



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 29, 2026
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Palm 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

Psalm 118:24

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

Prelude

All Glory, Laud, and Honor Johann Sebastian Bach

The Triumphal Entry

John 12:12-16, page 959

*Processional Hymn 88

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Hosanna! Blessed is He

Carol McClure

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors,

That the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty in battle.

Who is the King of glory?

The Lord of hosts is the King of glory.

Prayer of the Day

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ, who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread branches along his way. Let these branches be signs of his victory, and grant that we who carry them may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. 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).

All Glory, Laud, and Honor is part of a much longer Latin poem by a bishop on Charlemagne's court. The tune is a 17th-century German chorale.

The first anthem is sung by the Cherub Choir and St. Andrews Choir.

**Those who are able please stand.*

Lay Readers:
8:45 a.m. Jean Martin-Williams
11:00 a.m. Carol McKay

CONFIRMATION

CLASS OF 2026:

Daniel Baer

Mike Waldrup, mentor

Nathan Baer

James Dantzler, mentor

Declan Brooks

Chuck Toney, mentor

Zoe Campbell

Anne Dantzler, mentor

Wright Cook

Andrew Griffith, mentor

Gus Craig

Dan Nadenicek, mentor

Benjamin Crim

Joe Neighbors, mentor

Harris Earl

Bruce Middendorf,
mentor

Jennings Holloway

Jeffrey Trapnell, mentor

Andrew Miller

Matt Jones, mentor

Chuck Phillips

Lawton Stephens, mentor

Will Rooker

Tim Johnson, mentor

Jude Seabolt

Will Norman, mentor

Tate Sheats

Mark Lockard, mentor

Anna Simmons

Shannon Ferguson,
mentor

Lizzie Simmons

Kathy Bangle, mentor



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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination

TALLIS' CANON

**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 24, page 491

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

11:00 a.m. Anthem

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Antonio Caldara

Hosanna! Sing glory to God in the highest ever more.

Sing glory to God forever more.

Awake my heart to sing thy praise, thou Prince of Life and Fount of Grace,

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna ever more.

Second Lesson

John 12:12-19, page 982

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

Sermon

What Kind of King?

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 76

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

11:00 a.m. Baptism and Profession of Faith

Presentation

*Profession 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.

Baptism

Confirmation

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

My Song Is Love Unknown

Michael Burkhardt

*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 91** *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!* ST. DROSTANE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 540, Stanza 4

God be with you till we meet again;
 keep love’s banner floating o’er you,
 smite death’s threatening wave before you:
 God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude *Improvisation: All Glory, Laud, and Honor* John Coble

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! is best understood as the reflections of someone observing the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The tune was written specifically for this text.

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

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:35 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’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 this Palm Sunday.

Join us today for Confirmation Sunday Lunch

We will celebrate and welcome our confirmands during 11:00 a.m. worship service, followed by a delicious churchwide lunch reception in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Food Sunday, April 5

You may bring donations of **canned meats (canned chicken, beef stew, chicken and dumplings, spam, etc.), saltine crackers, and snack foods (chips, snack crackers, nuts, dried fruits, granola bars, etc.)** to church on **Sunday, April 5**. You may also bring items to the church office until **Friday, April 3**. Our neighbors in need are very grateful for your donations! Many thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

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 Readers

8:45 a.m. Jean Martin-Williams

11:00 a.m. Carol McKay

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Terry Nestor

11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon, Hailey Campbell,

Larry Baer

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

MARCH FLOWER TEAM

Rosemary Stancil (chair),

Susan Ferguson, Karen Cobb, Elaine Johnson

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.

Holy Week Services & Activities

Maundy Thursday, April 2, Service at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

We will recall the night of Jesus' arrest and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Good Friday Service, April 3, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 7:00 p.m.

Our siblings from Athens area Presbyterian churches and campus ministry will gather for the annual Good Friday service, hosted this year by Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Easter Eve Egg Hunt and Picnic Lunch, Saturday, April 4, 11:00 a.m., The Hill

All are invited to our Egg Hunt and Picnic Lunch at The Hill (11:00-12:30 p.m.). The church family is asked to bring a side dish or desert to share and your own picnic blanket and/or chairs. Lee Epting will provide a meat and the perfect grass for egg hiding. The church will provide drinks and Easter treats. Please use tinyurl.com/egg huntsides to indicate which side/desert you plan to bring.

Easter, April 5

Easter Sunrise Service, 7:00 a.m., gates will open at 6:30 a.m.

Oconee Hill Cemetery invites everyone to the Wingfield Chapel within the cemetery grounds for an Easter Sunrise Service. Please dress comfortably and consider bringing a flashlight and folding chair.

Easter Worship Services: 8:45 & 11:00 a.m., One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Join us for the celebration of the risen Christ. We will receive an offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing, which will be used to help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People through the Presbyterian Church USA.

Biscuit Brunch, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Between services, instead of Sunday School, we will all gather as a church family for fellowship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Join us for weekly Lenten Lunches Thursdays from 12:30-1:30 through April 2. We 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.

You can find the devotional booklet online on our website. To receive the daily daily devotional emails, please contact the church office (e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338).

First Pres Family Promise Host Weeks March 29 - April 11

FPC will host Family Promise from March 29th through April 11th. Volunteers directly support families by providing a meal. Although all of our host spots are filled, you can still help by making a \$25 donation (to First Pres with “Family Promise” in the memo) to purchase groceries or rideshare gift cards for transportation to work.

We are also looking for donations of baby items for one family expecting a baby in May. If you have an unused stroller, baby blankets, burp cloths, bottles, diapers, etc., we will be collecting these items in the Atrium over the next two weeks.

Thank you to all the volunteers who will be providing meals during this time. If you have questions, please contact the Family Promise Coordinators, Susan Boatwright at boatwright.susan@gmail.com or Jean Bock at bockjean@gmail.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive April 19, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on April 19 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).

Easter Lily Dedication

If you wish to give a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, please place your order by **Monday, March 30**. 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 5 worship service bulletin.

In Memory of

In Honor of

Given by

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday, Confirmation Sunday, Family Promise

Host Weeks Begin

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Called Session Meeting, Breakout Area
- 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Reception, Fellowship Hall
- 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, March 30

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room
- 5:30 p.m. UGA Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, March 31

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

Wednesday, April 1

- 11:30 a.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, April 2

- 9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 10:00 a.m. Weekday School Easter Egg Hunt, Courtyard
- 12:30 p.m. Lenten Study Group, Staff Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday, Weekday School Closed

- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service, Covenant Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service, Oconee Hill Cemetery
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:30 a.m. Easter Brunch, Fellowship Hall

Project Safe Workday **April 19, 2:00-5:00 p.m.**

Join us to support Project Safe by helping to sort clothes, clean shelves, and tidy up the thrift store. Project Safe works to end domestic violence through crisis intervention, supportive services, advocacy, prevention, and education. For more information, please contact Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard at whitney@firstpresathens.org. The Project Safe thrift store is located at 995 Hawthorne Ave #7, Athens, GA 30606 (in the Bell's Shopping Center).

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
(class will resume on January 18)

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 (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— come visit our New Voices Art Studio— music, prayer, scripture, class led discussion and community. We're currently reading and discussing “The Tears Of Things— Prophetic Wisdom For An Age of Outrage.” By Richard Rohr. 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)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN 7.6.7.6 D

Theodulph of Orleans, c. 820

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1859

Melchior Teschner, 1614

Arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re-deem-er, King!

Fine

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1. Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2. The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;
 3. To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
 4. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless-ed One.
 Our praise and prayers and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
 To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed, Our mel - o - dy we raise.
 Who in all good de - light - est, Thou good and gra-cious King!

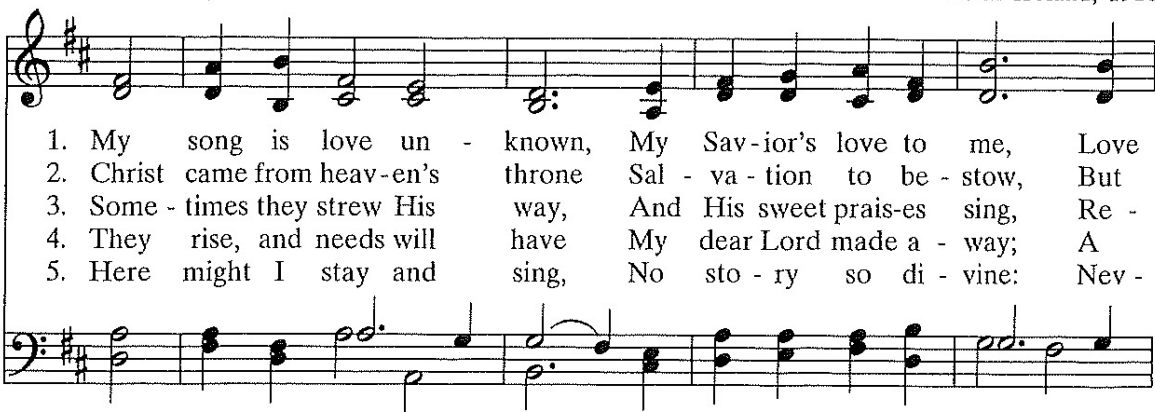
My Song Is Love Unknown

76

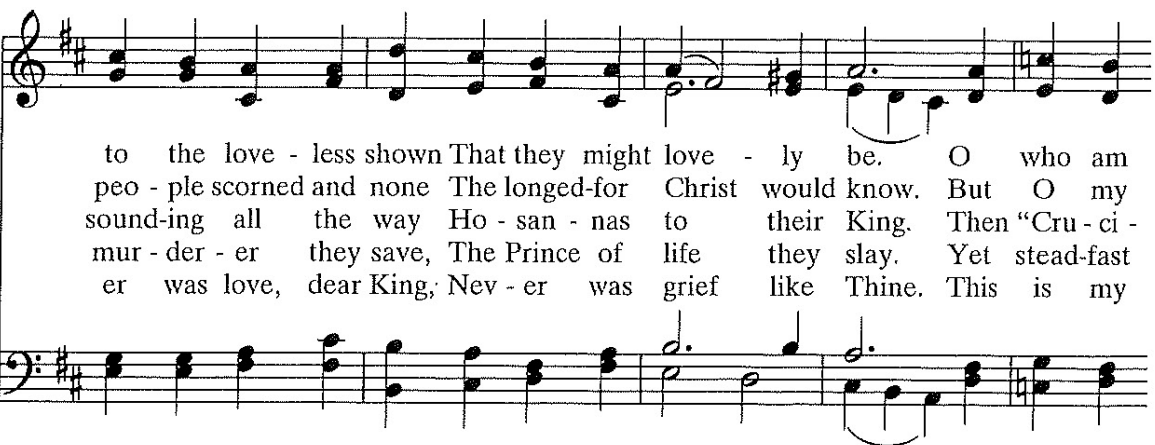
LOVE UNKNOWN 6.6.6.6.4.4.4.4

Samuel Crossman, 1664

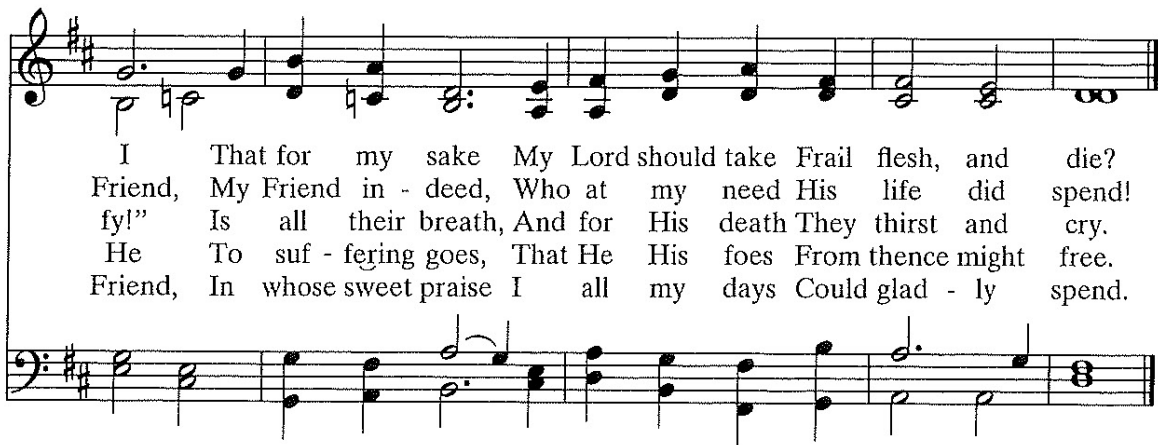
John Ireland, 1918



1. My song is love un - known, My Sav-ior's love to me, Love
 2. Christ came from heav-en's throne Sal - va - tion to be - stow, But
 3. Some - times they strew His way, And His sweet prais-es sing, Re -
 4. They rise, and needs will have My dear Lord made a - way; A
 5. Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di - vine: Nev -



to the love - less shown That they might love - ly be. O who am
 peo - ple scorned and none The longed-for Christ would know. But O my
 sound-ing all the way Ho - san - nas to their King. Then "Cru - ci -
 mur - der - er they save, The Prince of life they slay. Yet stead-fast
 er was love, dear King; Nev - er was grief like Thine. This is my



I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?
 Friend, My Friend in - deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 fy!" Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
 He To suf - fering goes, That He His foes From thence might free.
 Friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could glad - ly spend.

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

91

ST. DROSTANE LM

Henry Hart Milman, 1827

John Bacchus Dykes, 1862

1. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the
 2. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! The wing - ed
 4. Ride on! Ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly

tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, pur -
 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, Thy tri - umphs
 squad - rons of the sky Look down with sad and
 pomp ride on to die; Bow Thy meek head to

sue Thy road With palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - dering eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy power, and reign.