



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!

September 7, 2025
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Thirteenth 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

Morning Has Broken

Alan Bullard

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission *Athens Area Diaper Bank and Red Cross Blood Drive*

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!

has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!

Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!

"Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!

Call to Worship

God said, "Let there be light!"

And it was good.

God said, "Let us make human beings in our image."

And it was good.

God calls us now into God's holy presence.

And it is very good!

*Hymn 455

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you have created us in your image, protected and nourished us, and called us into your work of justice. Yet while we profess these truths, we forget who we are and whose we are.

We put our trust in ourselves, in material goods, and in worldly powers instead of trusting you. We prioritize our comfort over our neighbor's needs. Call us back to you, God. Forgive us our failings, and direct us back onto the path you would have us tread.

*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).

All Creatures of Our God and King, sometimes called The Canticle of the Sun, is a cosmic roll call that allows humans to give voice to all creation. The original, by St. Francis of Assisi, is one of the earliest religious poems in Italian. It is made more expansive by the broad tune and added "Alleluias."

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."

Children are invited to remain in the Sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

All Things Bright and Beautiful is one of a series of hymns written for children on the Apostles' Creed, this one expanding "Maker of heaven and earth."



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.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

David Ogden



*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

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**Your Word, O Lord, a lamp shall be
to guide our feet, to light our way;
the darkest path unto our prize
by your rich grace is bright as day.**

First Lesson

John 1:1-5, page 968

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

Second Lesson

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, page 1

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

Sermon

And It Was Good! The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 267

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

*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;
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

8:45 Offertory

O Waly Waly

Barbara Harbach

11:00 Offertory

Christ Hath a Garden

Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground,
chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness.
Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand;
by Eden's gracious streams, that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.
Awake, O wind of heaven, and bear their sweetest perfume through the air:
stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, till the beloved Master come:
That he may come, and linger yet among the trees that he hath set;
that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The musical setting of
the communion liturgy
is by American composer
Hal Hopson.

Sanctus



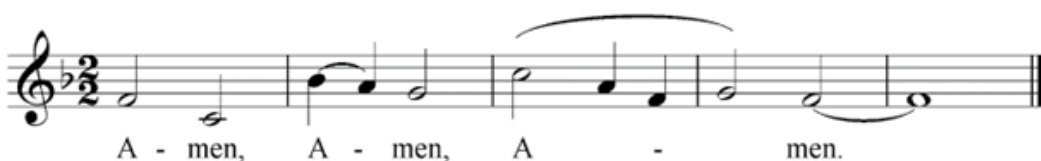
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

The Great Amen



A - men, A - men, A - men.

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets was written for the 1979 National Meeting of United Presbyterian Women, whose theme, “In the image of God,” is considered as reflection, focus, distortion, and polishing for clarity.

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

***Hymn 285** *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* AUSTRIAN HYMN

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS
Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Postlude *Lasst uns erfreuen* Flor Peeters

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’s Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

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 (head),
Ed Ferguson, Dick Ferguson

GREETER

11:00 a.m. Ella Stewart

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the 63rd wedding anniversary of Linda and Fred Wallace.

SEPTEMBER FLOWER TEAM

Betsy Bushnell (chair), Eve Morris, Lois Neighbors, Beverly Phares, Lucy Bell

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 7 - Food Sunday, Communion Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, September 8

- 10:00 a.m. Congressional Care Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, September 9

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 4:30 p.m. Education & Discipleship Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, September 10

- 9:15 a.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village Athens
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare and Friends Class, Staff Conference Room or via Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, September 11

- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Commission Meeting, Bride's Room

Friday, September 12

- 3:00 p.m. FPC Women's Retreat Departure, Church Parking Lot

Sunday, September 14

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:15 p.m. Young Adult Brunch, meet in Atrium
- 4:00 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Young Adult Brunch

This month's outing will be on Sunday, September 14 following the 11:00 worship service. We'll meet up in the Atrium after worship and walk somewhere nearby for a meal and fellowship. Please e-mail Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org) if you plan to join – all are welcome!

FPC Women's Retreat

We have a couple of spots open for the upcoming 2025 FPC Women's Retreat this September 12-14 at Lake Cherokee above Seneca, SC. If you are interested in joining, email Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org) to add your name or if you have any questions.

Diapers Donations Needed - Athens Area Diaper Bank Diaper Drive

For the month of September, FPC Youth will be collecting donations for the Athens Area Diaper Bank (AADB). Any size of diapers or pull ups and open packs are accepted! Donations can be dropped off in designated boxes in the Atrium or the church office **through September 28**. Diaper drives bring in a significant number of the diapers that AADB is able to distribute to families in need. Thank you in advance for your support of the Athens Area Diaper Bank! Contact Hannah Knight (hannah@firstpresathens.org) with any questions.

New Men's Small Group Ministry

Our new Men's Small Group Ministry seeks to create a space for deeper fellowship, honest conversation, and spiritual growth. Groups of 6–10 men will meet weekly for one hour to share life, Scripture, and prayer. We're asking for men to commit to an initial 10-week journey together. After that, you decide whether to continue. Email John Webster at jwebsterii@outlook.com for more information.

Habitat For Humanity Building Day

We need 10 volunteers to work side-by-side with future homeowners on a new Habitat home build in Athens on Saturday, September 20. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Lunch is included! Email Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org) to sign up.

Red Cross Blood Drive

September 21, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and help save a life! Reserve an appointment online at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code AFPC), or contact the church office (call 706-543-4338 or e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org).

If you cannot give blood but would like to help check-in donors, please contact Joe Neighbors to volunteer (jbneighb@bellsouth.net).

A Conversation with Hattie Thomas Whitehead

September 21, 12:30 p.m.

On September 21, the Matthew 25 Commission is sponsoring "A Conversation with Hattie Thomas Whitehead," the author of *Giving Voice to Linnentown*. Her book is the source of information for "Linnentown: The Musical" the second production of which takes place on September 12, 13, and 14 at the Classic Center.

Ms. Whitehead will begin with a presentation and then open the floor to questions and comments beginning after our 11:00 a.m. worship service in Moses Waddel Room. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Hannah Knight
Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

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, Busy Bags, and books are available at the children's tables located in the Narthex and on both sides of the choir loft.

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.

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.*

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

Children and Youth Ministries – Sunday School
Godly Play (4 years–2nd grade)
Explorers (3rd–5th grade)
Youth (6th–12th grade)

Children's Sunday School meets in the Children's Ministry Suite each Sunday starting at 9:45am. Our younger kiddos will be participating in **Godly Play**—an interactive, hands-on, reflective method of learning about God by modeling Bible stories and responding. Our **Explorers Class** is for our 3rd–5th graders and is new this year! This group will spend time learning more about Bible basics and hear the stories of God's people, following the Narrative Lectionary text.

Youth Sunday School meets in the PIT and kicks off each Sunday with donuts & fellowship at 9:45am! We use the Living the Word curriculum from Spirit & Truth Publishing— it directly follows the Narrative Lectionary Text each week. There is time for games, intentional discussion, and hearing the sacred stories of old!

Youth Group (5:30–7:00 p.m.)

Sunday night youth group is a safe space for youth to come as they are! We will split into middle and high school groups, eat a yummy meal, and finish the evening as a large group. There will be games, Bible study, creative response time, and lots of laughs as we spend intentional time together. The theme for this year is “Back to Basics”— we will spend time learning more about key Biblical figures, hearing the stories of old, and diving deeper into prayer. As Jesus reminds us— He is the vine and we are the branches (John 15)! There is value in abiding in the One who knows and loves us fully. Come join us— all are welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Bible Basics • Moses Waddel Room

Bible Basics is an intergenerational class that, as the name suggests, focuses on the Bible. This fall, the class is studying the gospel of Luke. If you interested in grappling with questions about this ancient text, please join us in Moses Waddel Room.

Contacts: David Dantzler (jdaviddantzler@gmail.com) and Elaine Johnson (elaine@firstpresathens.org)

Builders • Room 301

This class is a space for anyone navigating the complexities of family life, relationships with children and youth, or careers. Our time together will offer a blend of fellowship, mutual 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. We'll begin this year

with “Good & Evil.” This eight-lesson study guide explores challenges to our faith journey and suggests O.T and N.T. passages to help us deal with them.

Coordinator: Jerry Rogers (jrogerswtw@aol.com)

Zoom ID: 380 330 5940, PW: 245449

New Voices • Room 310

The New Voices class is a discussion based class. Our goal is to create joy through art, food, music, prayer, scripture, class led discussion, community and inclusion. We're starting with Karen Armstrong's book, “St. Paul, The Misunderstood Apostle.” Themes for this study: The reality of sin, The love of God, Effective grace, Salvation, Prayers in real life.

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)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN LM with alleluias

Francis of Assisi, 1225

Trans. and para. William Henry Draper, c. 1910; alt.

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623; alt.

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Unison

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice
 2. Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail
 3. Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for
 4. Thou fer-tile earth, that day by day Un-fold-est bless-

Harmony

and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 in heav-en a-long, O sing ye! Al-le-lu-ia!
 thy Lord to hear, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 ings on your way, O sing ye! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison

Thou burn-ing sun with gold-en beam, Thou sil-ver moon with
 Thou ris-ing morn, in praise re-joice, Ye lights of eve-ning,
 Thou fire so mas-ter-ful and bright, That giv-est us both
 The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, Let them God's glo-ry

Unison

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

5. And everyone of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part.
 O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and cast on God your care!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6. All creatures, your Creator bless,
 And worship God in humbleness.
 O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All Things Bright and Beautiful

267

ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6 with refrain

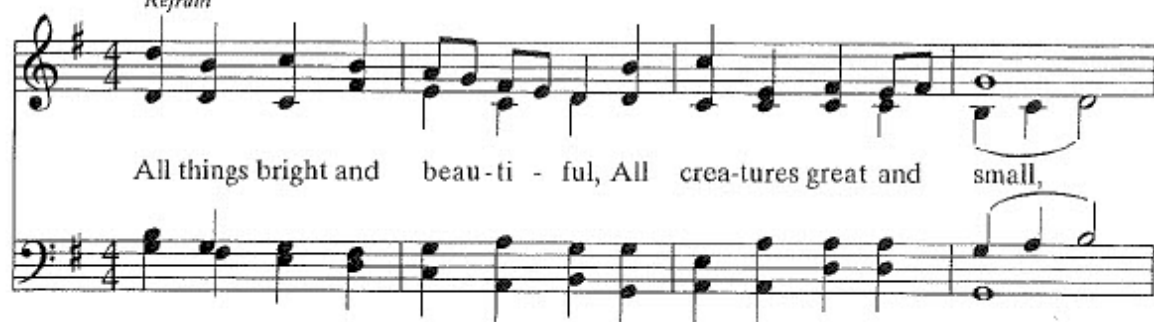
English melody, 17th century

Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

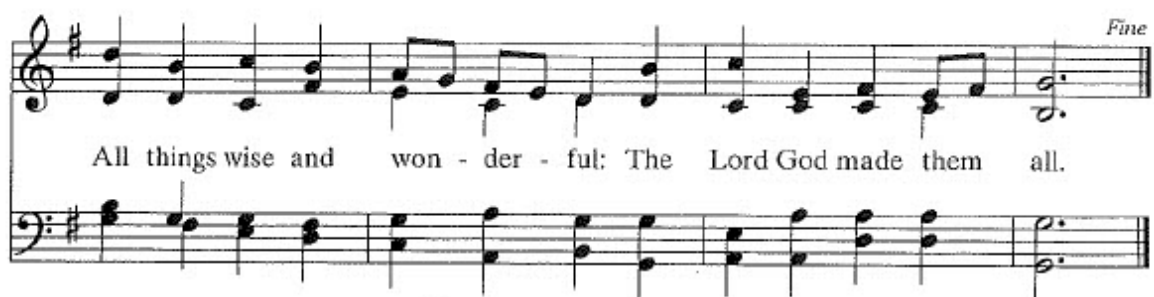
Harm. for *The Hymnbook*, 1953

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

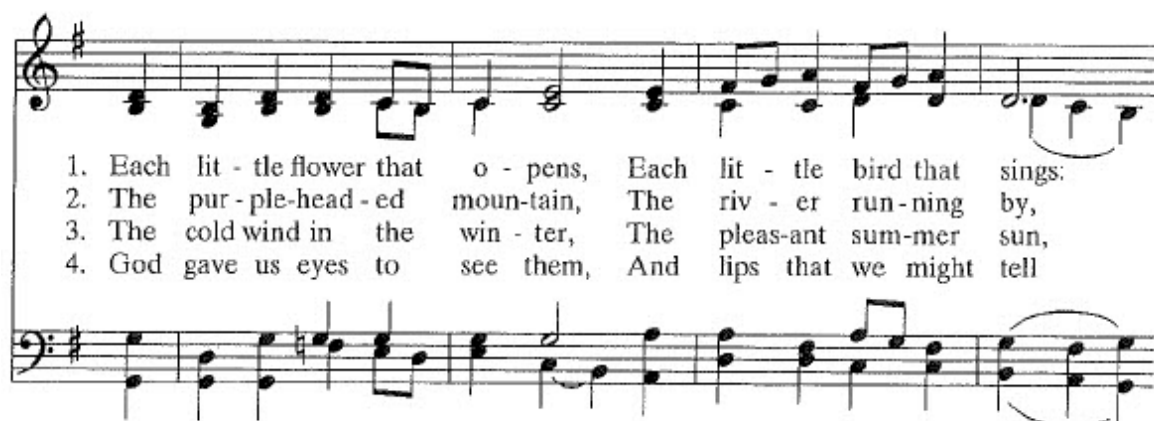
Refrain



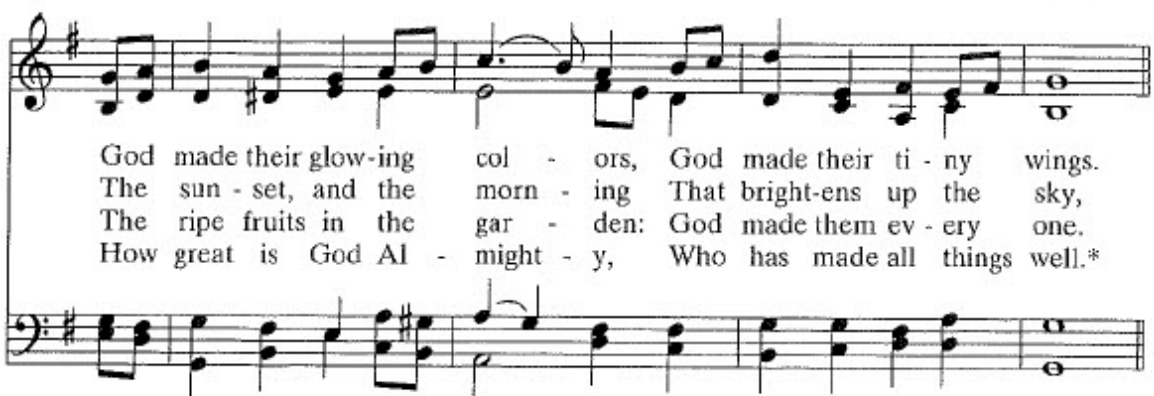
All things bright and beau-ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,



All things wise and won - der - ful: The Lord God made them all. *Fine*



1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings:
2. The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by,
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell



God made their glow-ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright-ens up the sky,
The ripe fruits in the gar - den: God made them ev - ery one.
How great is God Al - might - y, Who has made all things well.*

*Repeat Refrain.

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

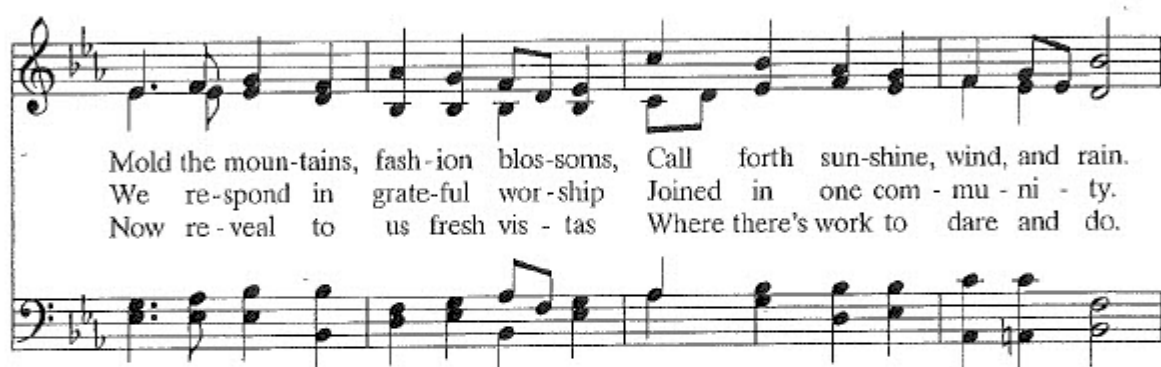
AUSTRIAN HYMN 87.8.7 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1978

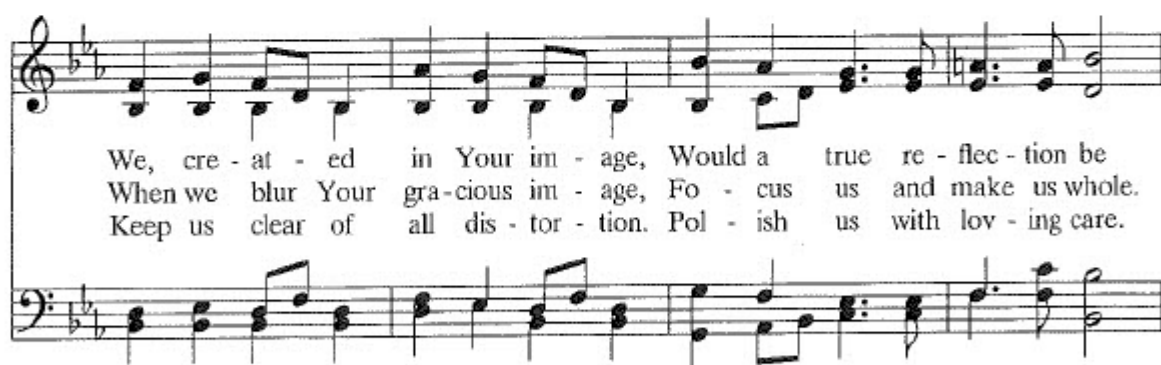
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797



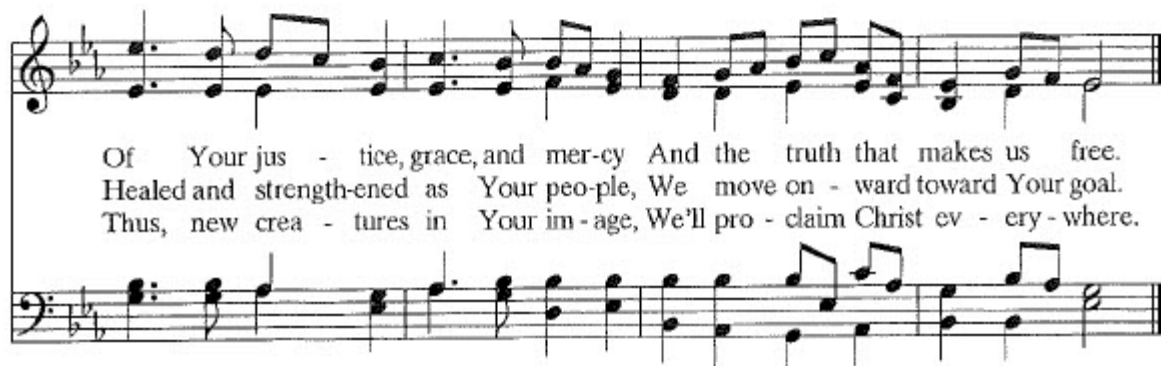
1. God, You spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, Fill the seas and spread the plain,
 2. You have called us to be faith-ful In our life and min-is-try.
 3. God, Your word is still cre-at-ing, Call-ing us to life made new.



Mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, Call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.
 We re-pond in grate-ful wor-ship Joined in one com-mu-ni-ty.
 Now re-veal to us fresh vis-tas Where there's work to dare and do.



We, cre-at-ed in Your im-age, Would a true re-flec-tion be
 When we blur Your gra-cious im-age, Fo-cus us and make us whole.
 Keep us clear of all dis-tor-tion. Pol-ish us with lov-ing care.



Of Your jus-tice, grace, and mer-cy And the truth that makes us free.
 Healed and strength-ened as Your peo-ple, We move on-ward toward Your goal.
 Thus, new crea-tures in Your im-age, We'll pro-claim Christ ev-ery-where.

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)
Ms. Deanna Rollins, *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*