



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!

May 24, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Pentecost

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Johann Pachelbel

Johann Walther

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

Hymn 320, stanza 1

The lone, wild bird in lofty flight

is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight.

And I am thine! I rest in thee. Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.

Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord always!

Again, I will say, rejoice!

Do not worry about anything,

But in everything by prayer with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding,

Will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Hymn 128

On Pentecost They Gathered

MUNICH

*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.**

**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).

On Pentecost They Gathered was written to fill what the author perceived as a gap in hymns concerning the Holy Spirit and Pentecost. It is set to a 17th-century German tune from Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.

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.”

All children are invited to remain in worship on Sunday mornings with family during the summer months.

Lay Reader:
Dan Nadenicek

The anthem is a 19th-century text by Thomas T. Lynch, with an added stanza by the composer, set to a Gregorian chant tune in an arrangement by contemporary American composer K. Lee Scott.

Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song is set to a pre-existing tune. The text uses a series of images and a grounding refrain, all addressing how, to whom, and why the Spirit comes.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

CELTIC ALLELUIA



*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

PROSPECT

**Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope,
lift up my eyes; eternal power, be my support;
eternal wisdom, make me wise.**

First Lesson Philippians 4:4–7, page 1073

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

Anthem *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I could gracious be;
help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
and, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
and, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.
Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
help me now they try to see, I would be like thee;
and, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
and, with actions brotherly, speak Christ’s sincerity.
Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee;
separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good,
and whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.
Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
help me now thy power to see, I would be like thee;
'gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
let thy word my weapon be, Lord, thine the victory.
Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

Second Lesson Acts 2:1–21, page 994

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

Sermon *A Mighty Wind* The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 314 *Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song* BRIDEGROOM

*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, (cont.)**

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.

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	Nicea	Healy Willan
*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.		
*Prayer of Dedication		

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 313	Come Down, O Love Divine	DOWN AMPNEY
*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	Eternal Father, Strong to Save	Mack Wilburg

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles’ Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.



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.

Come Down, O Love Divine was originally an Italian sacred song from around the 14th century, translated into English in the 19th. It became known after being paired with the tune, named for the composer’s (Ralph Vaughan Williams) birthplace.

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.

Summer Schedule

Today we begin 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.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*
Ms. Hannah Knight, *Director of Children & Youth Ministries*

Mrs. Martha Braswell, *Guest Organist*
Zoe Campbell, *Kite Bearer*

USHERS

10:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon III, John Simpson

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Emmie Cate Powell and Richard Sims Ferguson on May 23 2026.

MAY FLOWER TEAM

Paige Simmons (chair),
Mary Attaway, Elaine Johnson, Gail Wilfong

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

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.

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day, Church Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26

7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
6:00 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
7:00 p.m. Summer Fellowship Outing: Trivia at Mellow Mushroom, 320 E Clayton St

Thursday, May 28

4:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Resource Pantry

Sunday, May 31

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

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.

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.

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 Fellowship Outings

Summer is here! We hope you'll plan to join us for some (or all!) of these fun fellowship outings. Each of these is open to anyone who would like to attend – all ages and stages of our church family! Please RSVP to Whitney (whitney@firstpresathens.org) so we can keep a headcount and feel free to reach out with questions.

Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. Trivia at Mellow Mushroom (320 E. Clayton St)

Bring your knowledge and competitive spirit for team trivia!

Sunday, June 14 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Bluegrass Jam at Authentic Brewing (108 Park Ave.)

Come enjoy some bluegrass music (and bring your instruments to join in!) with local folk musicians.

Wednesday, June 24 at 6:00 p.m. Watch a World Cup Match - Scotland vs. Brazil at Paloma Park (235 W. Washington St)

Pick a team and get ready to cheer them on through the World Cup!

Saturday, June 27 at 9:00 a.m. Kayaking on the Broad River

\$35 per person. Please e-mail Whitney to sign up *by June 22*.

Wednesday, July 1 at 7:00 p.m. Bingo and Ice Cream at FPC

Come cool off in the Fellowship Hall with some ice cream and friendly competition for fun prizes!

Saturday, July 25 at 6:05 p.m. Gwinnett Stripers v. Iowa Cubs (Triple-A baseball), Coolray Field (Lawrenceville, GA)

\$15 per person. Please e-mail Whitney *by July 20* to claim your spot!

Wednesday, July 29 at 5:00 p.m. Happy Hour at Creature Comforts Brewing Company (271 W. Hancock Ave)

Peruse local vendors at the Athens Farmers' Market and enjoy a beverage and a bite with friends!

Thursday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m. Downtown Dinner, Ted's Most Best (254 W. Washington St.)

Bring the whole family and head downtown for food, drink, and fun!

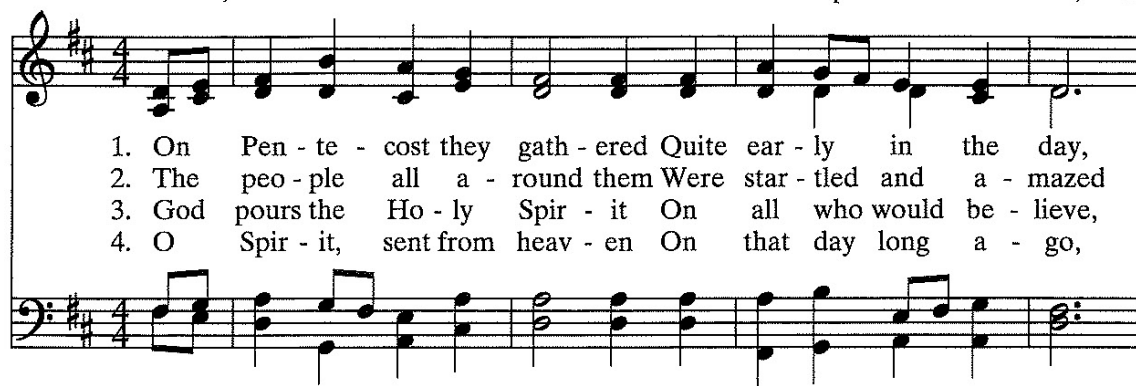
On Pentecost They Gathered

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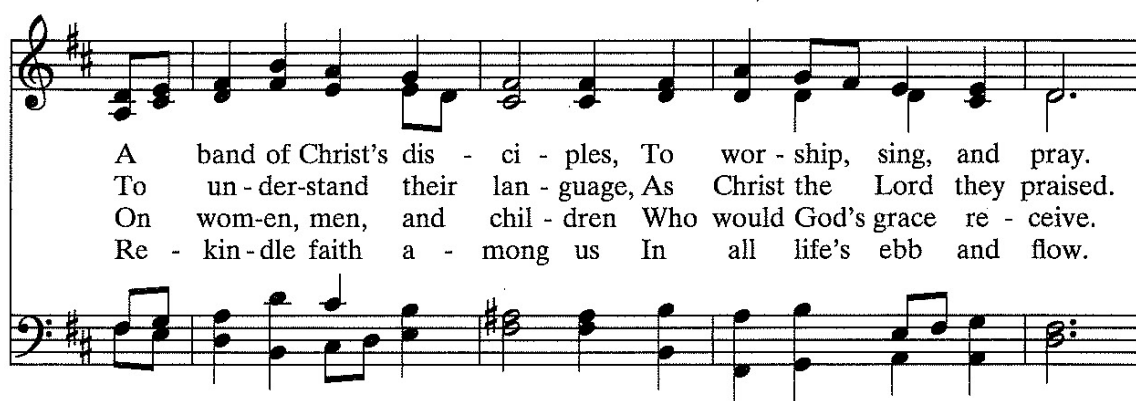
MUNICH 7.6.7.6 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

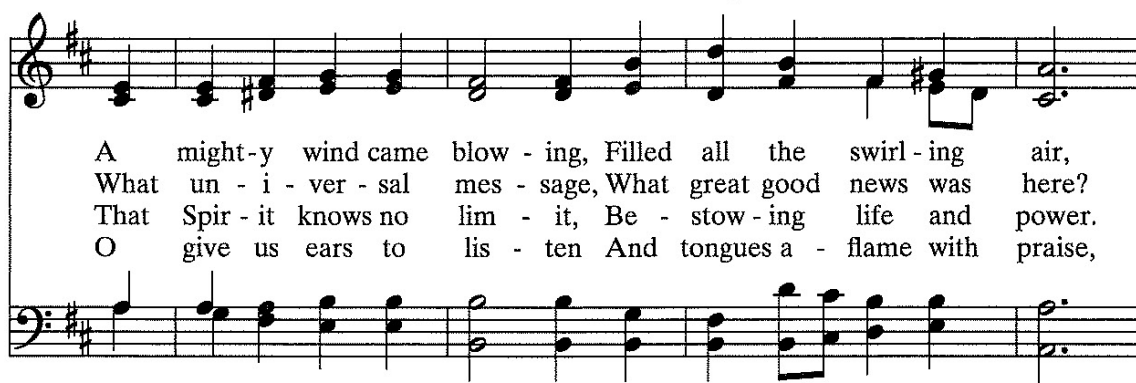
Neuvermehrtes Meiningsches Gesangbuch, 1693
Adapt. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847



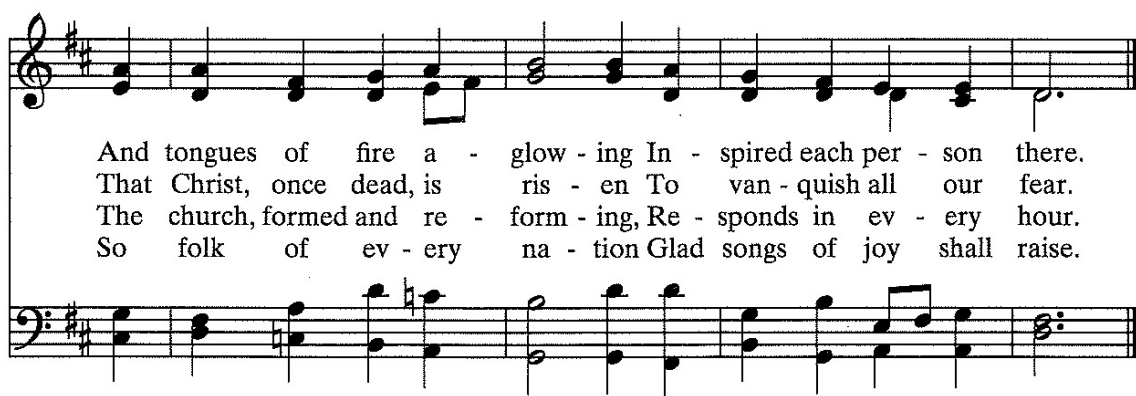
1. On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered Quite ear - ly in the day,
2. The peo - ple all a - round them Were star - tled and a - mazed
3. God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it On all who would be - lieve,
4. O Spir - it, sent from heav - en On that day long a - go,



A band of Christ's dis - ci - ples, To wor - ship, sing, and pray.
To un - der - stand their lan - guage, As Christ the Lord they praised.
On wom - en, men, and chil - dren Who would God's grace re - ceive.
Re - kin - dle faith a - mong us In all life's ebb and flow.



A might - y wind came blow - ing, Filled all the swirl - ing air,
What un - i - ver - sal mes - sage, What great good news was here?
That Spir - it knows no lim - it, Be - stow - ing life and power.
O give us ears to lis - ten And tongues a - flame with praise,



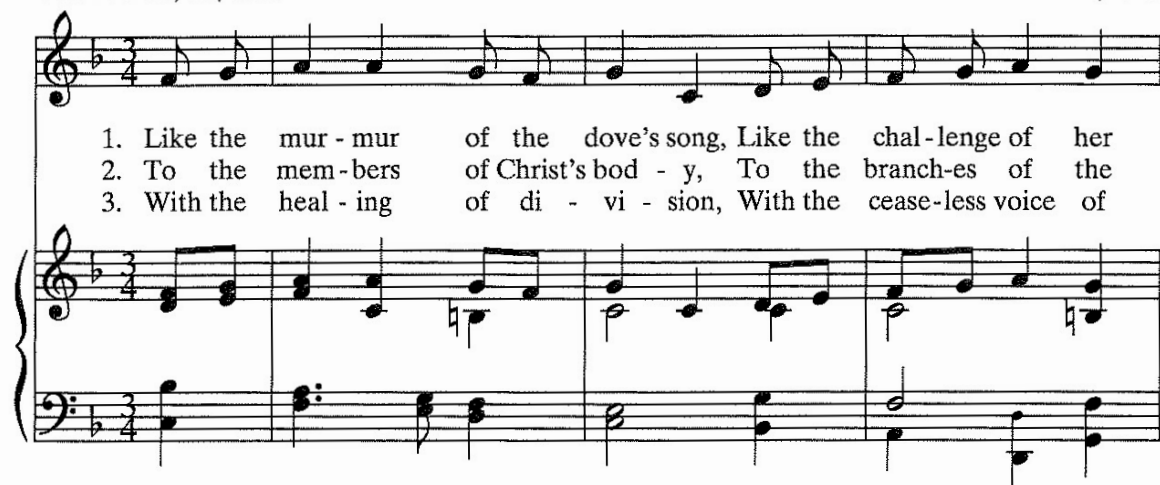
And tongues of fire a - glow - ing In - spired each per - son there.
That Christ, once dead, is ris - en To van - quish all our fear.
The church, formed and re - form - ing, Re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
So folk of ev - ery na - tion Glad songs of joy shall raise.

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song 314

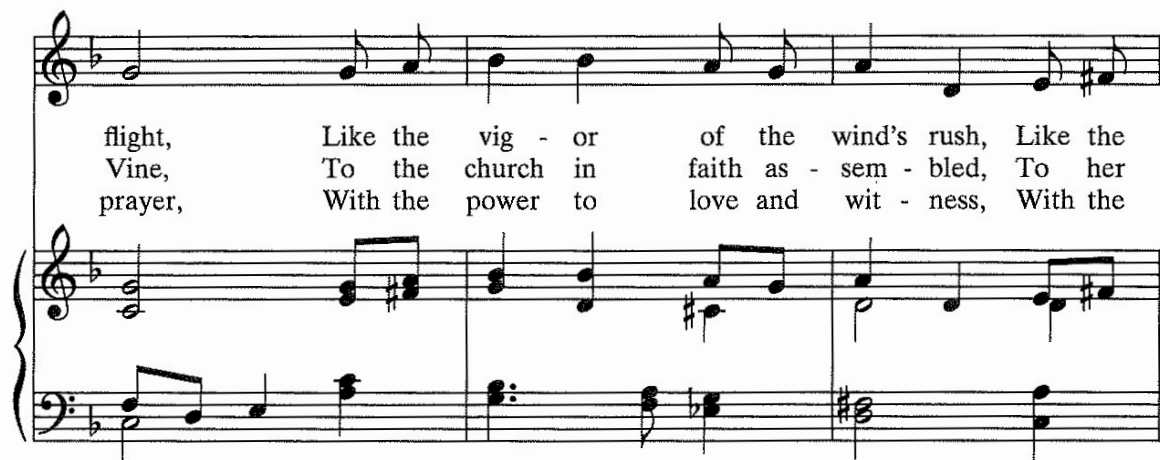
BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Peter Cutts, 1969



1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, Like the chal - lenge of her
 2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, To the branch - es of the
 3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, With the cease - less voice of



flight, Like the vig - or of the wind's rush, Like the
 Vine, To the church in faith as - sem - bled, To her
 prayer, With the power to love and wit - ness, With the



new flame's ea - ger might:
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare:

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY 6.6.11 D

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)

Trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867; alt.

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek out this soul of mine
 2. O let it free - ly burn, Till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3. And so the yearn - ing strong With which the soul will long

And vis - it it with Your own ar - dor glow - ing;
 To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 Shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, With - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let Your glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, Till Love cre - ates a place

And kin - dle it, Your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing,
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing,
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.