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!

June 14, 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 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* Craig Phillips

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering Hymn 220, stanza 1
From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to Worship
Come, God has a word for us.
God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love.
Come, God has a word for us.
In this relationship, the possibilities are always open.
Come, God has a word for us.
We aren't sure we want to hear it…but we will listen.

***Hymn 473** *For the Beauty of the Earth* DIX

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**
Your love is extravagant and reckless, O God. You reach beyond our boundaries and you call us to join you. We confess we don't want to. We find it upsetting when you care for people we want to dislike. We worry about what could happen in the future if we show compassion to those people, so we hold back.
Forgive us, gracious God. Not just the way we forgive others, but according to your goodness, so that we can learn to forgive. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Not just the mercy we show to others, but according to your goodness, so that we can learn to be merciful. Forgive us, and teach us to love as we have been loved. We ask in your gracious name. 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).
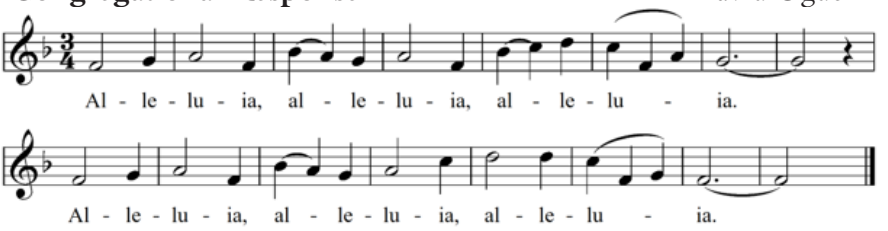
For the Beauty of the Earth was originally a communion hymn, but through many revisions, it has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience. The tune is customarily used with this text in North America, though not elsewhere.

**Those who are able please stand.*

***Silent Prayer**
Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response** David Ogden



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."

***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.

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

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.

Lay Reader: Richard Lane

First Lesson Psalm 145:1-8, page 569
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The anthem is a familiar hymn text by Frederick W. Faber, set to a tune by American composer Calvin Hampton.

Anthem *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Calvin Hampton
There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.
For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;
and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Second Lesson Jonah 3:1-4:11 page 845
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Disputing with God: The Limits of Mercy*
The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Song of Zechariah is a 20th-century British paraphrase of Luke 1:68-79, which broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's older sister, who was his first piano teacher.

***Hymn 602** *Song of Zechariah* MERLE'S TUNE

***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,
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; ***(cont.)***

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 *St. Helena* David Lasky

***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 280** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Postlude *Finale* Robert J. Powell

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Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound, originally called "Faith's Review and Expectation," was written for a sermon preached January 1, 1773. Much of its popularity comes from the tune, first published in 1829, though this text and tune were not paired until 1835.

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*
The Rev. Will Norman, *Liturgist*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*
Anne Marie Miller, *Flute*

Lay Reader
Richard Lane

USHERS
Jimbo LaBoon, John Simpson
Michelle Clendenan-Shaw

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER
Justin Winstanley

JUNE FLOWER TEAM
Tootsie Adams, Susan Banister,
Lucy Bell Johnson, Page Pate

FLOWERS
The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God an in memory of Michael Peace, by Mary Peace.

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.

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

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 14 - This Sunday, we will gather in the Sanctuary at 11:15. Dr. John Coble will give us a tour of the organ, and then we will talk about the history of the Sanctuary. If time allows, we will resume the tour around the building, focusing on Tinsley-Stern and our former Fellowship Hall, now known as Children's Ministry Suite. For more information, email Paulo Santos at paulo@firstpresathens.org

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!

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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 14
9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
11:15 a.m. FPC History Book Club Sunday School, Sanctuary
2:00 p.m. Summer Fellowship Blugrass Jam, Athentic Brewing Company

Monday, June 15
5:30 p.m. Campus Kitchen, Main Kitchen

Tuesday, June 16
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, June 17
9:00 a.m. WDS Wonderful Wednesday, WDS

Thursday, June 18
4:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Resource Pantry
5:30 p.m. Stated Session Worship and Meeting, Sanctuary and Moses Waddel Room

Friday, June 19 - Juneteenth, Church Office Closed

Sunday, June 21
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

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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 Athentic 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 icre 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!
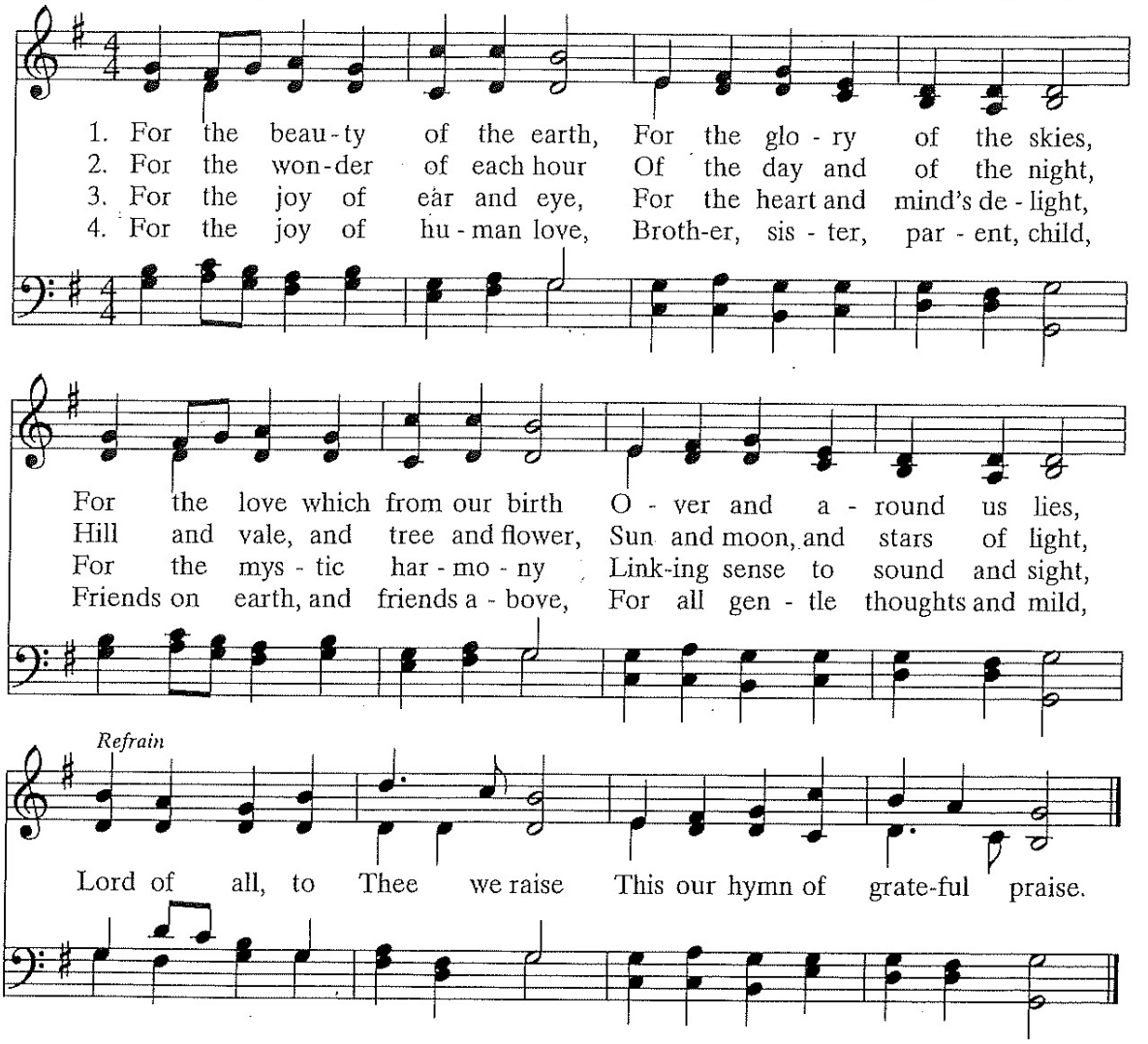
Thursday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m. Downtown Dinner, Ted's Most Best (254 W. Washington St.)
Bring the whole family and head downtown for food, drink, and fun!

For the Beauty of the Earth 473

DIX 7.7.7.7.7.7

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864
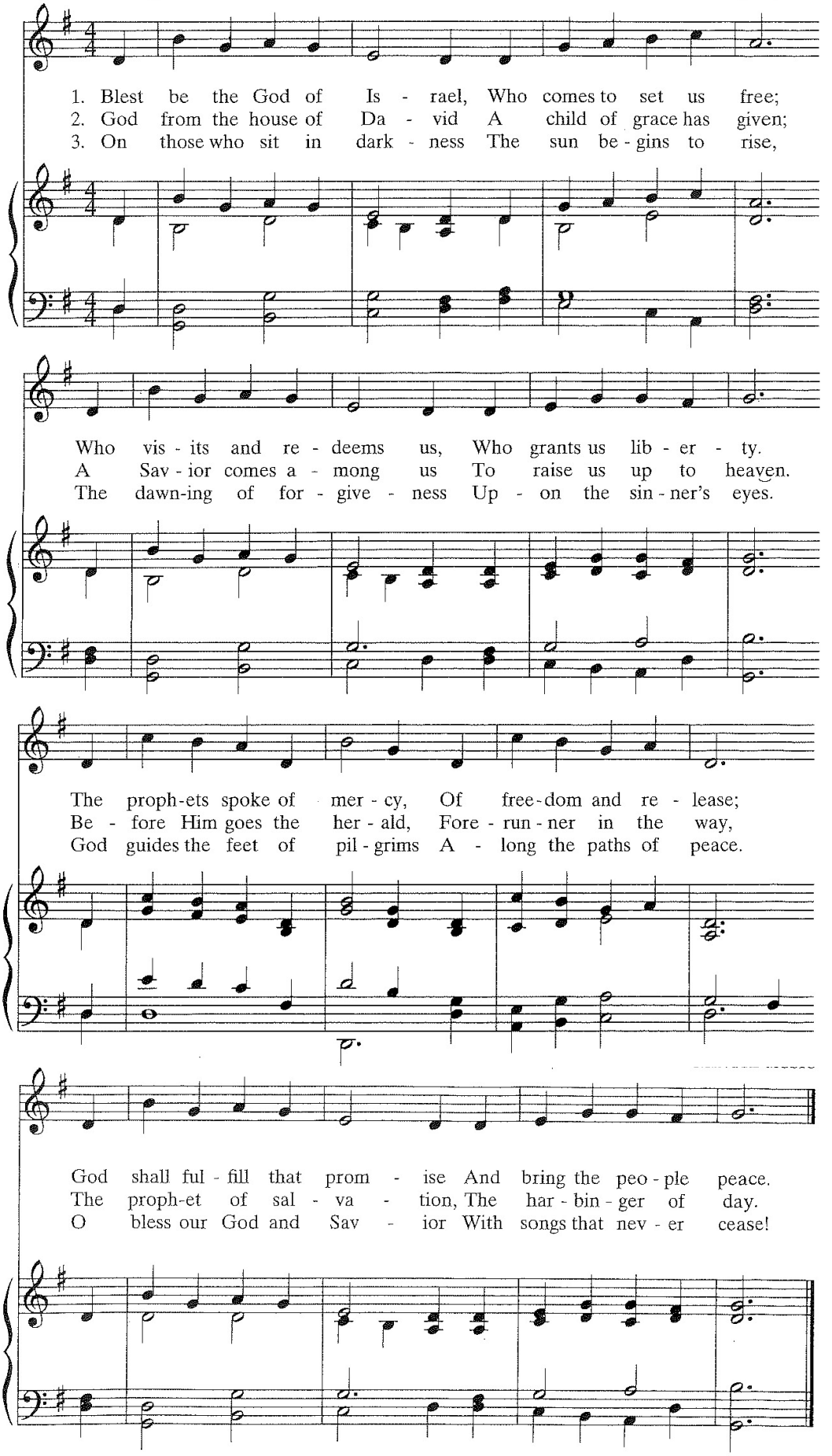
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861
Harm. *The English Hymnal,* 1906



5. For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

602 Song of Zechariah

Michael A. Perry, 1973 — Hal H. Hopson, 1983

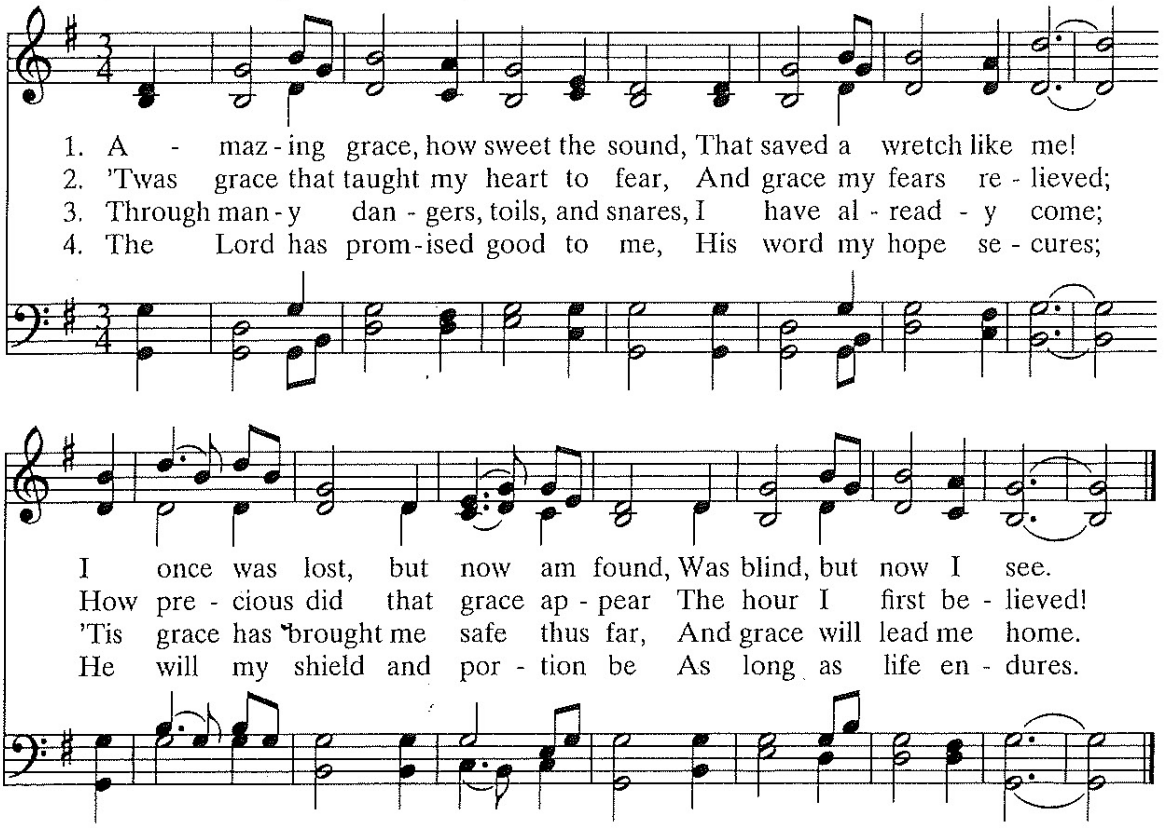


Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 280

AMAZING GRACE CM

Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1779
Stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads,* 1790

Virginia Harmony, 1831
Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900



5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
   Bright shining as the sun,
   We've no less days to sing God's praise
   Than when we'd first begun.

Kiowa
Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy he tsow'haw
Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy hee.
Bay dawtsahy taw, gaw aym ow thah t'aw,
Daw k'ee da ha dawtsahy h'ee.

Creek
Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
Ah non ah cha pa kas
Cha fee kee o funnan la kus
Um e ha ta la yus.

Choctaw
Shilombish holitopa ma!
Ishmminti pulla cha
Hatak ilbusha pia ha
Is pi yukpalashke

Cherokee
Ooh nay thla nah, hee oo way gee'.
E gah gwoo yah hay ee.
Naw gwoo joe sah, we you low say,
E gah gwoo yah ho nah.

Navaho
Nizhóníígo jooba' diits' a'
Yisdáshíítinigíí,
Lah yóóiiyá, k'ad shénáhoosdzin,
Doo eesh'íí da ńt'éé.

Text: Phonetic transcription Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw: Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference; Navaho: phonetic transcription by Albert Tsosie.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Senior Pastor Pat Waldrip, Clerk of Session
Whitney Booth Lockard, Associate Pastor

Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
Susan Baldwin	Steven Brooks	Meghan Bawcum
Bill Bushnell	Courtney Dantzler	Stephen Covington
Amy Cowsert	Shannon Ferguson	Andrew Griffeth
Matt Crim	Edward W. (Ned) Phares	Anne Marie Miller
Jay Holloway	Holly Sheats	Mike Morris
Tom Lane	Lawton Stephens	Leslye Queen
Joan Pinson	Madeline Van Dyck	Laura Toney
Paige Simmons	John Webster	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. Mikel Williams, *Director of Weekday School (mikel@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*