



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!

May 31, 2026
10:00 a.m.

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

Hail This Joyful Day's Return

Camille Saint-Saëns

Words of Welcome

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

In all the ups and downs of life,
We can trust our relationship with God.
From generation to generation,
We can be honest and real with God.
When we feel close and when we feel far off,
Ultimately the love of God never fails. Let us worship God.

***Hymn 138** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* NICEA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

We long to know you with us, O God, to see your presence and to feel your hand holding and guiding. And so we sometimes look in the wrong place, and put our trust in something other than you. We confess, too, that sometimes we take your forgiveness too lightly. We think little of the cost to bear to hold our betrayal, to see our unwillingness to enact your will, to hear us use your name to justify ourselves, and yet continue your steadfast love. We thank you for your grace that overcomes the distance, and we pray for your forgiveness today that brokenness might not have the last word. Turn our hearts and lives to your way, and draw us ever nearer to you. We ask in the name of One who holds us close and calls us to be repairers of the breach, Jesus the Christ.

*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).

Much of the imagery in *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* comes from Revelation 4, which the author, an Anglican bishop knew was an appointed reading for Trinity Sunday. The tune, written specifically for this text, reinforces the Trinitarian theme with use of the triad.

**Those who are able please 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.”

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

Lay Reader: Paul Lee

The anthem is a paraphrase of the Gloria, set to the Scottish tune *Leaving of Lismore* by American composer George Bayley.

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord began with the tune and its composer requesting a text that would challenge the hearts and minds of young people. The fourth stanza was added later than the first three, at a youth conference.

***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 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23, page 546

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

Anthem

To God Be the Glory

Scottish Tune
arr. Georg Bayley

To God, be the glory, all glory in the highest
and peace to God’s people who dwell here below.
Our heavenly Father, our Lord, and our Sovereign,
to you, the Almighty, our praises bestow.
We worship and adore you, we bow before you
with grateful thanksgiving, our song let us raise.
All glory and honor and glad adoration
to God in the highest hosanna and praise.
Lord Jesus, the only begotten of the Father,
we praise and we bless you, the Son and the Lamb.
The sin of the world you have taken upon you,
have mercy upon us, the Great I Am.
For holy, you meet us, yet lowly you greet us,
the Lord in the highest, the Holy One.
All glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
from ages everlasting, the Three in One.

Second Lesson Exodus 32:1-20, 30-32 page 77

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

Sermon

Disputing with God The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 392**

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

HALL

***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	Calvin Hampton
*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 562	Eternal Father, Strong to Save	MELITA
*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	Finale on Nicea	Piet Post



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.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save is a British hymn, written for a student sailing to America. The tune was written for this text and has the Roman name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked, now called Malta.

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

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.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.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

Paul Lee

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon, John Simpson, David Mendenhall

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

MAY FLOWER TEAM

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

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

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, 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.

Food Sunday, June 7

You may bring donations of **cold breakfast cereals, pork ‘n beans, and saltine crackers** to church on **Sunday, June 7**. You may also bring items to the church office until **Friday, June 5**. Our neighbors in need are very grateful for your donations! Many thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

FPC History Book Club
Led by Ron Bogue, Richard Lane, and Smith Wilson
June 7, 14, 21 from 11:15-12:15

Friends of all ages and stages are invited to join us for our special summer Sunday School class focusing on the history of our First Presbyterian Church of Athens congregation and building. We will meet for 3 consecutive weeks in June, following the 10:00 service. Details for each week can be found below:

June 7 - Gather in Moses Waddel Room - Light refreshments will be served as presenters share about the church’s original 1828 building and other UGA campus spaces utilized by the first FPC members. Later in the hour, we will venture around our current building to discuss renovations and additions that make up our current space.

June 14 - Gather in the Sanctuary for a special session that will focus on this sacred space and its rich history.

June 21 - For our third and final session, we’ll be back in Moses Waddel Room to answer any burning questions and to draw some connections between the saints of our congregation and those we remember as we prepare to commemorate USA’s 250th year. Bring your queries and wonderings from your own reading of the FPC History Book!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 31

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

Monday, June 1

- 2:00 p.m. Circle 2, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, June 2

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Anne Dunn

Wednesday, June 3

- 9:00 a.m. WDS Wonderful Wednesday, WDS
- 11:30 a.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church

Thursday, June 4

- 4:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Resource Pantry
- 5:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Commission Meeting

Sunday, June 7 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Margaret Davis preaching
- 11:15 a.m. FPC History Book Club Sunday School, Moses Waddel Room
- 1:00 p.m. Youth Depart for Montreat Youth Conference (return June 13)

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.

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!

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.

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.

138 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

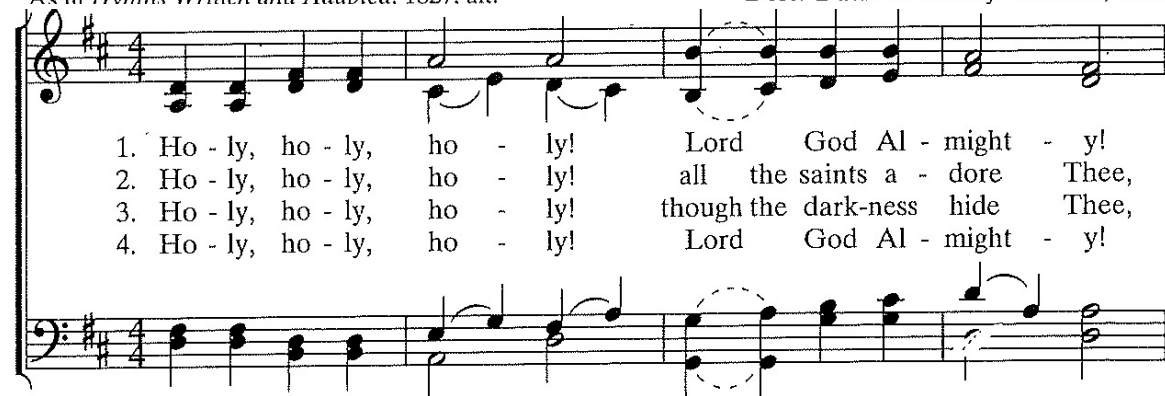
NICAEA 11.12.12.10

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

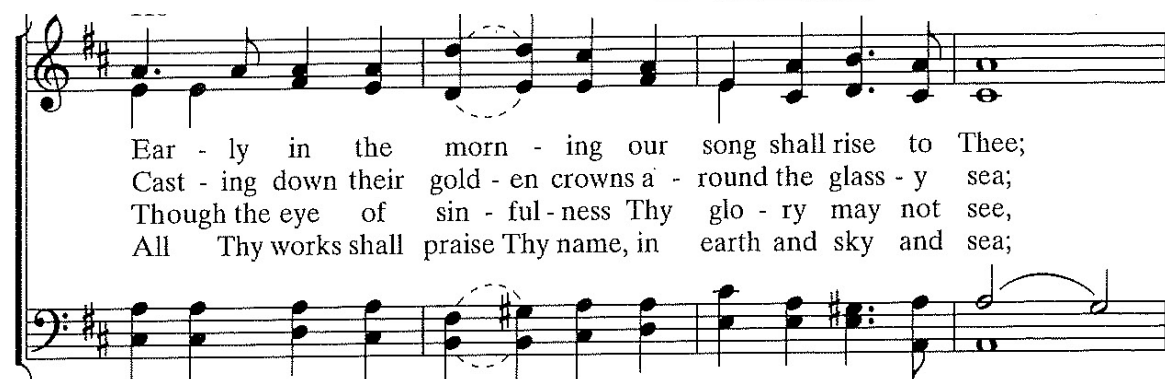
As in *Hymns Written and Adapted*. 1827; alt.

John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

Desc. David McKinley Williams, 1948



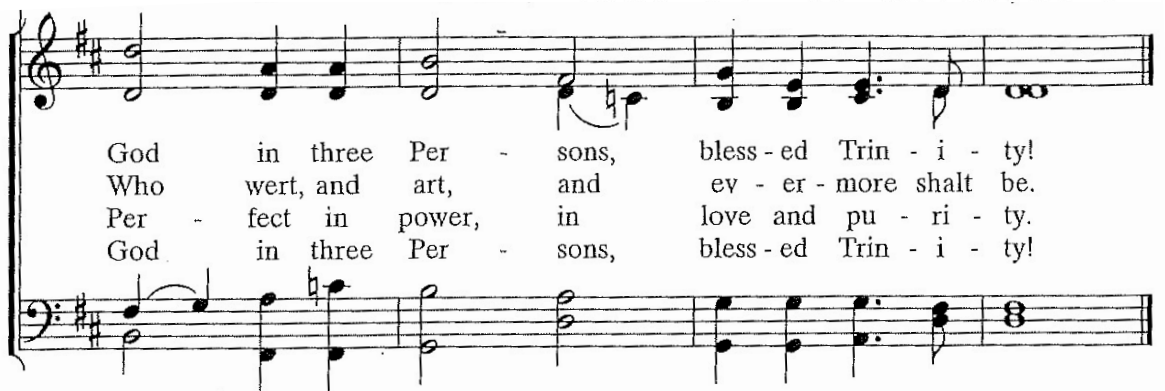
1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful-ness Thy glo - ry may not see,
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

392

HALL 10.10.10.10

William H. Foulkes

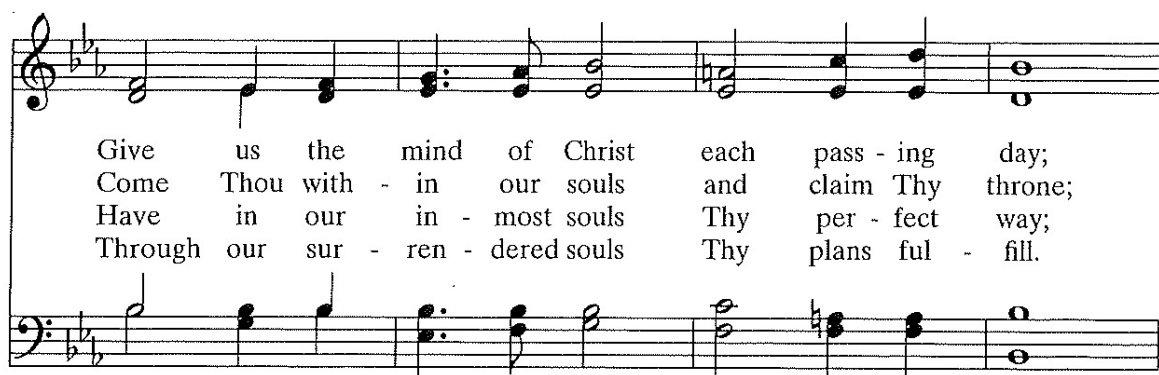
Stanzas 1-3, 1918

Stanza 4, c. 1920

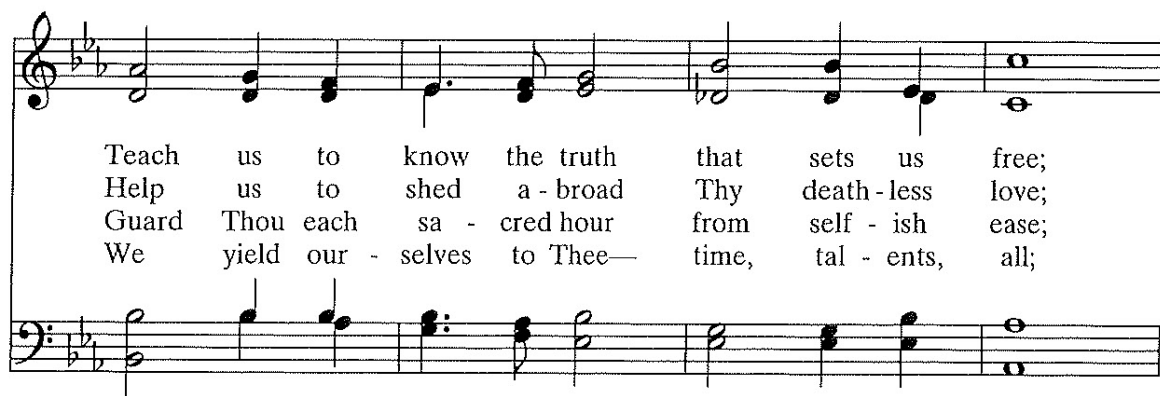
Calvin Weiss Laufer, 1918



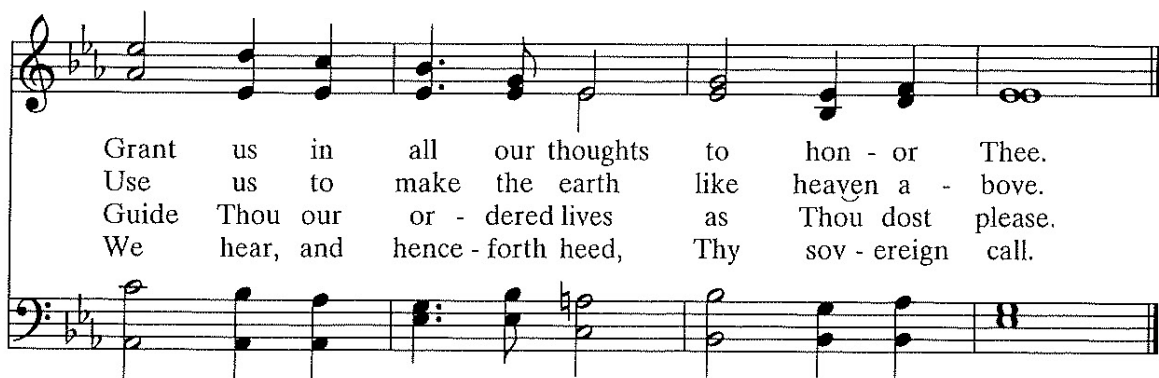
1. Take Thou our minds, dear Lord, we hum - bly pray;
 2. Take Thou our hearts, O Christ, they are Thine own;
 3. Take Thou our wills, Most High! Hold Thou full sway;
 4. Take Thou our - selves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;



Give us the mind of Christ each pass - ing day;
 Come Thou with - in our souls and claim Thy throne;
 Have in our in - most souls Thy per - fect way;
 Through our sur - ren - dered souls Thy plans ful - fill.



Teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
 Help us to shed a - broad Thy death - less love;
 Guard Thou each sa - cred hour from self - ish ease;
 We yield our - selves to Thee— time, tal - ents, all;



Grant us in all our thoughts to hon - or Thee.
 Use us to make the earth like heaven a - bove.
 Guide Thou our or - dered lives as Thou dost please.
 We hear, and hence - forth heed, Thy sov - ereign call.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

562

MELITA 8.8.8.8.8

William Whiting, 1860; alt.

John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

1. E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the
2. O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word The wind and waves sub -
3. O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood Up - on the cha - os
4. O Trin - i - ty of love and power, All trav - elers guard in

rest - less wave, Who bade the might - y o - cean deep Its
mis - sive heard, Who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, And
wild and rude, And bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, And
dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we
gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall

cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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 Griffeth
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*