake of all that you have made.

*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).

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art, attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn. Text and tune (adapted from Genevan 124) date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

**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 - 2nd Grade, are invited to Children’s Church held in the Children’s Ministry Suite on the first floor.

The anthem is a text from Albert Schweitzer’s “The Quest of the Historical Jesus,” set to music by American composer Jane Marshall.

Will You Come and Follow Me is a ballad-like hymn that begins in the voice of Christ, with the final stanza being the singer’s response. The text was created for this traditional Scottish tune.

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.

*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 474, stanza 2

**Come, Holy Sun of heavenly love,
shower down thy radiance from above,
and to our inward hearts convey the Holy Spirit’s cloudless ray.**

First Lesson

Psalm 90:14-17, page 536

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

He Comes to Us

Jane Marshall

He comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside he came to all those who knew him not. He speaks to us, he speaks the same word: “Follow thou me!” and sets us to the task which he has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, he will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who he is.

O Morning Star, how fair and bright
thou beamest forth in truth and light!

O Sovereign meek and lowly.

Thou Root of Jesse, David’s son,
my Lord and Master, thou hast won
my heart to serve thee solely! Thou art holy,
fair and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing,
rule and might o’er all possessing.

Second Lesson

Luke 5:1-11, page 939

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

Sermon

Keep Fishing The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn insert

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

*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; (cont.)**

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*

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Diane Hartzell
11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Steve Covington, Ed Ferguson, Emily LaBoon

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of CPL Evan Andrew Marshall, a member of First Presbyterian Church who was killed in action on January 28, 2008, in Mosul, Iraq, while serving our country.

JANUARY FLOWER TEAM

Denise LaBoon (chair),
Ethelyn Simpson, Isabelle Wallace

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and online 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Church Potluck
Sunday, February 2, 12:15 p.m.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, February 2**. We will receive the Annual Report, updates from commissions, and elect new officers to serve on FPC Session. Before the meeting, we will have a time of fellowship with an all-church potluck. The church will provide Saucehouse BBQ & chicken and beverages. We invite you all to bring an accompanying dish to share. And in hopes of covering our tables with a nice variety of dishes, we ask that you bring something in the category that corresponds with the first letter of your last name:

- A-G: vegetable sides
H-M: salad
N-R: desserts
S-Z: starchy sides (pasta, potatoes, etc...)

Casa de Amistad Gift Cards Update

Over the holiday season, FPC donated and delivered 105 \$50 gift cards to Casa de Amistad to be shared with families in need. For those of you who donated funds to this effort, we give great thanks! There is still a need of \$900 to cover the full cost of this gift and we will be accepting donations through the end of January. If you feel so led, we hope you'll help us serve our neighbors by donating to Casa Christmas.

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").

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 26

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 12:15 p.m. New Member First Things Class, Moses Waddel Room
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:50 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, January 27

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

Tuesday, January 28

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, January 29

- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Class, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, January 30

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite

Friday, January 31 - Sunday, February 2 - High School Youth Retreat

Sunday, February 2 - Annual Congregation Meeting & Potluck, New Member Introduction

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. New Member Coffee with Session, Parlor
- 12:00 p.m. Annual Congregation Meeting & Potluck, Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:50 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Wednesday@First Spring 2025

Wed@First is now a monthly gathering for mid-week intergenerational fellowship and growth at FPC. On the first Wednesday of the month (except January; see dates below), everyone is invited to participate in LIFT, our program that combines dinner, study, play, and prayer with our church friends of all ages. LIFT stands for Living in Faith Together and this new offering is already beloved by those who joined us in the fall. One of the great gifts unique to the church is the opportunity to grow alongside people from different generations and LIFT presents us with monthly gatherings for fellowship, study, and fun – all around the dinner table with friends of different ages.

This spring, we will gather for LIFT on **February 5, March 5, and April 2** from 5:30–6:30 p.m. and all are invited to participate! Please RSVP for dinner in the Atrium, online at tinyurl.com/WedAtFirst, or by contacting the church office (e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338) by Mondays at 12:00 p.m. Price is \$12/person and a \$45/family max (complimentary for children 5 and under).

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries:
Hannah Knight
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 – 2nd 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, praying to God, and responding through art and worship.
***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

Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries:
Hannah Knight
The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) - offered for both middle and high school

Both middle and high school groups will be using the Living the Word curriculum, that closely follows the narrative lectionary that guides our worship each week. Middle and high schoolers will be split into separate rooms in the PIT for a time of study, discussion, and response.

Youth Group (5:30–7 p.m.)

Sunday night youth group is a safe space for youth to come as they are! We will begin with dinner together in the fellowship hall (please volunteer to provide a meal at tinyurl.com/FPCYouthDinner2024). At 6:00, both middle and high school groups will move down to the PIT where there will be games, Bible study, creative response time, and lots of laughs as we spend an intentional hour together. The theme for this year is “In Every Season,” rooted in Ecclesiastes 3:1–8. We will spend time diving into what it looks like to trust & see God in every season, and learning to be okay with asking questions about our faith.

For any questions, please contact Hannah at hannah@firstpresathens.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Bible Basics • Moses Waddel Room
Bible Basics is a new intergenerational adult class designed to improve basic Bible knowledge and familiarity. This year, we are “walking through the Bible” – Genesis to Revelation – in an effort to lay a solid foundation for future Bible study. The class is appropriate for all experience levels from “Biblical neophytes” to those looking for a refresher.
Contacts: David Dantzler (jdaviddantzler@gmail.com) and Elaine Johnson (elaine@firstpresathens.org)

Builders • Room 301
This class is a space for all parents of children and youth to gather and share in the complexity of family life. Our time together will offer a blend of fellowship, parenting support, Bible study, and service.
Contacts: Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org) or Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@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
The New Voices class is a discussion based class that is currently studying the parables of Jesus. This study is based on the book *Parables from the Backside*, by J. Ellsworth Kallas. All are invited to come study God's holy word with us!
Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)
Zoom ID: 674 533 8902

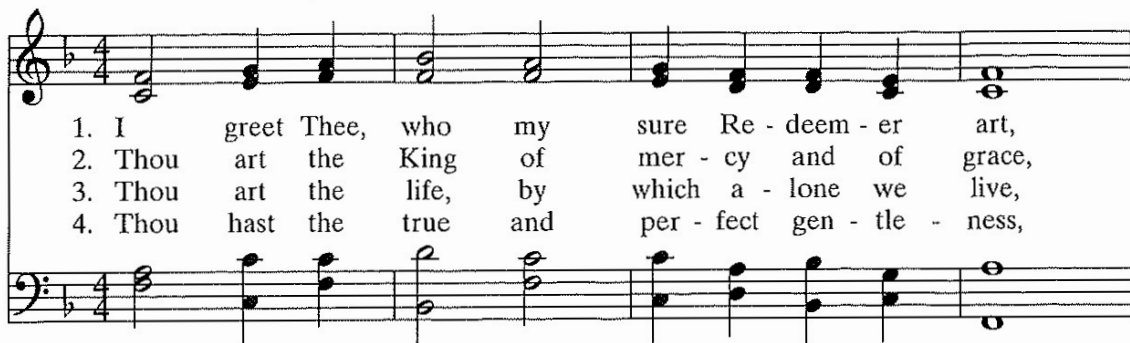
Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class
Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern
The class features open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity. This year, the class will have a study and discussion of the course *Jesus and His Jewish Influences*, by Dr. Jodi Magness, professor at UNC Chapel Hill.
Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jjtscanlon@yahoo.com)
Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

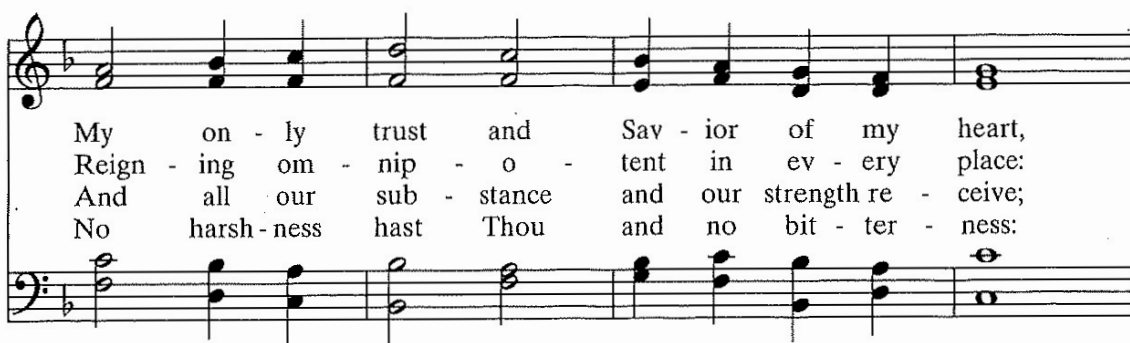
TOULON 10.10.10.10

Attr. John Calvin
French Psalter, Strassburg, 1545
Trans. Elizabeth Lee Smith, 1868

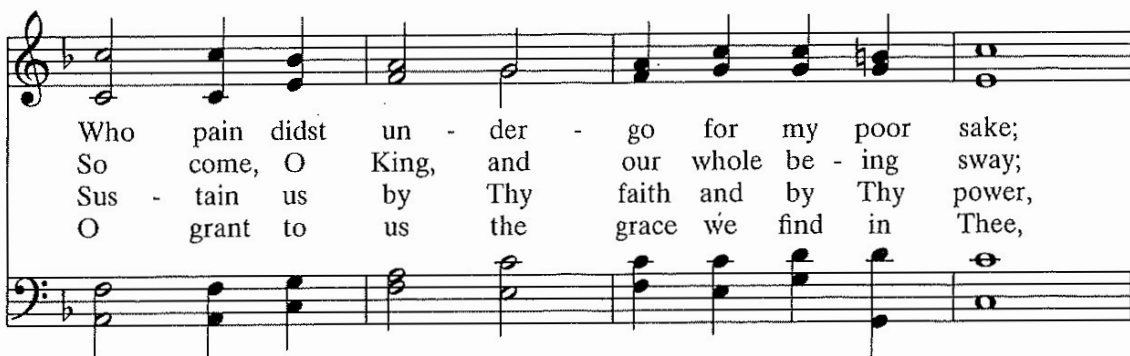
Adapt. from Genevan 124
Genevan Psalter, 1551



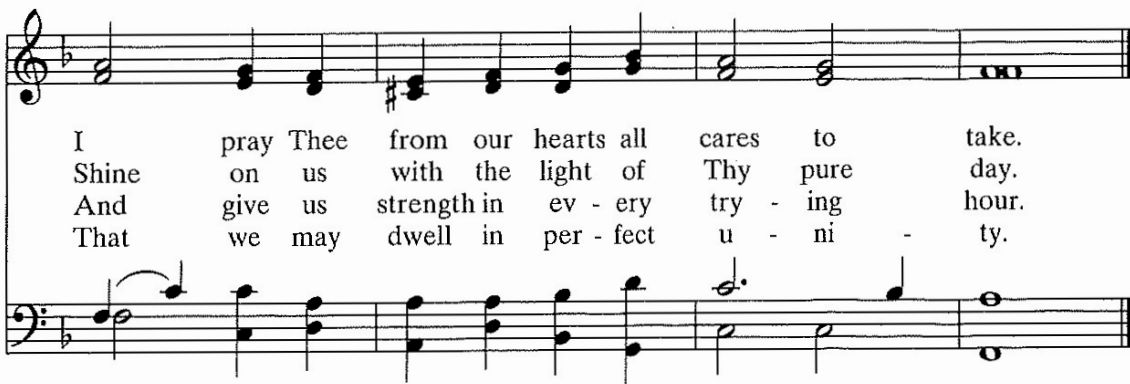
1. I greet Thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,
2. Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
3. Thou art the life, by which a - lone we live,
4. Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,



My on - ly trust and Sav - ior of my heart,
Reign - ing om - nip - o - tent in ev - ery place;
And all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;
No harsh - ness hast Thou and no bit - ter - ness:



Who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;
So come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;
Sus - tain us by Thy faith and by Thy power,
O grant to us the grace we find in Thee,



I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.
And give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
That we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.

5. Our hope is in no other save in Thee;
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.

Will You Come and Follow Me
KELVINGROVE

John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name? Will you
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name? Will you
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name? Will you
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name. Let me



go where you don't know and nev - er be the same? Will you let my
care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same? Will you risk the
set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the
quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same? Will you use the
turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same. In your com - pa-



love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you
hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare? Will you
lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen, and ad -
faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round, through my
ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
move and live and grow in you and you in me.

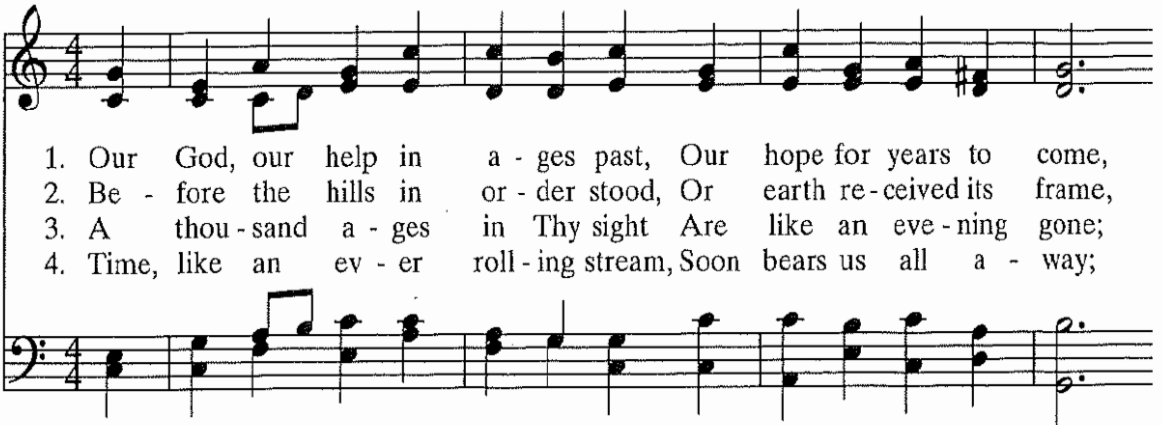
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

210

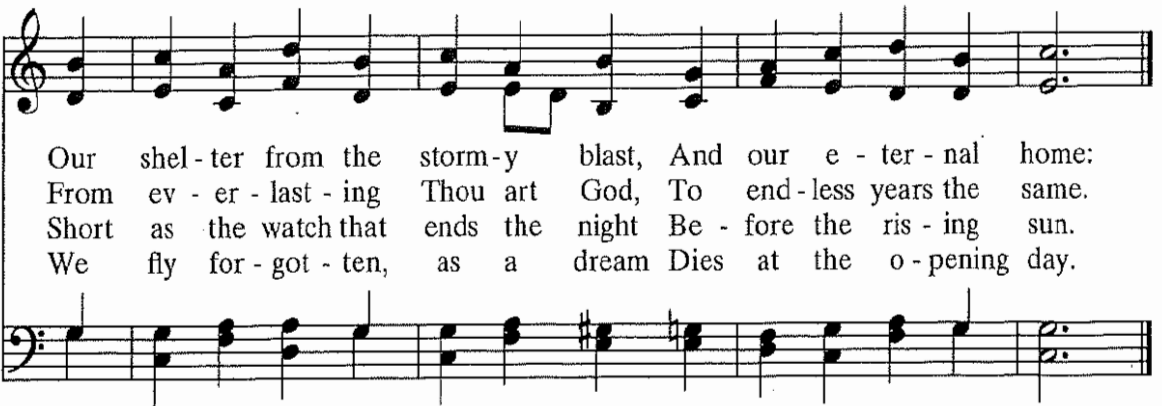
ST. ANNE CM

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Attr. William Croft, 1708



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived its frame,
3. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
4. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - pening day.

5. Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrup, Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2025

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

CLASS OF 2026

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

CLASS OF 2027

Susan Baldwin
Bill Bushnell
Amy Cowser
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)
Ms. Hannah Knight, *Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministries* (hannah@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Office Administrator* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Director of Communications* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Joli Winstanley, *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*
Mr. Justin Winstanley, *Sunday Morning Manager*