



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!

June 29, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

Old 113th

Gerald Near

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

LAND OF REST

**This is the day the Lord hath made;
the hours are all God's own;
let heaven rejoice, let earth be glad,
and praise surround the throne.**

Call to Worship

We gather today to worship the Lord, the Creator of all ages,
**The One who walks with us through every stage of life, and
sustains us with grace and mercy.**
As we reflect on the years God has given,
We honor the wisdom of those who have long sojourned here.
In God's presence, may all find comfort, peace, and joy.
**Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth and
forevermore.**

*Hymn 253

I'll Praise My Maker

OLD 113TH

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**Holy and loving God, we confess that we have not always
honored You in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have failed
to love our neighbors as ourselves, and we have sometimes
neglected the wisdom of those who have walked with you over a
long lifetime. We have clung to the wrong things. We have
isolated each other. We haven't invited others to make
important decisions corporately. Forgive us, Lord. Grant us
your grace to live humbly, with gratitude for every season of life,
and to care for one another as You have cared for us. Amen.**

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**Those who are able please 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).

I'll Praise My Maker is a paraphrase of Psalm 146 by Isaac Watts. It was a favorite of John Wesley, appearing in his first hymn collection in 1737 (published in Charleston), and was said to have been on his lips when he died.

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.”

All children are invited to remain in worship on Sunday mornings with family during the summer months.

Lay Reader: Karen Burg

The anthem is an arrangement by a contemporary English composer of a well-known hymn. The author of the text also wrote a tune for it, but not the tune that has been associated with it for over 150 years.

God of Our Life was written for the fiftieth anniversary of Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, by its pastor. He wrote the text especially for this 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.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

David Ogden



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***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

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 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, page 1055

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

Anthem

Abide with Me

Malcolm Archer

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.
Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.
I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies:
heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Second Lesson Genesis 47:1, 4-6, 27-31; 48:1-5, 8-11;
49:29-33; 50:1 page 43

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

Sermon *Everybody Hurts (Sometimes): Aging* The Rev. Margaret Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 275**

God of Our Life

SANDON

***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; (cont.)**

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.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Abide with Me* Lynn L. Peterson

***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**

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 210** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 540, stanza 2
God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude *Little Prelude and Fugue in C* attrib. J.S. Bach



You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your estimate of giving through your bank, or donate online using this QR code or at firstpresathens.org/giving. Thank you for your generosity.

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past is a paraphrase of Psalm 90 that speaks immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been paired with this tune, named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

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

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.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.

“Everybody Hurts (Sometimes)”

Today is the third of three Sundays in June that the Congregational Care Commission is offering a series called “Everybody Hurts (Sometimes)”. This series is back-by-popular-demand and will focus on three unique areas of human experience that are painful and challenging – we will hear personal stories, professional perspectives, and offer resources for continued healing. The topics this year are: Suicide Prevention (June 15), Caregiving (June 22), and Aging (June 29). We will meet in the Moses Waddel Room from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each of those weeks, and light breakfast items will be available. Please reach out to Whitney (whitney@firstpresathens.org) with any questions -- we hope you will plan to join us for these important conversations.

Nursery and Children’s + Youth Sunday school will be offered during that time.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Ms. Hannah Knight, *Director of Children & Youth Ministries*

Lay Reader

Karen Burg

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon (head),
John Simpson, Larry Baer

GREETER

Svea Bogue

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

JUNE FLOWER TEAM

Tootsie Adams, Susan Banister, Page Pate

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Frank and Sue Parker, given by Mary Peace.

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

Bethlehem Ministry Celebrating Father Bruno's 80th Birthday

FPC has supported the humanitarian work in Haiti of Episcopalian priest Father Jean Monique Bruno for 40 years! Father Bruno founded numerous schools in Haiti, most recently St. Barthélémy (pre-K to high school), as well as the health clinic, Clinique Espérance et Vie, in addition to building housing and feeding the poor. His tireless efforts have given hope and life to thousands of the least fortunate in Haiti. Today, First Pres supports these programs through Bethlehem Ministry (a U.S. 501(c)(3)). Father Bruno has visited FPC numerous times, and many church members have traveled to Haiti on mission trips, served on the board of Bethlehem Ministry, and supported the programs with volunteer efforts, prayers, and finances.

Father Bruno is turning 80 on Sunday, July 27, and Bethlehem Ministry is collecting greetings for his birthday! Please go to the Bethlehem Ministry website to add your special memories, wishes, and prayers for Father Bruno's very special Bòn Fèt! You can use the website by going to www.bethlehemministry.org. For more information, please contact Rennae Henry, Executive Director (832-656-4292).

Food Sunday, July 13

You may bring donations of **saltine crackers, kid friendly snack food, and white rice (1 or 2 lb bags)** to church on **Sunday, July 13**. You may also bring items to the church office until **Friday, July 11**. Our neighbors in need are very grateful for your donations! Many thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 29

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Margaret Davis preaching
- 11:15 a.m. Everybody Hurts (Sometimes): Aging, Moses Waddel Room

Tuesday, July 1

- 9:30 a.m. Endowment Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, July 2

- 11:30 a.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church

Friday, July 4 - Independence Day, Church Office Closed

Sunday, July 6 - Communion Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
 - 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
-

Sign up by 7/6: VBS 2025 – Come to the Well

Come one, come all (to the well) for VBS 2025 at FPC! For ages 3–103 (nursery available upon request– please register by 7/2 if nursery is needed). Join us July 13–16 from 5–7:30 pm for dinner, music, enriching adult Bible study + intentional conversation, fun children’s activity rotations, and joyful intergenerational fellowship. Each night will conclude with a service project benefitting the Resource Pantry, Bethel Buddies, and more! Registration is \$25 per person and helps us provide supplies for service projects. See! You! There!!

Please register at tinyurl.com/2025cometothewell. Contact Hannah Knight, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at hannah@firstpresathens.org, for more information and with any questions.

We need volunteers! If you can help us with art, recreation, worship, dinner, check-in/out, leading our littlest ones, or other tasks as needed, we’d be so grateful! Please visit tinyurl.com/FPCVBS25 to sign up.

Summer Fellowship Outings

Summer is here! We hope you’ll plan to join us for some (or all!) of these fun fellowship outings. Each of these is open to anyone who would like to attend – all ages and stages of our church family! Please RSVP to Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org) so we can keep a headcount and feel free to reach out with questions.

Saturday, July 19 at 6:05 p.m. Gwinnett Stripers v. Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp (Triple-A baseball), Coolray Field (Lawrenceville, GA)

\$15 per person. Please RSVP *by July 1* to claim your spot!

Thursday, July 24 at 5:30 p.m. Downtown Dinner, Creature Comforts Brewing Company (271 W. Hancock Ave)

Food truck, beverages (including non-alcoholic), and fun for everyone!

Tuesday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. Trivia at Mellow Mushroom (320 E. Clayton St)

Bring your knowledge and competitive spirit for team trivia!

Our Daily Bread Volunteers Needed

Volunteers from FPC provide and serve meals to our neighbors in need monthly at First Baptist Church: lunch on the first Wednesday, and breakfast on the second and fourth Tuesdays. For details and to help, please contact Joan Pinson at joanpinson@aol.com to help with breakfast or Leslie Desimone at ldesimon@uga.edu to help with lunch.

I'll Praise My Maker

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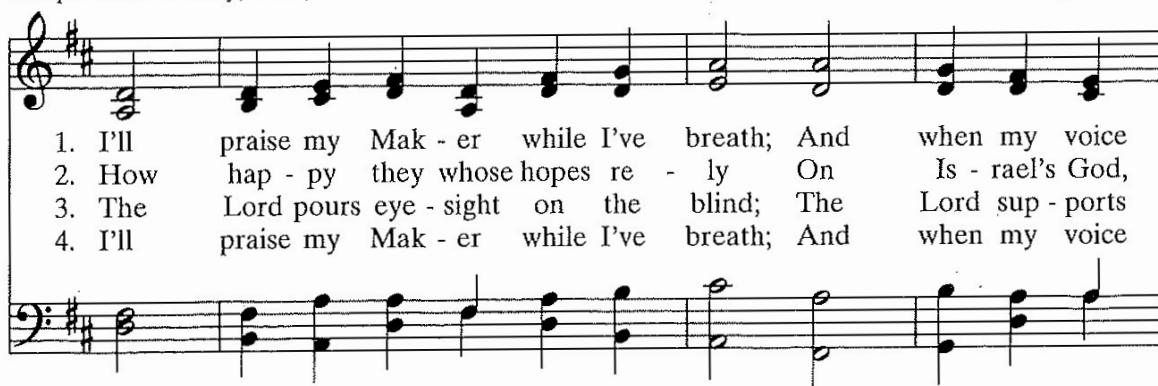
OLD 113TH 8.8.8.8.8

Isaac Watts

Adapt. John Wesley, 1736; alt. 1988

Attr. Matthäus Greiter (c. 1500-1552)

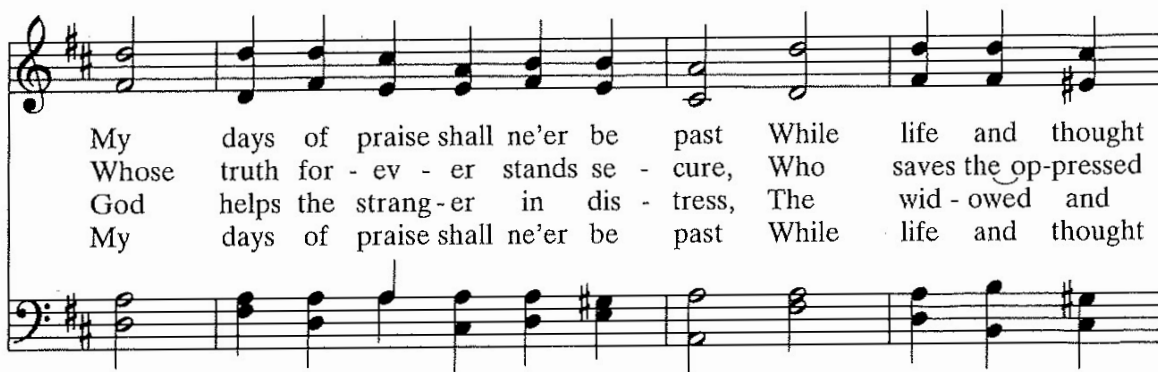
Harm. V. Earle Copes, 1964



1. I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; And when my voice
 2. How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly On Is - rael's God,
 3. The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; The Lord sup - ports
 4. I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; And when my voice



is lost in death, Praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.
 who made the sky And earth and seas with all their train;
 the faint - ing mind And sends the la - boring con - science peace.
 is lost in death, Praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.



My days of praise shall ne'er be past While life and thought
 Whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, Who saves the op - pressed
 God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, The wid - owed and
 My days of praise shall ne'er be past While life and thought



and be - ing last, Or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.
 and feeds the poor, And none shall find God's prom - ise vain.
 the par - ent - less, And grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.
 and be - ing last, Or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

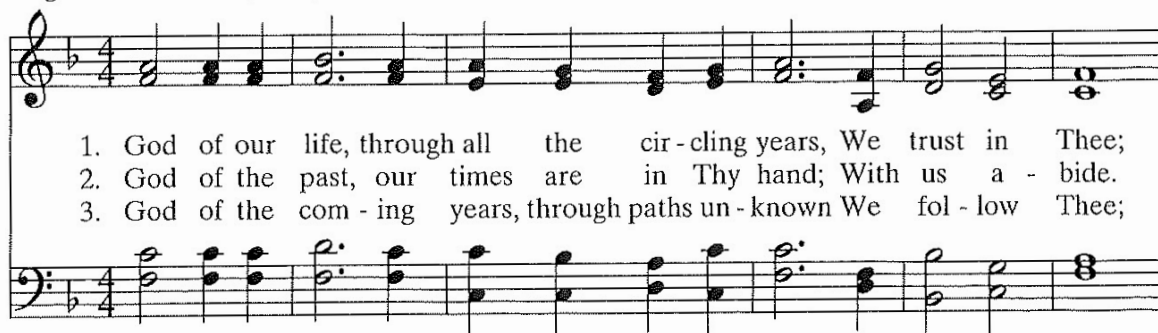
God of Our Life

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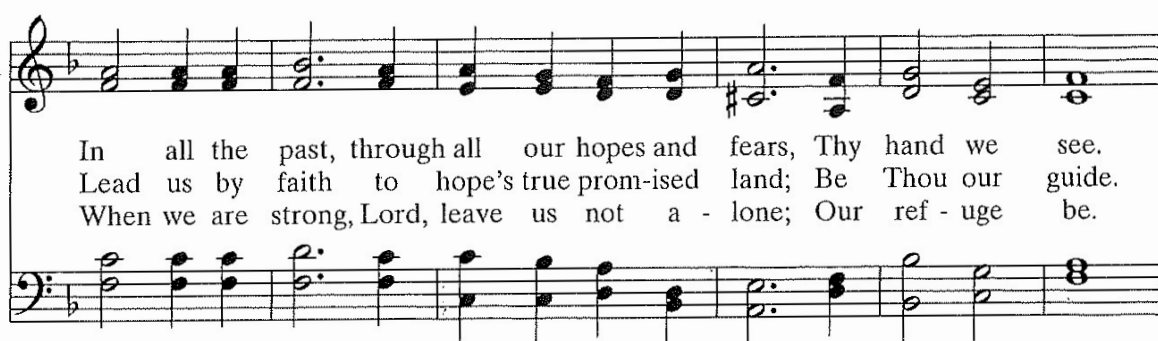
SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10

Charles Henry Purday, 1860
Harm. John Weaver, 1986

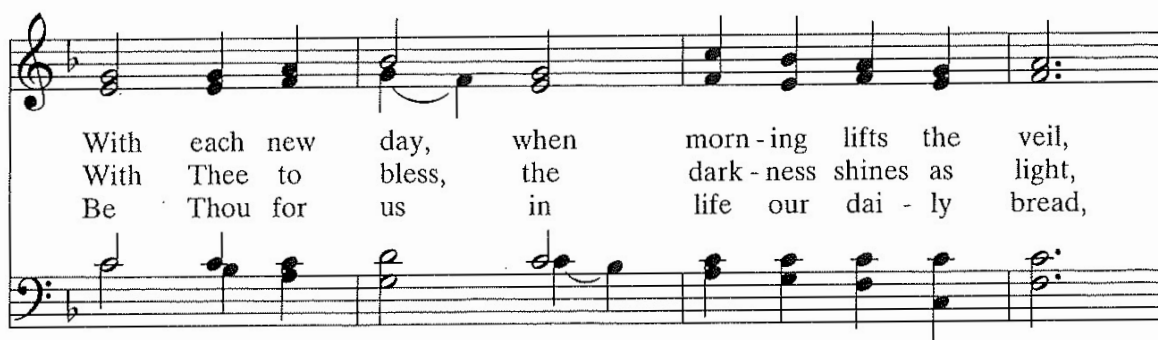
Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916; alt. 1928



1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, We trust in Thee;
2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us a - bide.
3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known We fol - low Thee;



In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; Be Thou our guide.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; Our ref - uge be.



With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
With Thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
Be Thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,



We own Thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
And faith's fair vi - sion chan - ges in - to sight.
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

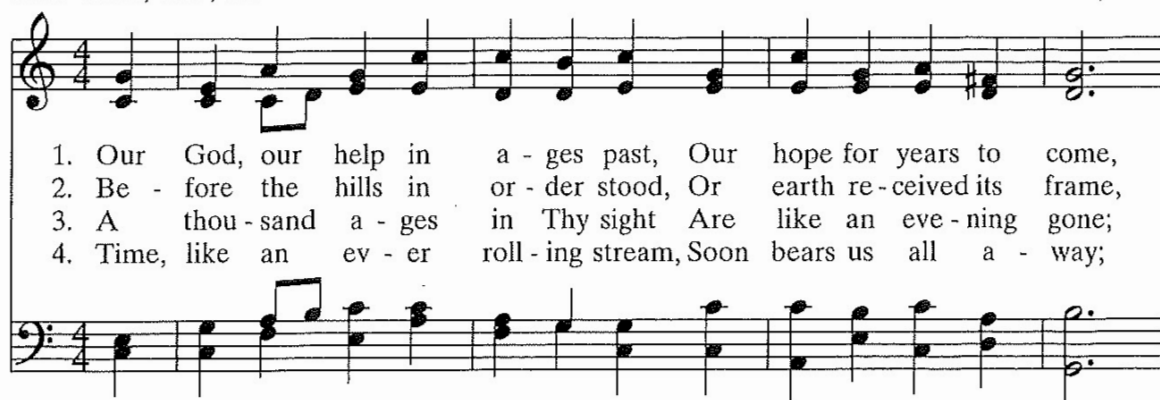
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

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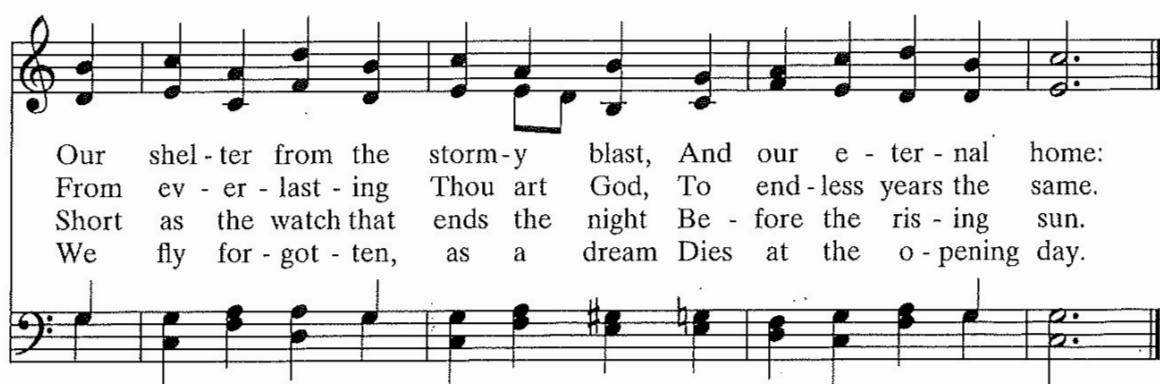
ST. ANNE CM

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, Senior Pastor Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session
Whitney Booth Lockard, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2026

Lindsay Griffeth
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

CLASS OF 2028

Steven Brooks
Courtney Dantzler
Shannon Ferguson
Edward W. (Ned) Phares
Holly Sheats
Lawton Stephens
Madeline Van Dyck
John Webster

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)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Office Administrator* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Jennifer Adams, *Church Accountant* (jadams@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Joli Winstanley, *Administrative & Communications Assistant* (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*