



Photograph by Rick Simpson

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!

April 5, 2026
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Easter

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

Prelude from Suite for Organ & Brass

Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome

Moment for Mission

Red Cross Blood Drive

Call to Worship

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

*Hymn 123

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of new life, we live as though you are still in the grave.

We do not rejoice in the good news of liberation for all people without exception. We continue to sin against you and our neighbors by our actions and our failure to act. Shake us out of our complacency, cleanse our hearts of selfishness, and make us joyful participants in the work of bringing about your reign in the world today.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

**Those who are able may 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).

The Moment for Mission will be given by Terry Nestor at 8:45 a.m. service and Madeline Van Dyck at 11:00 a.m. service.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today originally in Latin, moved through German before reaching an English translation, when it was combined with the current tune.

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 Easter Sunday.

The anthem is a text by Christina Rossetti (author of *In the Bleak Midwinter*), which depicts all of creation celebrating the risen Christ. It is set to music by American composer Robert Powell.

Thine Is the Glory first appeared in French and later in English. It was written to fit a chorus from Handel’s oratorio Joshua, later moved to Judas Maccabeus.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 104, stanza 1
Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

***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

First Lesson Psalm 118:21-29, page 554

Anthem *Spring Bursts Today* Robert J. Powell
Spring bursts today, for Christ is risen and all the world’s at play.
Flash forth, thou sun, the rain is over and gone, its work is done.
Winter is past, sweet spring is come at last.
Bud, fig, and vine, olive fat with fruit and wine.
Break forth this morn in roses, thou but yesterday a thorn.
Uplift thy head, O pure white lily through the winter dead.
Beside your dams leap and rejoice, you merry-making lambs.
All hares and flocks rejoice, all beasts of thickets and rocks.
Sing, creatures, sing, angels above and birds and every thing.
All notes of doves fill all our world; this is the time of loves.

Second Lesson John 20:1-18, page 990
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *In the Garden* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 122** *Thine is the Glory* JUDAS MACCABEAUS
(Refrain will be sung after all stanzas)

***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.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *This Joyful Eastertide* William H. Harris
This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.
Refrain: Had Christ, that once was slain, ne’er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen. (cont.)

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number. *Refrain*
Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. *Refrain*

***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.**

Hymn 592

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

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.

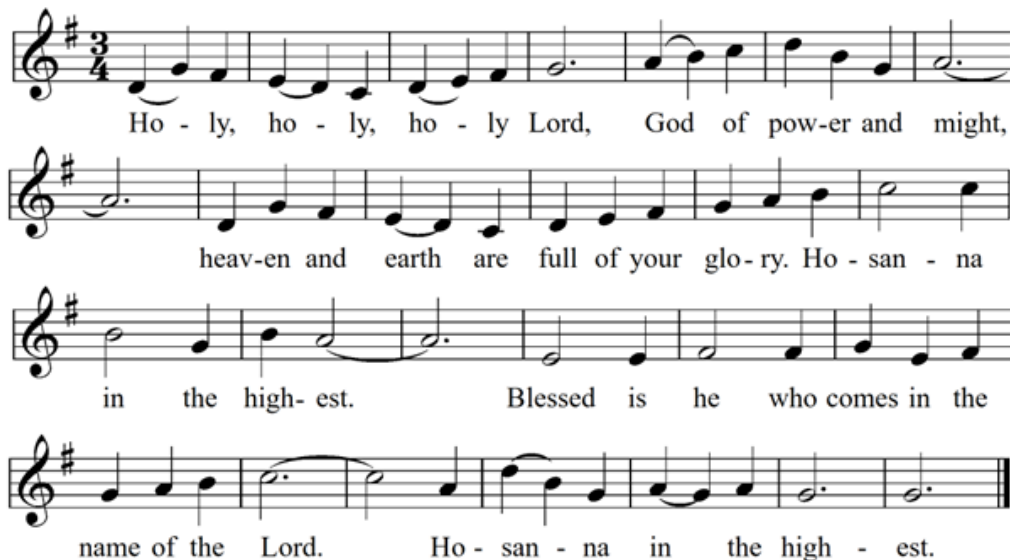
It is right to give our thanks and praise....

*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](http://firstpresathens.org/giving). Thank you for
your generosity.*

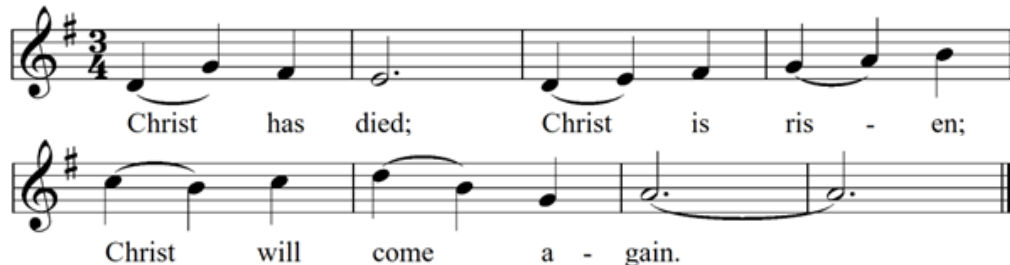


The musical setting of
the communion liturgy
is by contemporary
American composer
Thomas Pavlechko.

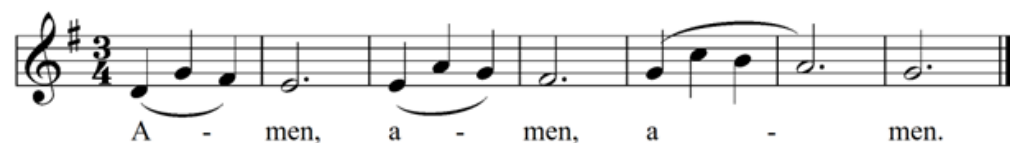
Sanctus



Memorial Acclamation



Great Amen



Christ Is Alive! was written for Easter in 1968, which was ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The text expresses Easter hope which mindful of that terrible event.

The congregation is encouraged to join the choir in singing. Please leave copies of Hallelujah in pews for future use.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

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

***Hymn 108**

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response**

Hallelujah from Messiah

George Frideric Handel

Postlude

Toccata from Symphony V

Charles Marie Widor

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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.

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 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.

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, Palm Sunday, and Easter. Children's Church will resume April 12.

One Great Hour of Sharing

On Easter we will receive the OGHS special offering. The work done in support of the causes supported by OGHS - disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees - serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. You may donate by a check to FPC with "OGHS" noted on the bottom or via firstpresathens.org/giving (please select "1 Great Hour" under "Select a Fund").

Biscuit Brunch, 9:30 a.m.

There is no Sunday School this morning. Everyone is invited to gather as a church family for fellowship in Fellowship Hall.

**Easter Lilies are placed in the sanctuary
to the glory of God and in memory of:**

Michael Adams
Jinx & Skeets Baldwin
Bill & Barbara Bergmann
Carol & Conrad Bergmann
Joe Booth
Della Brownell
Dr. JeAnne Cooper Burg
Bradford Burgett
JoAnn Burgett
Lewis Burgett
Patrick Chisolm
David J. Clay
Davidson Bryan Cole
Cindy Coles
William James (Bill) Corry
Hilda McCart Corry
Allen Cantey Crowell, Jr.
Allen & Nan Jo Crowell
Jim & Mary Dantzler
Bolling & Mary Neil DuBose
Delmer Delano Dunn
Dick Ferguson
Edwina Ferguson
Mr. & Mrs. Buck Hally
Jerris Hayes
Loretta Hayes
Hervey & Gerrie Jones
John Kenley & Marian Carr
Rev. J. Renwick Kennedy, Jr.
William W. Kidd
Rev. Dorothy H. Kipp
Dr. John L. Kipp
Jack & Judy Koetzle
Glenda LaBoon
Tom L. Lane
Dr. Malcolm Ross Leadbetter
Jim Lindsey
Helen London
Evan Andrew Marshall
Dr. Elizabeth Hulsey Marshall

Nicholas Taylor Marshall
Thomas Allan Marshall
Mary Gilbert Mell
Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Mendenahall
Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Mendenhall
Dorothy Matson Merry
Sidney Milner
Tommy Milner
Mr. & Mrs. T.H. Milner, Jr.
James Francis Morano, Jr.
Ralph Bardwell Murray
Dr. & Mrs. J.B. Neighbors, Jr.
Merritt & Be Oelke
George & Dollie Peterson
John W. Reed
Michael W. Reed
Jack Rooker
Terri Ryan
Carl & Debbie Schaub
Mike Seabolt
Kurt & Liz Seidle
Pat Waldrip Sellers
Merideth Sheskey
Garey Simpson
J. Ely Simpson
John & Sissie Simpson
Kathy Waldrip Smallwood
James (Jim) Smith
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Sneade
Grace and Bob Stephens
Albert S. Tammany III
Kenny Tillman
Raymond Trapnell
Fred and Helen Wallace
Charles and Evelyn Ward
Marian Alice and Max Wendler
Carolyn and Sid Wilfong
Frances Lane Wilfong
Carl & Nancy Wilson
Shanon M. Wilson
Caryl Woosley

**Easter Lilies are placed in the sanctuary
to the glory of God and in honor of:**

Jennifer Adams	FPC Staff & Ministries
Ron & Svea Bogue	Ian Hardin
Christ's Easter Promise	Carlton N. Mell, Jr.
Family Promise Guests & Volunteers	Our Daily Bread Guests & Volunteers
FPC Session	Rebekah Seabolt

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*

Guest instrumentalists:

Brandon Craswell, *Trumpet*

Phil Smith, *Trumpet*

Jean Martin-Williams, *Horn*

James Naigus, *Horn*

Matt Shipes, *Tuba*

USHERS

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

Carl Bergmann, Diane Hartzell

11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III (head),

Larry Baer, Ed Ferguson, Emily LaBoon

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

Easter lilies are given to the glory of God.

We have two rosebuds in honor of the births of Zadie Marcella and Olivia Antoinette Bush on March 12, 2026. Parents are Jason and Lynette Bush. Grandparents are David and Claudia Cole.

APRIL FLOWER TEAM

Greta Covington(Chair), Tootsie Adams,
Judy Burch, Lauren Cook, Andrea Doornbos,
Jennifer Trapnell, Sydney Jackson

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is 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, April 5 - Easter, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

7:00 a.m. Community Easter Sunrise Service, Oconee Hill Cemetery

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching

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

Monday, April 6 - Church Office Closed

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

Tuesday, April 7

2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4, Staff Conference Room

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

7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, April 8

9:15 a.m. Circle 7, Presbyterian Village

Sunday, April 12

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. Presbyterian Women Circles Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

12:15 p.m. Young Adult Brunch, Off Site

5:30 p.m. Youth Group, Off Site

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Pres Family Promise Host Weeks March 29 - April 11

FPC is hosting 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 this week.

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).

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).

Scottish Reformation Sunday May 3, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m., Reception at 12:00 p.m.

Join our annual celebration of our Scottish heritage at both worship services, along with recognition of local and state dignitaries at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to join the processional and recessional. If you need to borrow a kilt, please call Smith Wilson (706-338-4646) or Lee Epting (706-353-1913).

Save the Date: VBS 2026

Mark your calendars for July 12-15, 2026, for our second annual intergenerational VBS! We will meet from 5:00-7:30 P.M. for a time of food, fellowship, and activities for all ages. We had a blast last year and are looking forward to another amazing week together! All are welcome and we would love to have you join us! Stay tuned for registration and more information.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7 with alleluias

Stanzas 1-3, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

Stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740

Lyra Davidica, 1708Adapted from *The Compleat Psalmodist*, 1749Desc. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1955

Descant

1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise e - ter - nal as God's love; Al - le - lu - ia!

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky He's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

Suf - fer to re - deem our loss, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Al - le - lu - ia!

Thine Is the Glory

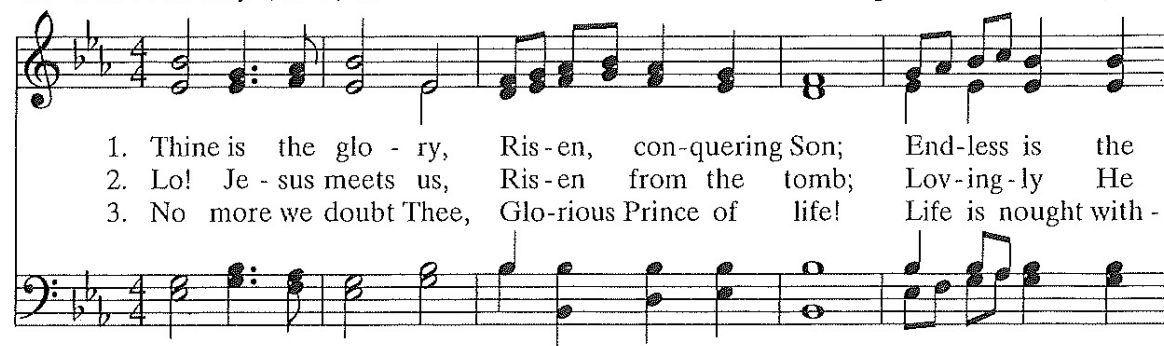
122

JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5 with refrain

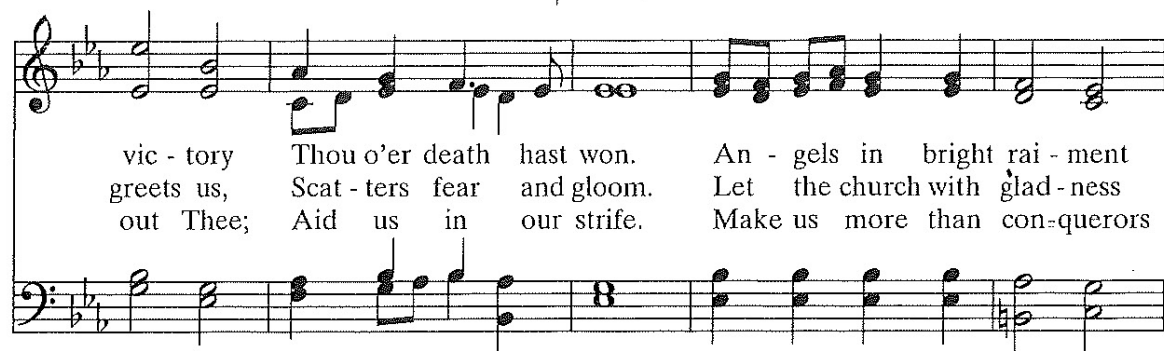
Edmond Louis Budry, 1884

Trans. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923; alt.

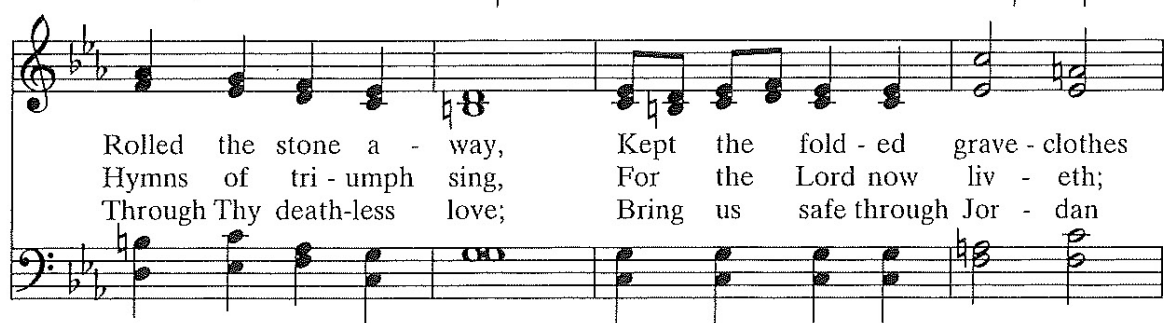
George Frederick Handel, 1748



1. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris-en, con-quer-ing Son; End-less is the
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, Ris-en from the tomb; Lov-ing-ly He
 3. No more we doubt Thee, Glo-rious Prince of life! Life is nought with -

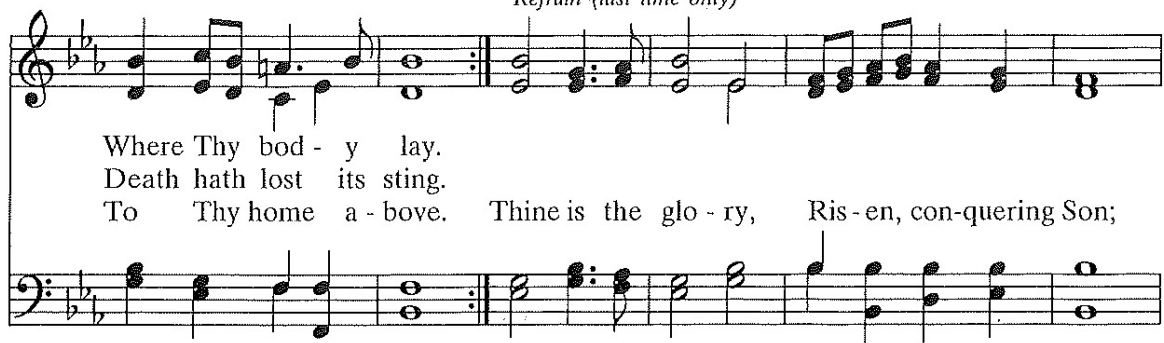


vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets us, Scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
 out Thee; Aid us in our strife. Make us more than con-querors



Rolled the stone a - way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 Hymns of tri - umph sing, For the Lord now liv - eth;
 Through Thy death-less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain (last time only)



Where Thy bod - y lay.
 Death hath lost its sting.
 To Thy home a - bove. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-quer-ing Son;



End - less is the vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won.

Christ Is Alive!

108

TRURO LM

Thomas Williams, 1789

Brian Wren, 1968; rev.

Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
 3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
 4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war; Where col - or,

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, But sav - ing, heal - ing,
 moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, And touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 midst of life, Our Sav - ior in the God-head reigns.
 loves the more, And lives, where ev - en hope has died.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring Till earth and sky and ocean ring
 Good news to this and every age, With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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