



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 30, 2025
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fourth 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

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Psalm 118:24

Prelude

Nimrod

Edward Elgar

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

**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.**

WINCHESTER NEW

Call to Worship

We gather to hear God’s word,
God’s word of love and justice.
We will open our ears and our hearts,
And listen for God’s commands.

***Hymn 457**

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

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

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 prelude is from Elgar’s *Enigma Variations*, which the composer wrote to pay homage to his friends. It is offered today in the spirit of friendship for Lucy Bell Johnson.

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn. The text and tune clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

One of our Lenten worship practices is observing silence, and as the season of Lent progresses, our time of silence will grow longer by about 30 seconds each week.

**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:
8:45: Jean Martin-Williams

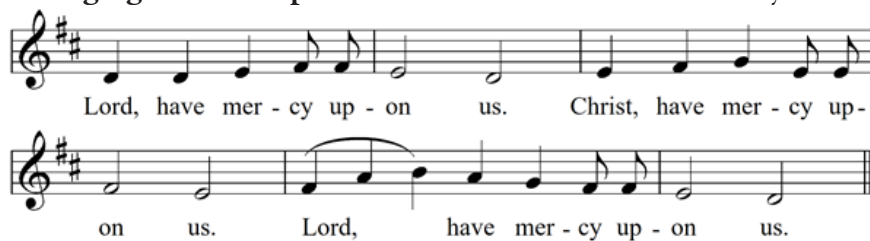
The anthem is a text by English priest and hymnwriter John Mason Neale (1818-1866) set to music by contemporary American composer K. Lee Scott.

O Christ, the Healer is a prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit that considers not only the infirmities of individuals, but also localities, societies, and nations. Worshipping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

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.

11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving for the Faithful Service of Lucy Bell Johnson

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

Psalm 41:1-3 page 503

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

The Penitent's Vision

K. Lee Scott

Jesus, name, all names above, Jesus, best and dearest,
Jesus, Fount of perfect love, holiest, tenderest, nearest,
Jesus, source of grace completest, Jesus, purest, Jesus, sweetest,
Jesus, well of power divine, make me, keep me, seal me, thine!
Thou didst call the prodigal; thou didst pardon Mary:
thou whose words can never fall, love can never vary:
Lord, to heal my lost condition, give (for thou canst give) contrition;
thou canst pardon all my ill; bid my spirit, "Peace be still!"
Jesus, open me the gate that the robber entered,
who in that most lost estate wholly on thee ventured.
Thou, whose wounds are ever pleading, and thy Passion interceding,
from my sins, oh, let me rise to a home in Paradise.

Second Lesson

Luke 16:19-31, page 956

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

Sermon

Lazarus and the Man

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn insert

O Christ, the Healer

O WALY WALY

*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

Offertory *Adagio* Felix Mendelssohn
Hymn 592

***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.

***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 583



Postlude *Allegro* Johann Ernst/J. S. Bach



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 Church of Christ in Every Age is a challenging hymn by a British Methodist minister addressing the image of “the servant church,” the many needs of the world, and the true source of strength for the task.-

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

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.

Farewell Reception for Lucy Bell Johnson
Today after the 11:00 a.m. service

Join us in Fellowship Hall today after the 11:00 a.m. service for a reception in honor of Lucy Bell Johnson on the occasion of her retirement. Expressions of congratulations and thanksgiving may be mailed to her home address, 1073 Friendship Cir., Athens, 30606.

Food Sunday, April 6

You may bring donations of **Peanut Butter, Pork ‘n Beans, and Canned Tomatoes** to church next **Sunday, April 6**. You may also bring food to the church office until **Friday, April 4**. Thanks for your donations in March – our neighbors in need are grateful!

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

8:45 a.m. Jean Martin-Williams

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw

11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon (head),
Emily LaBoon, Ethelyn Simpson

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

MARCH FLOWER TEAM

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

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given in honor of Lucy Bell Johnson on her retirement by members of the Staff and Flower Committee.

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.

First Pres Family Promise Host Weeks
March 24 - April 6

Thank you for all who volunteered and helped with donations for our host weeks. You may still help financially giving a \$25 donation (to First Pres with Family Promise in memo) to purchase groceries or rideshare gift cards, or hosting a Saturday Children’s activity for the kids on April 5.

To volunteer, please sign up at tinyurl.com/FPAAVolunteer. If you have questions, please contact the Family Promise Coordinators, Susan Boatwright at boatwright.susan@gmail.com or Jean Bock at bockjean@gmail.com.

Wednesday@First Spring 2025

If you haven’t joined us for LIFT yet this spring, we hope you’ll make plans to attend before we break for summer! LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is a joyful and formative time for us to study scripture and grow in faith with friends of different ages and stages—all around the dinner table. We’ll finish our series on “God and the Israelites” by exploring the Ten Commandments on **Wednesday, April 2**, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We hope you can make it!

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).

Resources for Lent 2025 at FPC

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 30 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Farewell Reception for Lucy Bell Johnson, Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Officer Training Workshop 3, Staff Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m. Youth Group Volunteering, Athens Diaper Bank
- 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. High School Youth Group Dinner, Off-site

Monday, March 31

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

Tuesday, April 1

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, April 2

- 11:30 a.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Class, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Dinner + LIFT
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, April 3

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. WDS Committe Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, April 6 - Fifth Sunday in Lent, Communion Sunday, Food 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



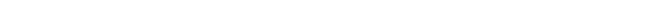
Easter Lily Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, April 14**. Each dedication is \$10. You may place your completed form and check in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, order online at tinyurl.com/FPCLilyDedication or contact the church at 706-543-4338 or frontdesk@firstpresathens.org with your dedications. Each dedication will be listed in the April 20 worship service bulletin.

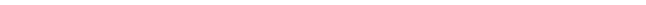
In Memory of



In Honor of



Given by



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)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON 10.10.10.10

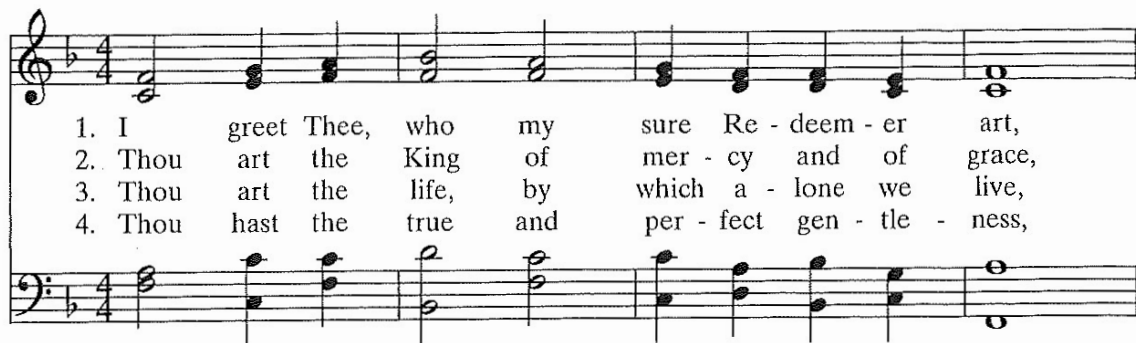
Attr. John Calvin

French Psalter, Strassburg, 1545

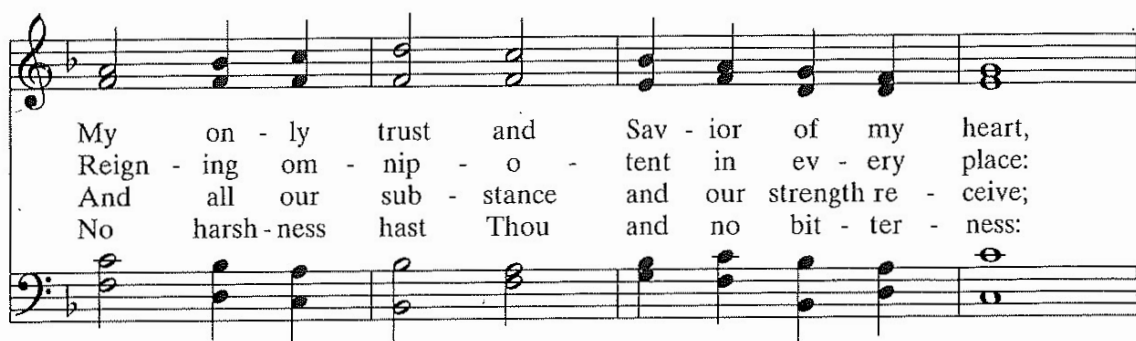
Trans. Elizabeth Lee Smith, 1868

Adapt. from Genevan 124

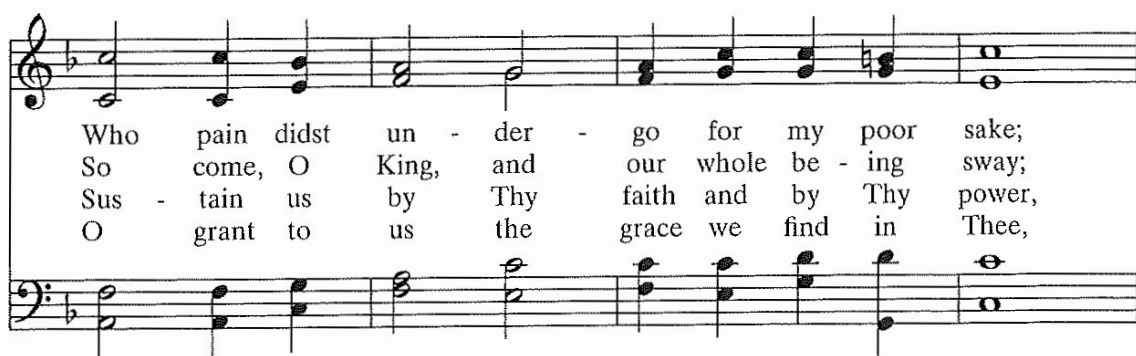
Genevan Psalter, 1551



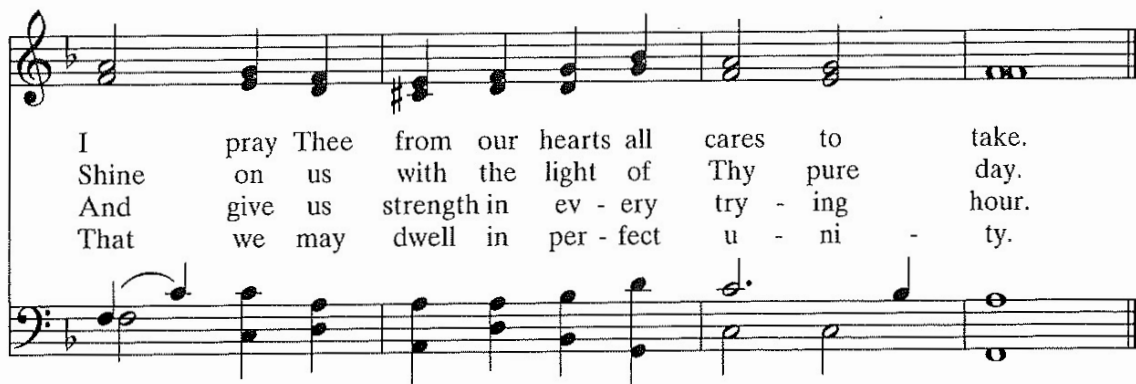
1. I greet Thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,
 2. Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
 3. Thou art the life, by which a - lone we live,
 4. Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,



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.

Hymn

O Christ, the Healer

O WALY WALY



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
2 From ev - ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our
4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be re -
clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we would con -
knowl - edge of our-selves! Re-lease in us those heal - ing
nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de - clares our
mu - ni - ty may find the whole- ness that, en - rich - ing



stored, when reached by love that nev - er ends?
fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.
truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

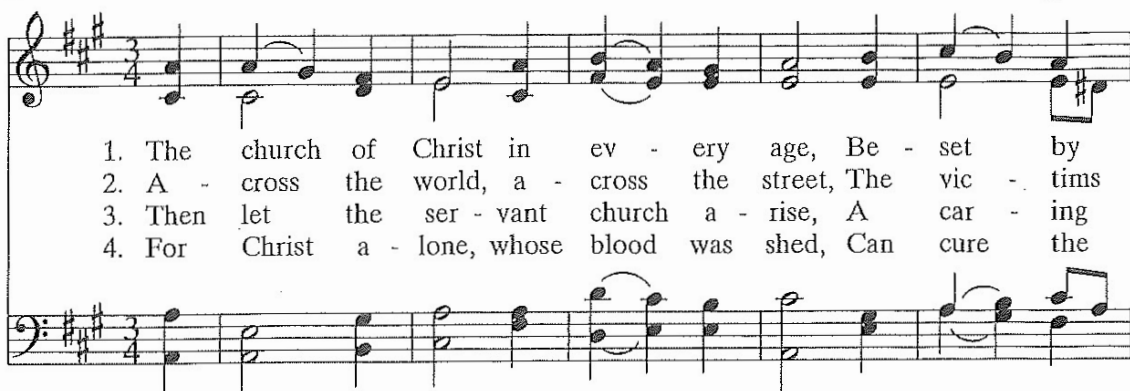
The Church of Christ in Every Age

421

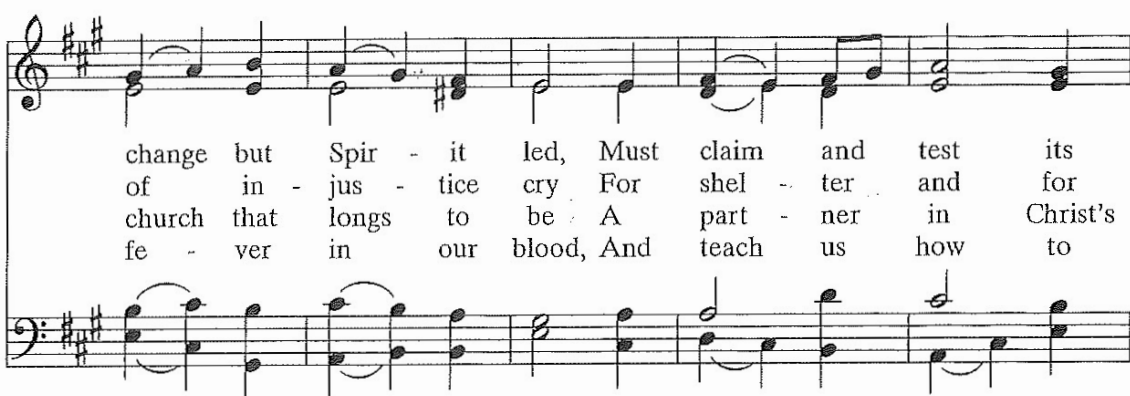
WAREHAM LM

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

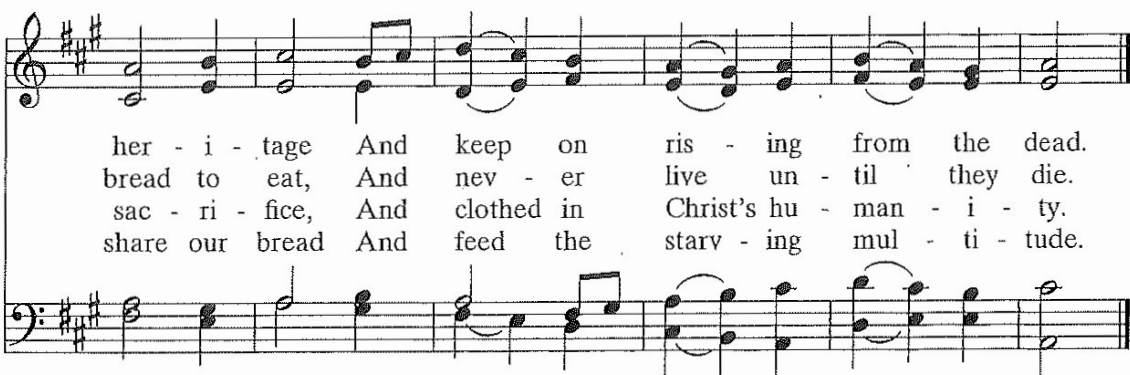
William Knapp, 1738



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.

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*