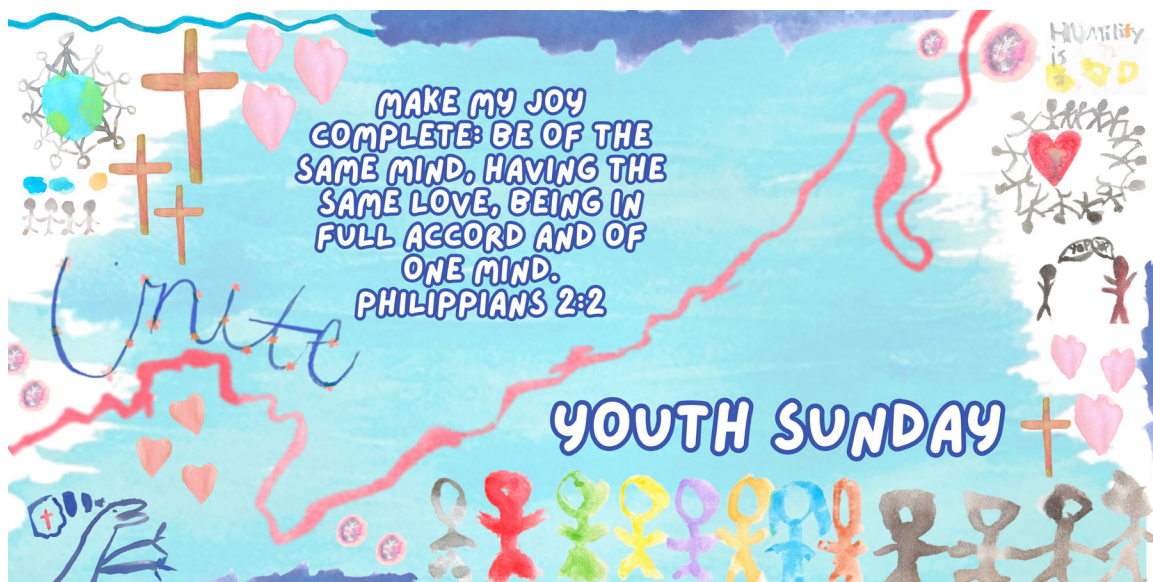




May 17, 2026
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Youth Sunday

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

O God, Beyond All Praising

Charles Callahan

Words of Welcome

11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving for the Faithful Service of Elaine Johnson

Song of Gathering

Hymn 220, stanza 1

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.**

Call to Worship

We come to this place from all spaces, backgrounds, and circumstances

Holding joy, sorrow, hope, hurt, and everything in between

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from
love, any sharing in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy

We gather as one people, united in grace and hope

God sees, knows, and loves us as we are,

We praise our God for God's loving grace.

God is at work within our faith community here and beyond.

Come, let us worship God together!

***Hymn 276**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

*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 (cont.)

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).

Great Is Thy Faithfulness, based on part of Lamentations 3, was written by a Methodist writer and pastor. The tune was composed for this text.

**Those who are able may stand.*

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.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

CELTIC ALLELUIA



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.”

This Sunday, children are invited to remain in sanctuary for worship.

CLASS OF 2026:

Benjamin Carey
North Oconee High School
University of Georgia

Sam Seward
North Oconee High School
Georgia Institute of Technology

Sloane Turner
Athens Academy
University of Georgia

The anthem, a creedal statement based on a passage from Philippians 2, may have been originally sung. It is set here to a French Christmas carol, arranged by a contemporary Scottish composer.

Fairest Lord Jesus was originally a German text from the 17th century, set to a Silesian folk melody from at least the 19th century.

***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 339, stanza 1
**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me, save that thou art –
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

First Lesson Luke 6:43–45, page 941
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 Anthem *At the Name of Jesus* James Kirkby
At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
it is his pleasure, we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.
Humbled for a season, to receive a name
from the lips of sinners, unto whom he came,
gladly he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.
Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
through the ranks of creatures to the central height,
before the throne and to the Father’s breast;
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.
In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue,
all that is not holy, all that is not true;
crown as your Captain in temptation’s hour,
let his will enfold you in its light and power.

Second Lesson Philippians 2:1–13, page 1071
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *We’re All In This Together!* Ms. Hannah Knight

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn prelude *Fairest Lord Jesus* arr. Don Whitman

***Hymn 306** *Fairest Lord Jesus* CRUSADERS’ HYMN

***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, (cont.)**

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 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* American hymn tune

*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 371 *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response Hymn 535
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.

Postlude *Lift High the Cross*

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.



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. Thank you for your generosity.

Lift High the Cross celebrates a Christian symbol of death being transformed into a symbol of renewed life; defeat has become victory. The cross is traced on our foreheads at Baptism, marking us as Christ's own forever.

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

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 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.

Retirement Reception for Elaine Johnson

Join us in Fellowship Hall today after the 11:00 a.m. service for a reception in honor of Elaine Johnson on the occasion of her retirement. Expressions of congratulations and thanksgiving may be mailed to her home address, 1080 Beverly Dr., Athens, 30606.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Ms. Hannah Knight, *Director of Children & Youth Ministries*

Ms. Morgan Cassidy, *Youth Ministry Intern*
Mr. Devon Smith, *Youth Ministry Intern*
St. Andrews Choir
Youth Choir
Chancel Choir

ACOLYTE

11:00 a.m. Stella Crim

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Daniel Baer, *trumpet*
Nathan Baer, *saxophone*
Declan Brooks, *violin*
Petch Bryan, *flute*

LITURGISTS

Daniel Baer, Joshua Baer, Nathan Baer,
Declan Brooks, Kyah Campbell, Zoe
Campbell, Benjamin Crim, Josie Crim,
Chuck Phillips, Owen Phillips, Art Ryder,
Tate Sheats

USHERS

Petch Bryan, Jennings Holloway, Jimbo
Laboon (11:00 a.m.), Andrew Miller, Davis
Miller, Lydia Miller, John Simpson (8:45 a.m.)

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of and in gratitude for the 20 years of service of our Weekday School Director, Mrs. Elaine Johnson. Happy Retirement!

YOUTH SUNDAY FLOWER TEAM

Paige Simmons (May chair),
Mary Attaway, Elaine Johnson, Danielle
Owens, Josh Owens, Gail Wilfong

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and online 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.

Summer Schedule

May 17 will be our last Sunday with two services. Over the Memorial Day weekend, **May 24, we will go to our summer schedule** of one service at 10:00 a.m. Regular Sunday School classes will not meet over the summer.

In June, you are invited to join us for a “FPC History Book Club.” Join us on **June 7, 14, and 21** at 11:15 a.m. in Moses Waddel Room as Ron Bogue, Richard Lane, and Smith Wilson share about the history of the church.

Matthew 25 Pantry Volunteers Needed

The Matthew 25 (M25) Commission will hold spring 2026 pantry distributions of such items as toilet paper, paper towels, batteries, lotion, cleaning products, aluminum foil, laundry soap etc., from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on eight consecutive Thursdays from May 7 to June 25. The M25 Commission seeks three volunteers for each of those Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. to help with set up, clean up, and to assist with the distribution of the pantry items. Please access the sign up at tinyurl.com/FPCResourcePantry2026 if you would like to volunteer.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 17 – Youth Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Ms. Hannah Knight preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Retirement Reception for Elaine Johnson, Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group End of Year Party, The PIT

Monday, May 18

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Small Group Meeting, Church Library
- 5:00 p.m. Chamber of Music Athens Recital, Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 19

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. NEGA Presbytery Meeting, Commerce Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, May 20

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

Thursday, May 21

- 4:30 p.m. M25 Resource Pantry
- 5:30 p.m. Session Worship, Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, May 24 – Pentecost, Summer Schedule Begins, One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Books for Keeps Book Drive ends

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching

Books for Keeps

Help make sure no child in our community goes a summer without great books to read. Please bring your used books to the bins in the Atrium or church office by Sunday, May 24. Books for Keeps can accept books of all kinds except textbooks and encyclopedias. To learn more about the organization, please go to booksforkeeps.org. Thank you!

Come to the Party: God's Love For Us is a Reason to Celebrate!

Save the date for our intergenerational VBS! All ages are welcome – there will be activities for kids, youth, and adults! Dates are **July 12-15, 5:00-7:30 p.m.** Dinner is provided. The cost is \$30 per person to help provide materials and resources for our mission projects throughout the week. Payment can be made via our website (firstpresathens.org/giving, please select “VBS Fund” under “select a fund”) or mailed to the church office. You are invited to come join the party – all are welcome!

Please register at tinyurl.com/vbsparty2026. Questions? Contact Hannah Knight, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at hannah@firstpresathens.org.

Summer Choir

If you've ever wondered what it's like to sing in the choir, but have never done so, this may be a chance to give choir a “test drive.” If you would like to sing but can't make the commitment to Wednesday night rehearsals during the regular season, this is the time to join the choir. Beginning Sunday, **May 24, through August 16**, we will meet in the choir room at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays to rehearse music for that morning's service. Singers may join for any single Sunday or for as many as they wish, even for the whole summer. There is no obligation, but we do hope some will decide they enjoy singing in the choir enough to continue in the fall. Although this choir is made up mostly of adults, youth and children are also welcome. For more information, contact John Coble at jcoble@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
(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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

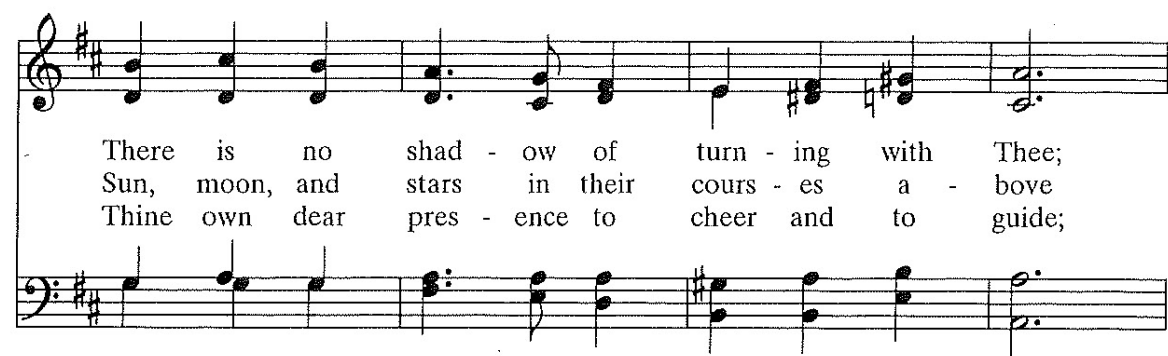
FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10 with refrain

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, 1923

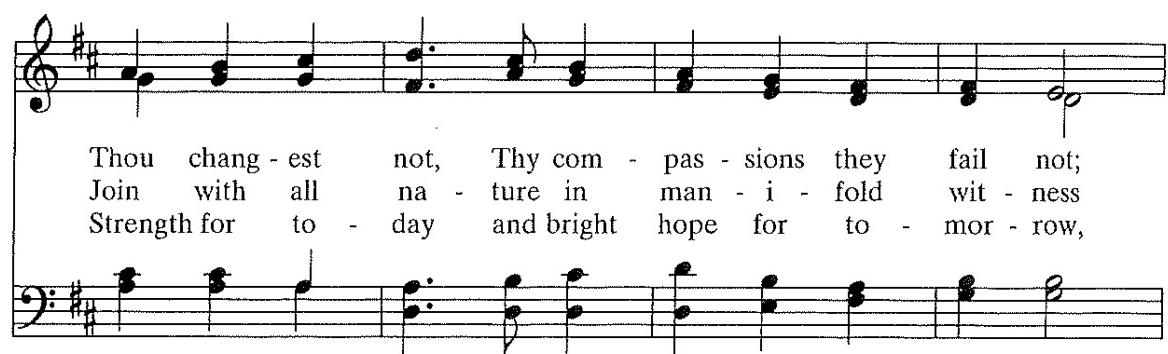
William Marion Runyan, 1923



1. *Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is Thy faith - ful-ness! Great is Thy faith - ful-ness!

The first line of the refrain is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Great is Thy faith - ful-ness! Great is Thy faith - ful-ness!"

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed Thy

The second line of the refrain continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed Thy"

hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!

The third line of the refrain concludes the phrase. The lyrics are: "hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!"

Fairest Lord Jesus

306

CRUSADERS' HYMN 5.6.8.5.5.8

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

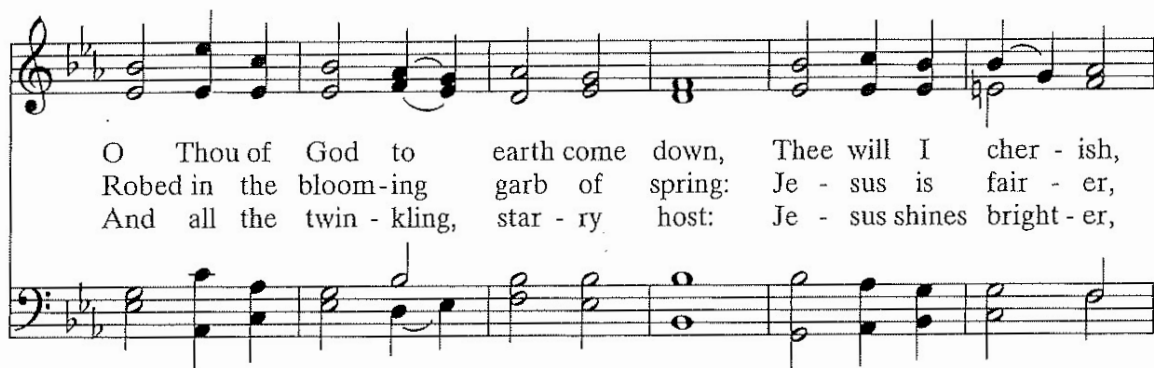
Trans. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850; alt.

Silesian folk melody

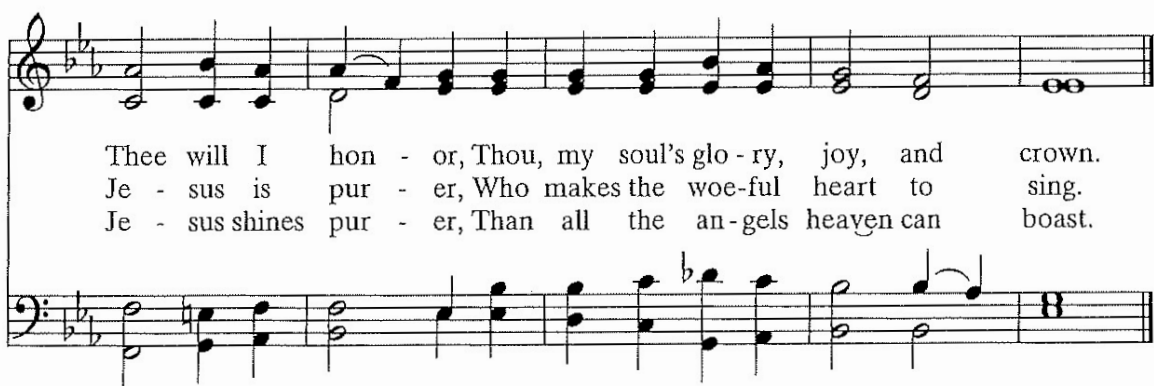
In Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842



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.

Lift High the Cross

George William Kitchin (1827-1912)
 Rev. by Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916; alt.
Refrain and Descant

CRUCIFER 10.10 with refrain

Sidney Hugo Nicholson, 1916
 Desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Musical notation for the second system, continuing the vocal and piano parts.

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name. *Fine*

Musical notation for the third system, including a four-part vocal setting.

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment.

Repeat Refrain

The Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
 Your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Pat Waldrup, Clerk of Session

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

CLASS OF 2029

Meghan Bawcum
Stephen Covington
Andrew Griffith
Anne Marie Miller
Mike Morris
Leslye Queen
Laura Toney
Gail Wilfong

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*