



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!

February 15, 2026
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
The Table – Campus Ministry Sunday

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

Unser Herrscher

John Ferguson

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

The Table

Song of Gathering

**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.**

AZMON

Call to Worship

Lord, you have welcomed us, saying,
“I know you by name, and you have found favor with me.”

Lord, you have promised us,
“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Lord, you have blessed us, saying,
“I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you.”

Lord, you have humbled us, saying,
“I will proclaim my holy name in your presence.”

Lord, show us your glory!
We worship you!

***Hymn insert** *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain* UNSER HERRSCHER

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Glorious God, you are all wisdom and a lamp to our feet, yet we fail to listen to you and neglect to follow your guidance. Forgive us, heal us, and lead us on, that we may walk in your ways and be happy in your refuge; in Jesus our Christ we pray. Amen.

Some version of the Transfiguration is usually read on the last Sunday after the Epiphany. *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain* gives a foretaste of Christ’s glorification that prepares Peter, James, and John for their roles as proclaimers of “God’s beloved Son.”

**Those who are able please 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 Readers:
11:00 a.m. Patrick Sheridan

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The opening line of *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy, and continues with how god's life exceeds our own finite existence..

***Silent Prayer**
Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***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

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 327, stanza 1
**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

First Lesson I Corinthians 13:8-13, page 1049
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 a.m. Anthem *Christ Upon the Mountain Peak* Paul Bouman
Christ upon the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing.
Let us, if we dare to speak, with the saints and angels praise him – Alleluia!
Trembling at his feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the Law shout through them their joyful greeting – Alleluia!
Swift the cloud of glory came, God, proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as his Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder – Alleluia!
This is God's beloved Son. Law and prophets fade before him,
first and last and only One. Let creation now adore him! – Alleluia!

Second Lesson Exodus 33:17-23, page 79
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *The Mercy of Knowing 'In Part'* Rev. Will Norman

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 263** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

***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. (cont'd)**

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.

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 Improvisation on St. Denio John Coble

*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 306 Fairest Lord Jesus CRUSADERS’ HYMN

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response Hymn 68, stanza 1
To God the Father, God the Son,
and Holy Spirit, three in one,
may every tongue and nation raise
an endless song of thankful praise

Postlude Toccata Eugène Gigout

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The tune of *Fairest Lord Jesus* was used by Franz Liszt for a “Crusaders’ March” in an oratorio, but the hymn has nothing to do with the Crusades. The original German text existed before the middle of the 17th century.

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:35 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.

Campus Ministry Sunday
Today

Join us in welcoming the students and staff of The Table (formerly Presbyterian Student Center at UGA) will lead us in worship this morning. For more information about The Table, please visit their website at tableuga.org.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Will Norman, *Executive Campus Minister, The Table*

The Rev. Haley Lerner, *Campus Minister, The Table*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Liturgists (The Table Students):

Abby Crowe, Sadie Estes, Katie Guenthner,
Patrick Sheridan

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Mary Peace
11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon, Ed Ferguson,
Dick Ferguson

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FEBRUARY FLOWER TEAM

Ethelyn Simpson (chair),
Terry Nestor, Gail Wilfong, Susan Baldwin

FLOWERS

The flowers 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.

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.

Ash Wednesday Services February 18, 12:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a traditional service including the imposition of ashes at 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Lunch Study on Thursdays Starting February 19, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Join us for weekly Lenten Lunches (Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 beginning February 19), which will follow a weekly Lenten devotional booklet called “Tell Me Something Good”. This resource invites us into explore stories in which Jesus is bringing good news and challenging us to claim it as such, to ground ourselves in it, and to let it nourish and embolden us for the work to the lives of discipleship to which we are called.

New Members First Things Class

The New Members First Things class has been **rescheduled for February 22 from 12:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** This will be a time to get better acquainted, meet the church staff, and talk about what makes First Presbyterian Church of Athens unique.

On **Sunday, March 1**, new members will meet with the Session (our governing board) at **10:00 a.m.** to be received into membership and will be introduced to the congregation at the 11 :00 a.m. service. To RSVP, please call the church office (706-543-4338) or e-mail Paulo Santos at paulo@firstpresathens.org by **Tuesday, February 17**.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 15

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Rev. Will Norman 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. Middle School Ice Skating, Meet at FPC

Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day - Church Office and Weekday School Closed

- 5:30 p.m. UGA Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, February 17

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

Wednesday, February 18

- 8:00 a.m. Service, Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching, Sanctuary
- 12:30 p.m. Service, Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Shakespeare and Friends Class, Staff Conference Room or Zoom (ID: 706-543-1820)
- 6:00 p.m. Service, Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, February 19

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, February 22

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:15 p.m. New Members 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
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:00 p.m. Elder Training, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Join one of our Response Teams!

Do you enjoy hosting or helping with meals? Join a Response Team! Help us host receptions or with meals for families after funerals or memorial services.

We need: More volunteers to share the load. Team members prepare, serve, and clean up refreshments — or drop off food if you can't attend. Currently, five teams rotate responsibilities — many hands make light work!

To join a team or for more information, please contact Paulo Santos at [paulo@firstpresathens.org](mailto: paulo@firstpresathens.org).

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Hannah Knight
Interns: Morgan Cassidy, Devon Smith
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 Knight
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. In the Spring semester, the class is studying the book of Acts. If you are interested in studying how the early Christian movement began and laid the foundation for the emergence of the church, please join us at 9:50 a.m. in the 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. Currently we are studying *John's Letters* which focuses on the core values of living a Christian life.

Coordinator: Jerry Rogers (jrogersutw@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– come visit our New Voices Art Studio– music, prayer, scripture, class led discussion and community. We're currently reading and discussing Amy-Jill Levine's book, *The Difficult Words of Jesus– A Beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings*. Our discussions are open minded, respectful, topical and fun.

Contact: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)

Zoom ID: 674 533 8902

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class
Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

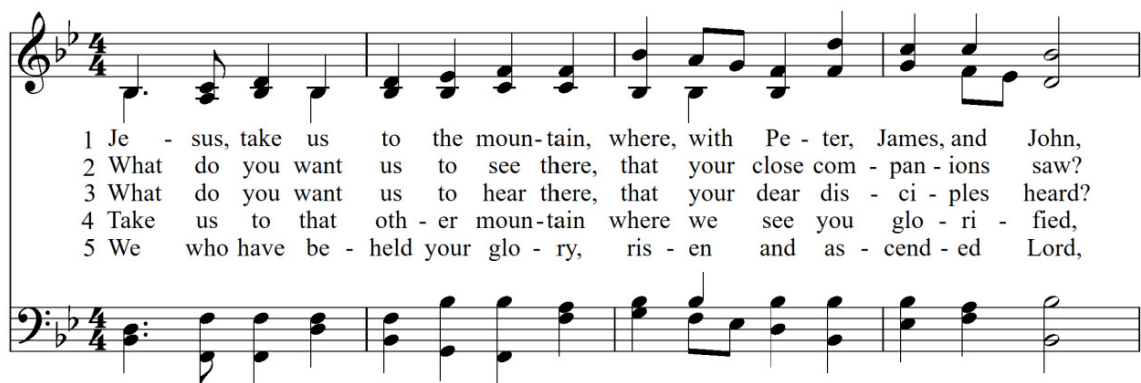
The class features open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity. This year Rev. Will Norman is leading us in a study of the New Testament books.

Contact: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com)

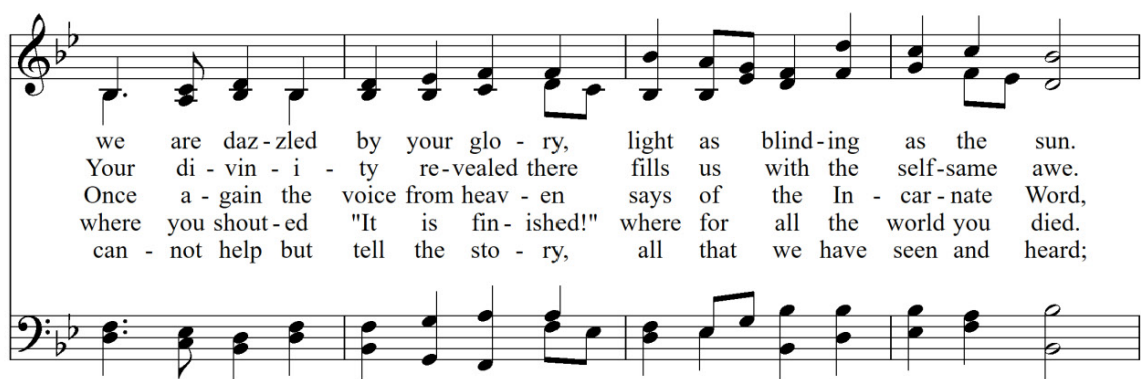
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Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

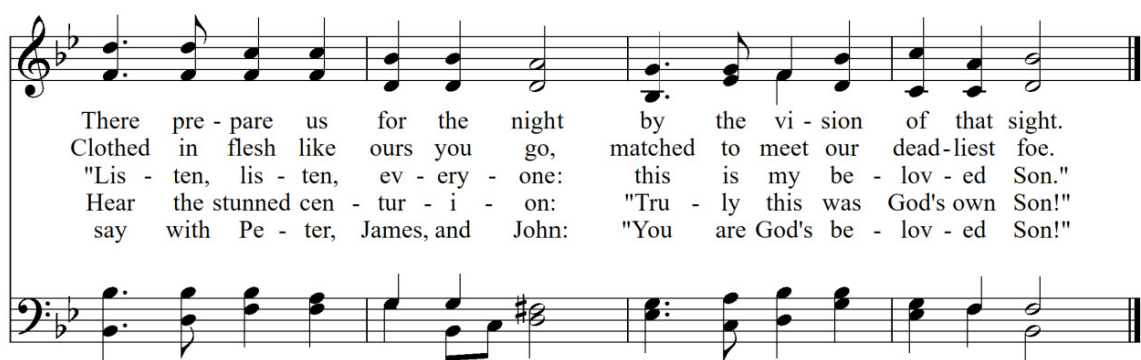
UNSER HERRSCHER



1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter, James, and John,
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com - pan - ions saw?
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis - ci - ples heard?
4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you glo - ri - fied,
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as - cend - ed Lord,



we are daz-zled by your glo - ry, light as blind-ing as the sun.
Your di - vin - i - ty re-vealed there fills us with the self-same awe.
Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car-nate Word,
where you shout-ed "It is fin-ished!" where for all the world you died.
can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that we have seen and heard;



There pre - pare us for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go, matched to meet our dead-liest foe.
"Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery - one: this is my be - lov - ed Son."
Hear the stunned cen - tur - i - on: "Tru - ly this was God's own Son!"
say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed Son!"

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991

Music: Joachim Neander, 1680, harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863 alt.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

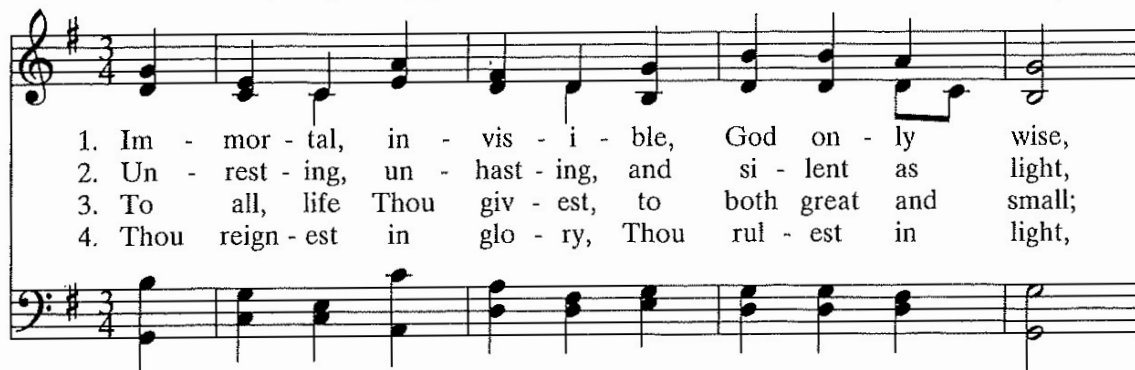
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ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11

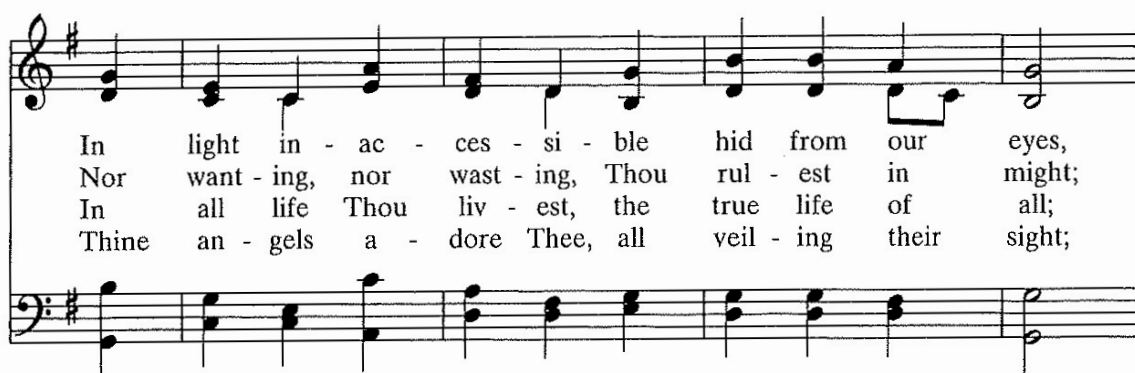
Welsh folk melody

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

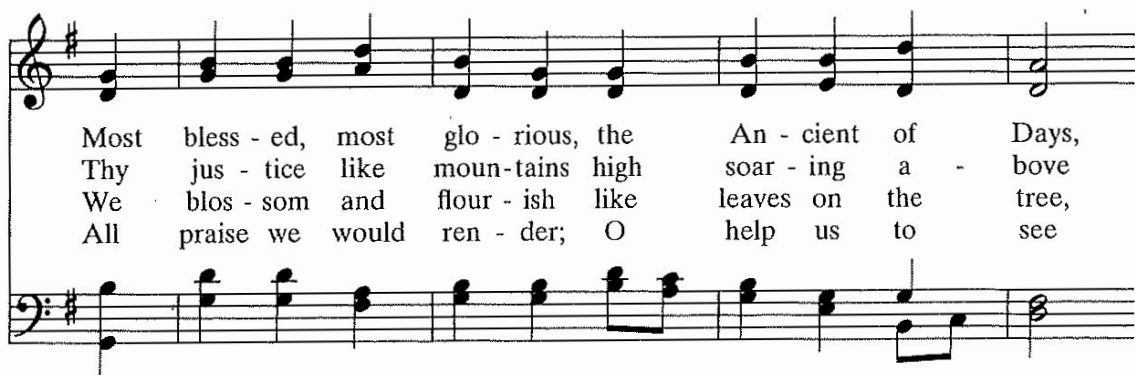
Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839



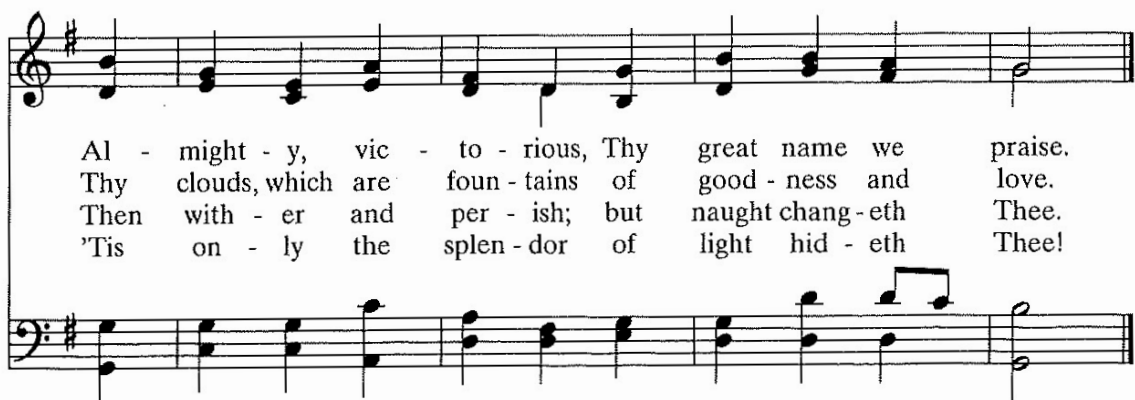
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

Fairest Lord Jesus

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CRUSADERS' HYMN 5.6.8.5.5.8

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

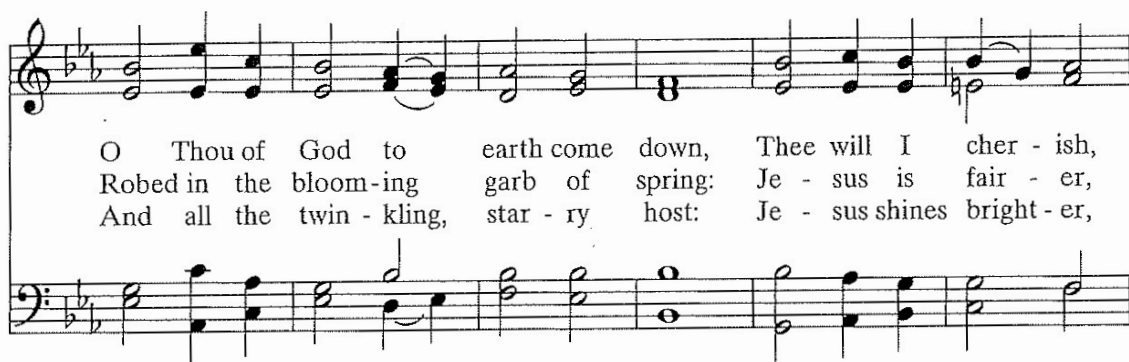
Trans. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850; alt.

Silesian folk melody

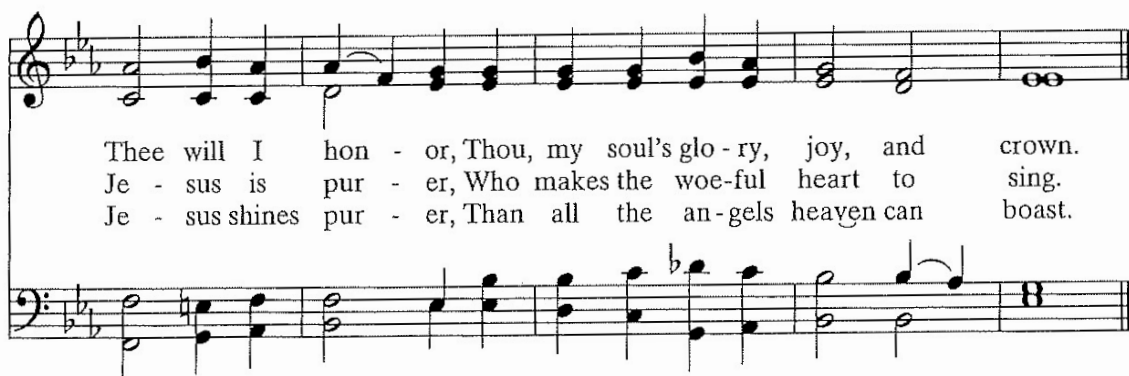
In *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,



O Thou of God to earth come down, Thee will I cher - ish,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twin - kling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,



Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

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. Deanna Rollins, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotte@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*
Mr. Wayne Brock, *Sexton*
Mr. Justin Winstanley, *Sunday Morning Manager*
Ms. Morgan Cassidy, *Children and Youth Ministries Intern*
Mr. Devon Smith, *Children and Youth Ministries Intern*