



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!

March 9, 2025
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

Repton

Francis Jackson

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

We gather here among our neighbors,
In God's house of grace and mercy.
We will care for all who are in need,
Walking in the way of Christ.

***Hymn 81** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of the journey, we do not want to follow where you lead. Instead, we turn inward, focusing on satisfying our own wants, even at the expense of our neighbors. We do not see their suffering; we do not act for their justice. We are motivated by the fear of not getting what we want, or of losing what we have. We ignore the example of your sacrificial love, which has the power to heal and make whole. Forgive us for refusing to heed your call. Change our hearts, our minds, and our actions, so that we might return to following you, no matter where your journey leads.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

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 of how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The text is set to a 16th-century English psalm tune.

**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.

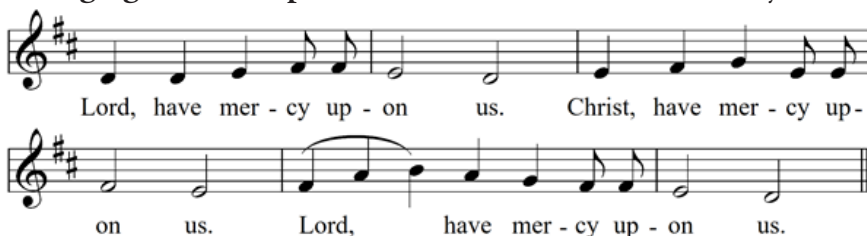
Lay Reader:
11:00: Ella Stewart

How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord is a reflection on Christian vocation, written to provide a new text for an existing tune. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

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

Healey Willan



*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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

PROSPECT

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

First Lesson

Psalms 15, page 485

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Create in me a clean heart, O God!

Second Lesson

Luke 10:25-42, page 948

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

Sermon

The Good Samaritan

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 419

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

*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, (cont.)**

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

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Alec Wyton

***Doxology**

**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.**

Hymn 592

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 413**

All Who Love and Serve Your City

CHARLESTOWN

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 586



Postlude

Toccata in G minor

Johann Pachelbel



*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.*

*All Who Love and Serve
Your City is a 20th-cen-
tury text that enriches
the neglected genre of
urban hymns. It includes
Jesus weeping over
Jerusalem (Matthew 23
and Luke 13), and the
final line cites the name
of Israel's future holy city
from Ezekiel 48.*

*Texts and music for hymns and
sung responses reprinted under
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Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:10 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 – 2nd 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
Today until 1:00 p.m.**

Please join us today in the Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Walk-in appointments are available. If you can't donate blood today, but would like to donate in the future, please go to redcrossblood.org and make an appointment.

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. Ella Stewart

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Terry Nestor
11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),
Dick Ferguson, Ed Ferguson

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Julia Bates Breland by Julie and Lance Jagmin.

We have a rosebud in honor of the birth of John Banks Sewell V on March 4, 2025. His parents are Mary and Jack Sewell. Grandparents are Susan and Brian Banister.

MARCH FLOWER TEAM

Rosemary Stancil (Chair), Karen Cobb,
Susan Ferguson, Elaine Johnson

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

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.

Resources for Lent 2025 at FPC

This year, we are excited to offer a Lenten resource called *Everything in Between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes*, which will follow the same texts from Luke’s gospel that we will be reading and exploring in worship. This study invites us to navigate the polarities of life with faith, intention, and openness – each week explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “grief & hope.” In and through these stories of scripture, we will seek God’s presence in the in-between spaces.

We are offering a daily Lenten devotional prompt via email and social media, as well as an opportunity gather mid-week for a Lenten Lunch study (using a weekly devotional booklet that will be available to you electronically). Bring your lunch to the Staff Conference Room at 12:30 on **Thursdays** or join us via Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820) as we journey through Lent together.

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday
March 16

We are always so thankful for the many faithful and generous volunteers who help us to offer programs for faith formation and community-building in our congregation. On **Sunday, March 16**, we will give thanks to God for all who give of their time and talents to support and lead these ministries! If you are one of our volunteers (or if you are a person who appreciates them!), please plan to attend so we can celebrate these gifts together.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 9, First Sunday in Lent, Daylight Saving Time Begins

- 8:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive (through 1:00 p.m.), Fellowship Hall
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments
- 12:15 p.m. Young Adult Sunday Brunch
- 12:30 p.m. Officer Training Workshop 1, Staff Conference Room
- 4:45 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:45 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:45 p.m. Celebration Singers Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Athens Little League Board Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, March 10

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205
- 5:30 p.m. UGA Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, March 11

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. UGA Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Wednesday, March 12

- 9:15 a.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village of Athens
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Class, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 5:30 p.m. Officer Training Workshop 2, Staff Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, March 13

- 9:05 a.m. WDS Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 12:30 p.m. Lenten Lunch Study, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, The Grove
- 4:00 p.m. Kate's Club Family Night, Moses Waddel Room
- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Athens Flute Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 16 - Second Sunday in Lent, Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

- 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
- 4:45 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:45 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:45 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

Dot's Closet

Dear friends, we are in need of the following items for Dot's Closet: **lightweight wheelchairs and rollator walkers**. Please bring them to church office during business hours (Mon-Thu 8:30-4:30 p.m.; Fri 8:30-2:00 p.m.). For more information and questions, please contact Joli Winstanley at frontdesk@firstpresathens.org.

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

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

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 (ijtsanlon@yahoo.com)

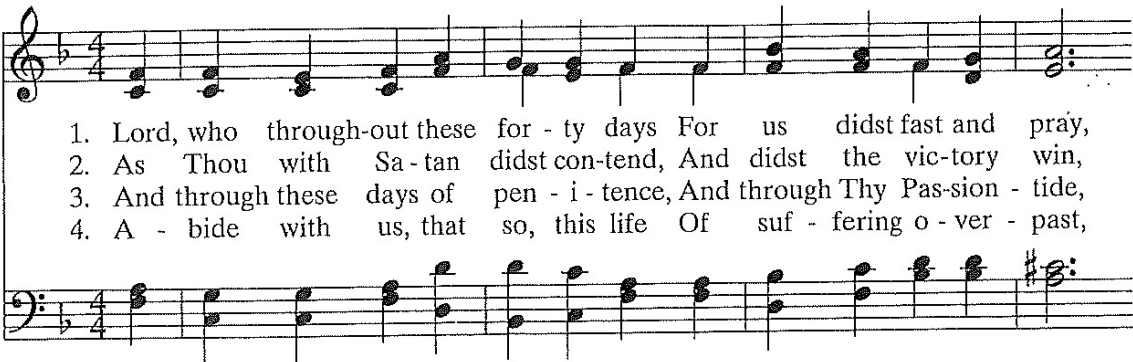
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81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

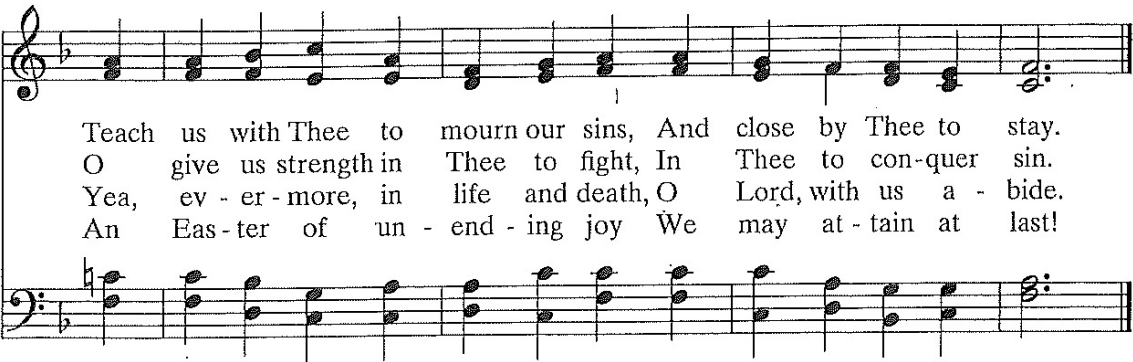
ST. FLAVIAN CM

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 - bide 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 - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

419

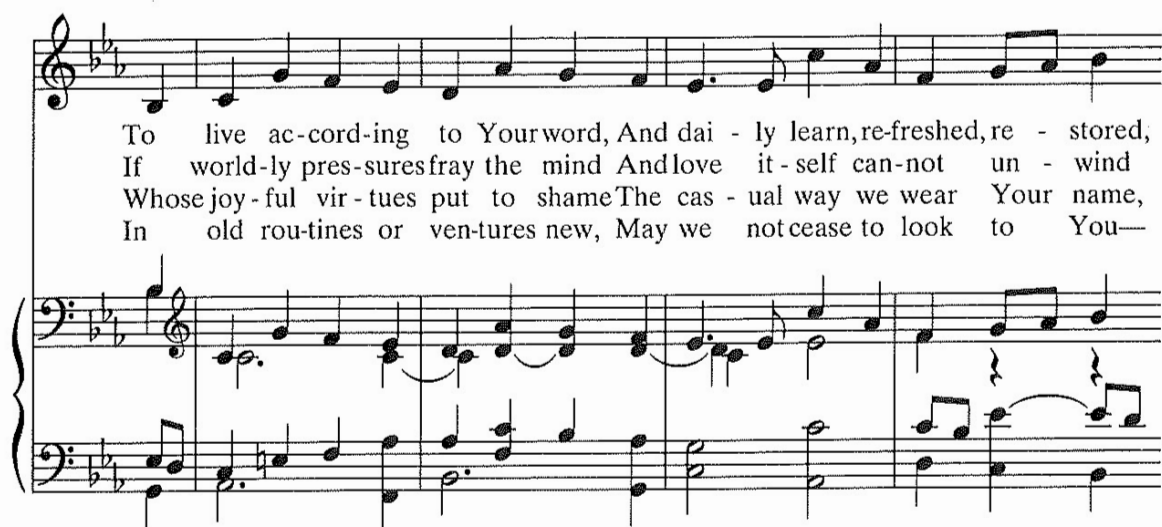
REPTON 8.6.8.8.6.6

Fred Pratt Green, 1981

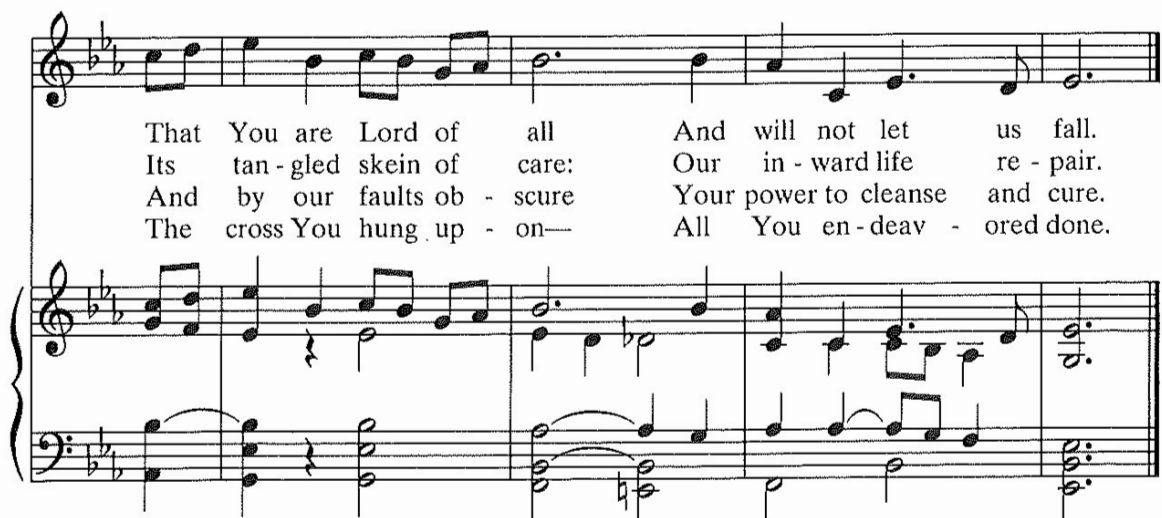
C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888



1. How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, When once we heed Your call:
 2. But if, for - get - ful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear,
 3. We mark Your saints, how they be - came In hin - dranc - es more sure,
 4. In what You give us, Lord, to do, To - geth - er or a - lone,



To live ac - cord - ing to Your word, And dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
 If world - ly pres - sures fray the mind And love it - self can - not un - wind
 Whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame The cas - ual way we wear Your name,
 In old rou - tines or ven - tures new, May we not cease to look to You—



That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.
 Its tan - gled skein of care: Our in - ward life re - pair.
 And by our faults ob - scure Your power to cleanse and cure.
 The cross You hung up - on— All You en - deav - ored done.

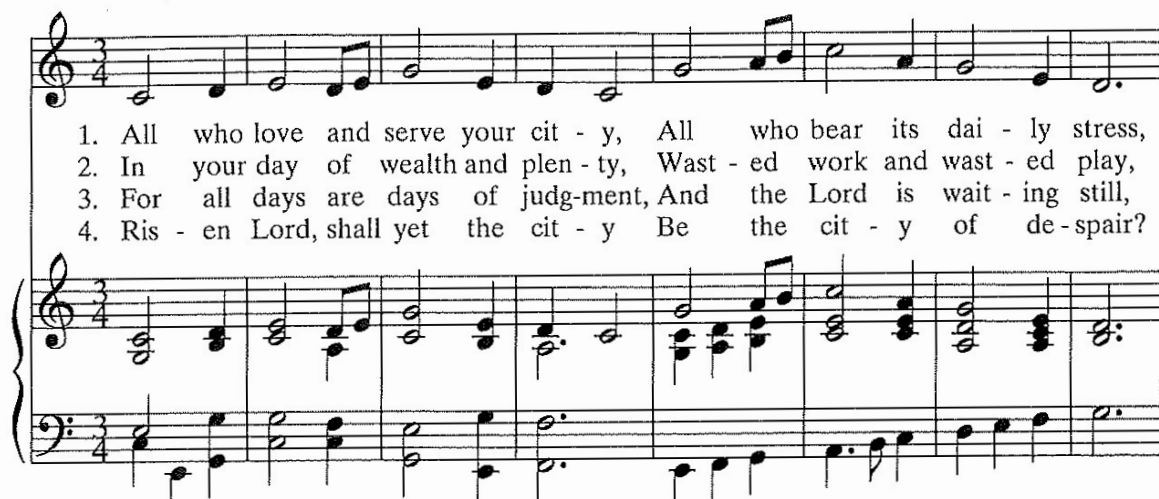
All Who Love and Serve Your City 413

CHARLESTOWN 8.7.8.7

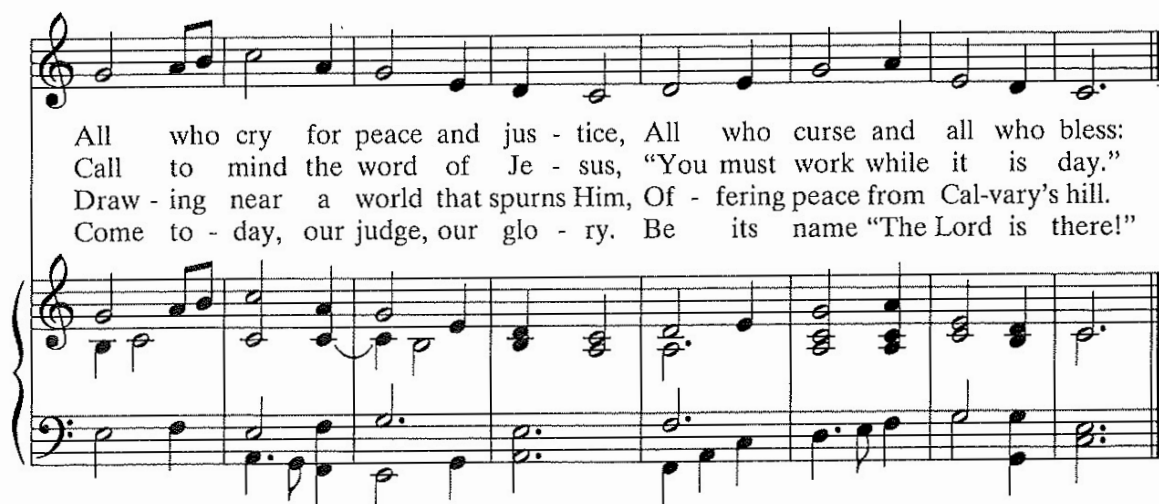
The United States Sacred Harmony, 1799

Harm. Carlton R. Young, 1964

Erik Routley, 1966



1. All who love and serve your cit - y, All who bear its dai - ly stress,
2. In your day of wealth and plen - ty, Wast - ed work and wast - ed play,
3. For all days are days of judg - ment, And the Lord is wait - ing still,
4. Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y Be the cit - y of de - spair?



All who cry for peace and jus - tice, All who curse and all who bless:
Call to mind the word of Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
Draw - ing near a world that spurns Him, Of - fering peace from Cal-vary's hill.
Come to - day, our judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

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 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)
Ms. Hannah Knight, *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*