



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!

April 12, 2026
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of 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

Aria

Paul Manz

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

AZMON

**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

God is near to all who call on God.

We call in God in truth.

Let us speak God's praise.

All creation will bless God's name forever.

*Hymn 104

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, give us the willingness to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you about the ways in which we have caused harm in this world. Give us the openness to see where our actions or failures to act have led to pain in those closest to us and in those far away. Do not let us sink further into self-harm through self-blame and hatred, but give us the courage to set right our wrongs, and to return to you again and again for forgiveness.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **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).

Commenting on the late 20th-century text *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* the author stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

**Those who are able may 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 - grade 2, are invited to Children’s Church held in the Children’s Ministry Suite on the first floor.

Lay Reader:
11:00: Patrick Sheridan

In both Hebrew and Greek, the word for “spirit” can be translated “breath” or “wind,” so it is appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the “Breath of God” in the hymn.

Scholars debate whether this powerfully poetic text is an early Christian hymn which Paul is quoting or his own composition. It is one of the best-known and most influential passages in the Pauline corpus.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Jacques Barthier



*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 454, stanza 1

**Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your teachings true and holy,
drawn from earth to love you solely.**

First Lesson Psalm 145:13-21, page 569

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

Second Lesson John 20:19-31, page 991

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

Sermon Believe The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 316 Breathe on Me, Breath of God TRENTHAM

*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.**

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

Prière à Notre-Dame

Leon Boëllmann

*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 121**

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Hymn 68, stanza 4

**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 in G Minor

Johann Pachelbel

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firstpresathens.org/
giving. Thank you for
your generosity.*

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright is part of a longer Latin text that was one of the earliest hymns written for a season of the church year. The tune is associated with Christmas, linking together the two great festivals of the Christian year.

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.

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.

Elder Recognition and Reception Sunday, April 19

Please join us next Sunday in the Atrium immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service for a light reception to thank the elders in the Class of 2026 and welcome the Class of 2029 as they begin their service

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*
Dr. Martha Braswell, *Guest Organist*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Patrick Sheridan

USHERS

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

11:00 a.m. Jimbo Laboon III (head),
Jeffery Trapnell, Steve Covington

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of the birthday of David H. Donnan by Kitty Donnan.

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, 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.

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).

THIS WEEK

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 Sunday Brunch, Off Site
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, Off Site

Monday, April 13

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Handbell Choir Room

Tuesday, April 14

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Wednesday, April 15

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, April 16

- 2:00 p.m. Mellows, Terra Bella
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, April 19 - Elder Ordination and Installation, Red Cross Blood Drive

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. ryan Baer preaching
- 8:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Reception for Elders, Atrium
- 2:00 p.m. Project Safe Work Day
- 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

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.

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 (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 “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.

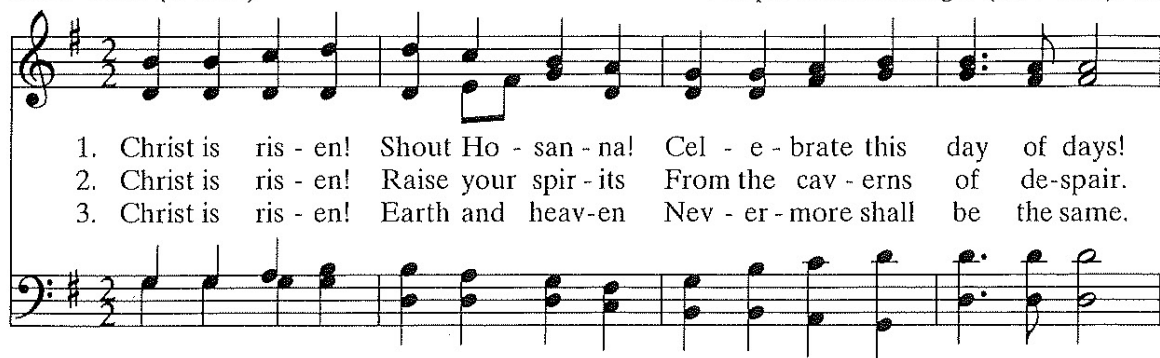
Contact: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

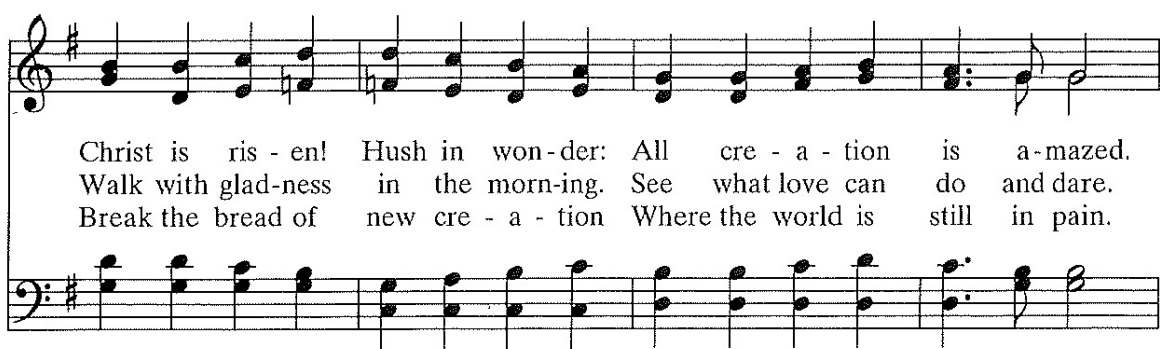
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

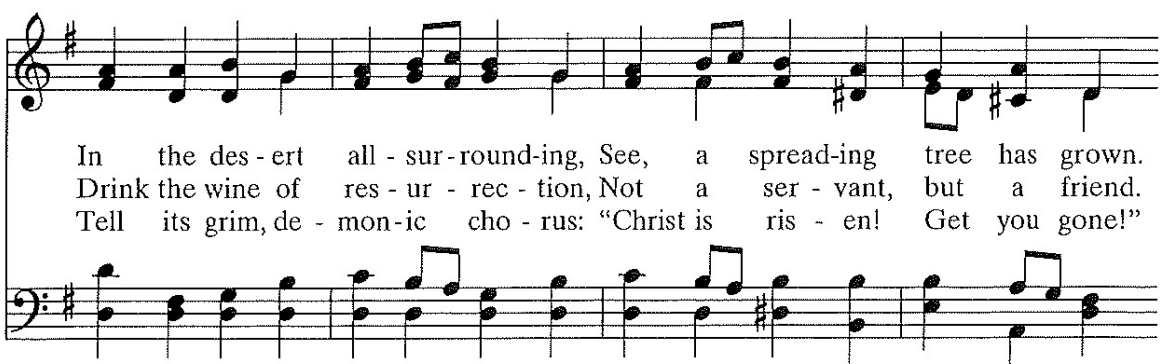
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.



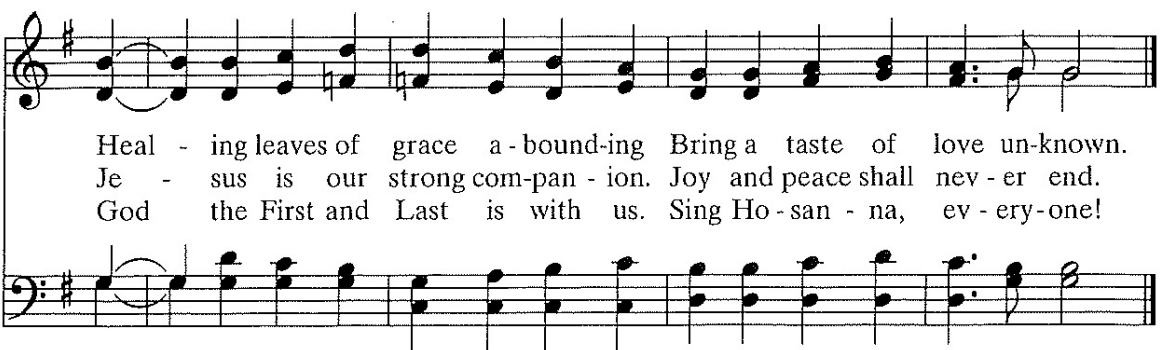
1. Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
 2. Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its From the cav - erns of de - spair.
 3. Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en Nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: All cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion Where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, See, a spread - ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, Not a ser - vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing Bring a taste of love un - known.
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na, ev - ery - one!

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

316

Edwin Hatch, 1886

TRENTHAM SM

Robert Jackson, 1894

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly Thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die,

That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.
 Un - til with Thee I will one will, To do and to en - dure.
 Un - til this earth - ly part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.
 But live with Thee the per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.*

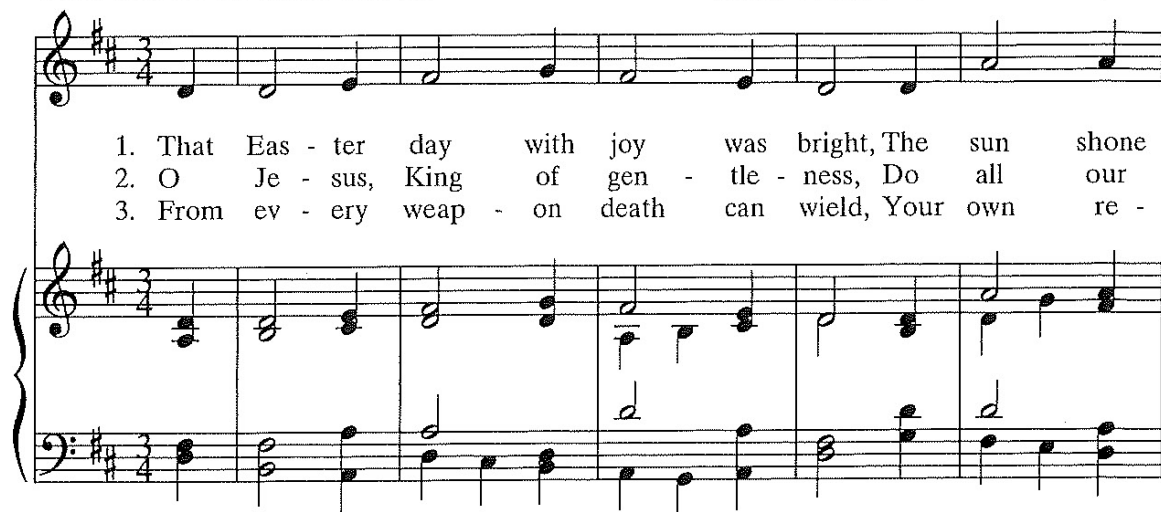
*Repeat stanza 1.

121 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR LM

Latin hymn, 5th century
Trans. John Mason Neale, 1852; alt.

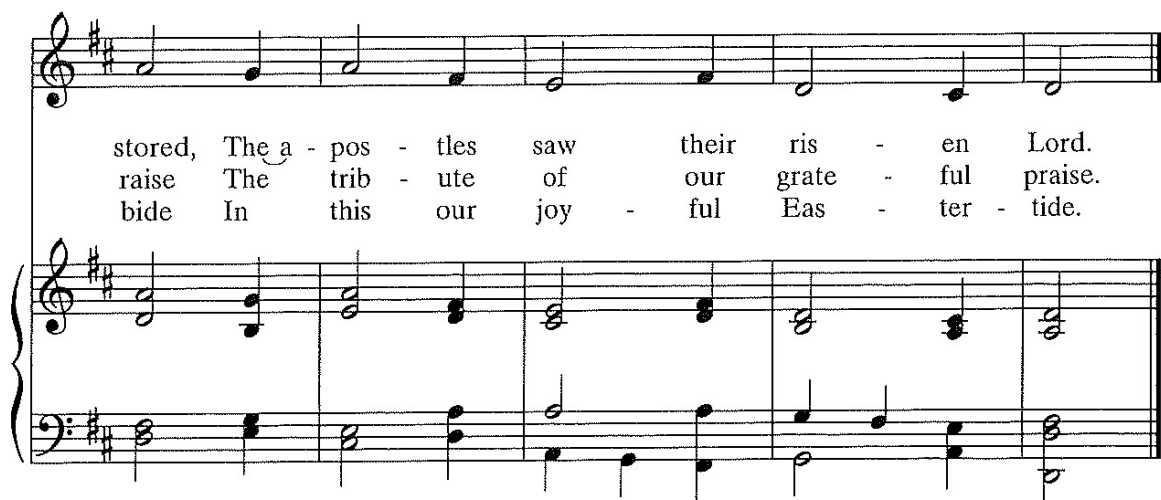
Trier ms., 15th century
Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910



1. That Eas - ter day with joy was bright, The sun shone
2. O Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, Do all our
3. From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, Your own re -



out with fair - er light, When, to their long - ing eyes re -
in - most hearts pos - sess, And we to You will ev - er
deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with us a -



stored, The a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
raise The trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
bide In this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

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*