



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!

August 9, 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

Prelude on Repton

Charles Callahan

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering

O QUANTA QUALIA

**Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!
You are the rock of your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.**

Call to Worship

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called:

We cannot do this alone, so we gather as God's people.

Lead a life worthy of your calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

**We come to build up Christ's body,
in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.**

Lead a life which reflects your calling,
that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

**We rejoice in our oneness in Christ;
and we share the grace offered to us.**

***Hymn 455** *All Creatures of Our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Stanzas 1 & 2 – all; 3 – women; 4 – men; 5 & 6 – all

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of unity and love, place within each of us a spirit of hope and community. Have mercy upon us when we speak without love or act without humility. Cleanse us with the living water of your grace. Create in us willing hearts to live in patience and gentleness. Raise us up to be your children, growing toward maturity in faith and love. Strengthen this church, that we might shine the light of Christ's peace for all the world to see. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

*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).

All Creatures of Our God and King, sometimes called "The Cantic of the Sun," is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. It is a cosmic roll call allowing human beings to give voice to all creation. It is one of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language.

**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:
Danielle McArdle

The anthem is a familiar hymn text set to music by contemporary American composer David Ashley White.

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord is a reflection on Christian vocation. It was written to provide a new text the a pre-existing tune. The tune is named for a British boarding school whose music director was a friend of the composer.

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.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response

Jacques Berthier



*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

TALLIS' CANON

**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 34:1-8, page 497

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

Anthem

Consecration

David Ashley White

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my voice, and let me sing always, only for my King;
take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take myself, and I will be every, only, all for thee.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 4:1-16, 4:25-5:2, page 1068

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

Sermon

Bound Together The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 419

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

*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;
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 *Improvisation: All Creatures of Our God and King* John Coble

***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 442** *The Church's One Foundation* AURELIA

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** SINE NOMINE
Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude *We All Believe in One True God* Johann Sebastian Bach

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The Church's One Foundation is one of twelve hymns written by an English curate to affirm articles of the Apostles' Creed. The tune, not written for this text, was paired with it in 1868.

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.

**Volunteer Training & Parent Meeting
for Children and Youth Ministries**

Interested in leading children's Sunday School, helping out at youth group, teaching Godly Play, or working with our awesome children & youth? Attend our volunteer training **today, August 9, from 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.** in Moses Waddel Room!

The intention of this training is to better equip our incredible volunteers, provide important information for this program year, and continue to support them as they serve our children and youth. Light refreshments will be provided and we will be done within an hour! **Parents of children and youth- please make sure you have an adult from your family present for the training as we will be going over important information for the year.** If you plan to attend, please email Hannah Knight, Director of Children and Youth Ministries at hannah@firstpresathens.org. Looking forward to serving alongside y'all this year!

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Lay Reader

Danielle McArdle

USHERS

Jimbo LaBoon, John Simpson, Larry Baer

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Justin Winstanley

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Annie D. Lawson, Preston E. Terrell, and Nancy Pittman by Beverly and Ned Phares.

AUGUST FLOWER TEAM

Susan Baldwin, Lucy Bell Johnson, Karen Cobb, Karen Gilmore, Elaine Johnson, Ethelyn Simpson, Rosemary Stancil

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.

Save These Dates!

Sunday, August 16 at 11:00 a.m.: Fall Kickoff Potluck (following our last 10:00 a.m. service of the summer) in Fellowship Hall. The church will provide fried chicken and beverages. Please bring a side dish to share (crockpots welcome) and join us for a time of fellowship as we begin a new season together!

Potluck instructions: in hopes of covering our tables with a nice variety of dishes, we ask that you bring something in the category that corresponds with the first letter of your last name:

A-G: desserts H-M: starchy sides (pasta, potatoes, etc...) N-R: vegetable sides S-Z: salads

Sunday, August 23:

- 9:45-10:45 a.m.: Sunday School for all ages resumes!

- 12:15 p.m., Youth Parent Meeting in Fellowship Hall & Tubing in Helen

Youth and their parents are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15pm for a brief meeting to go over important information for the program year. Afterwards, the youth will travel to Helen, GA to go tubing in the Chattahoochee! The cost is \$10 per youth, and you are asked to bring a bag lunch. More information to come in youth ministry communications! Reach out to Hannah Knight (hannah@firstpresathens.org) for more information or to RSVP.

Saturday, August 29, 9:00 a.m.: Habitat for Humanity Build Day. Please contact Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org) if you are interested in signing up or have any questions.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 9

- 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. Children's and Youth Ministries Volunteer Training & Parent Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Monday, August 10

- 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Tuesday, August 11

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Wednesday, August 12

- 12:30 p.m. Family Visitation and Reception, Atrium
- 2:00 p.m. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Thanksgiving for the Life of Tom Bowen, Sanctuary

Thursday, August 13

- 5:00 p.m. Administration Commission Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Kate's Club Family Night, Moses Waddel Room and The PIT

Friday, August 14

- 11:15 a.m. Weekday School Open House, Weekday School

Saturday, August 15

- 8:30 a.m. Godly Play Training, Children's Ministry Suite and Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, August 16

- 9:15 a.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
- 11:00 a.m. Fall Kickoff Potluck, Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Godly Play Training, Children's Ministry Suite and Moses Waddel Room
- 12:15 p.m. Generosity Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Weekday School Parents Only Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Choir Rehearsals Resume

Chancel Choir - Wednesday, August 19, 6:30 p.m., Room 202

St. Andrews Choir (grades 2-5) - Sunday, August 30, 4:00 p.m., Room 202

Youth Choir (grades 6-12) - Sunday, August 30, 4:45 p.m. Room 202

Handbell Choir - Monday, August 24, 5:30 p.m. Room 205

Cherub Choir - more information to come

For more information about choirs, contact John Coble (jcoble@firstpresathens.org) or Charlotte Chromiak (charlotte@firstpresathens.org)

Flower Committee Gathering & Workshop Wednesday, August 19, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Atrium

Join the Flower Committee for a Gathering & Workshop on **Wednesday, August 19**, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Atrium. We will serve refreshments and enjoy members of our committee demonstrating different floral arranging techniques to sharpen our skills as we create arrangements for worship service.

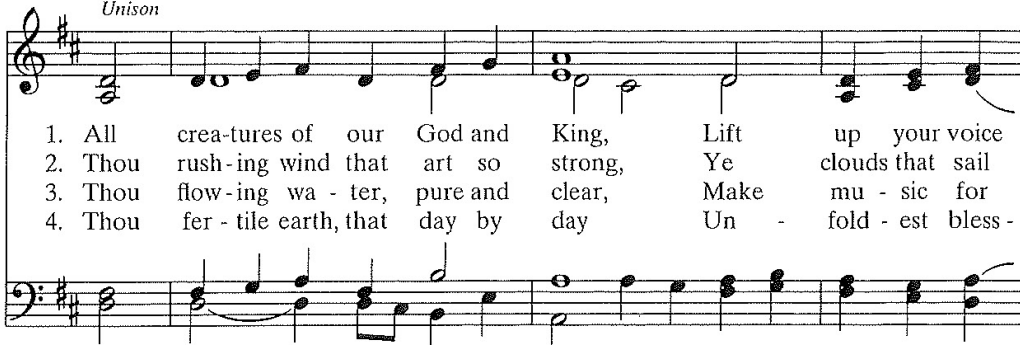
Please e-mail Lucy Bell at lbell@firstpresathens.org if you're able to join us so we can prepare accordingly.

Francis of Assisi, 1225

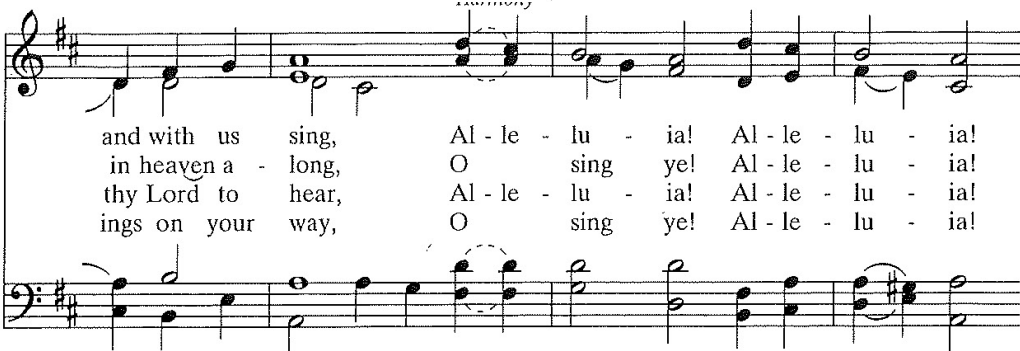
Trans. and para. William Henry Draper, c. 1910; alt.

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623; alt.

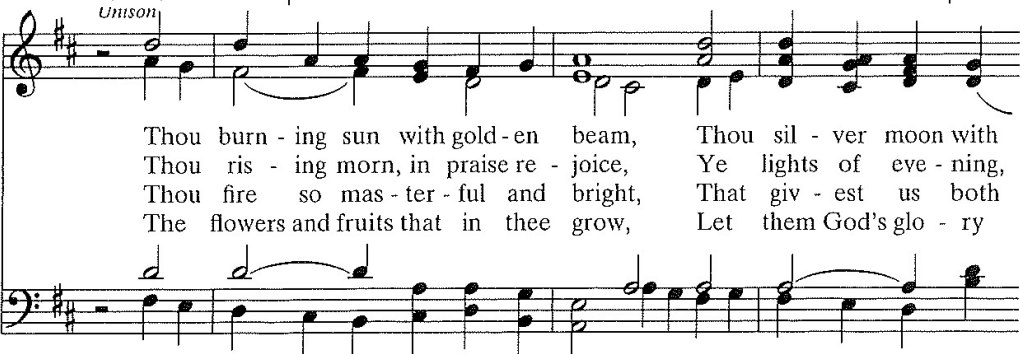
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Unison


1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice
 2. Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail
 3. Thou flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for
 4. Thou fer - tile earth, that day by day Un - fold - est bless -



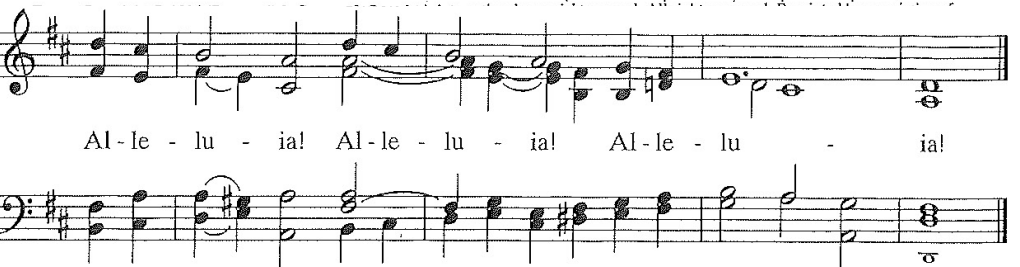
and with us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 in heaven a - long, O sing ye! Al - le - lu - ia!
 thy Lord to hear, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ings on your way, O sing ye! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison


Thou burn - ing sun with gold - en beam, Thou sil - ver moon with
 Thou ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice, Ye lights of eve - ning,
 Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and bright, That giv - est us both
 The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, Let them God's glo - ry

harmony


soft - er gleam,
 find a voice! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 warmth and light,
 al - so show!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5. And everyone of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part.
 O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and cast on God your care!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6. All creatures, your Creator bless,
 And worship God in humbleness.
 O sing ye! Alleluia!
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

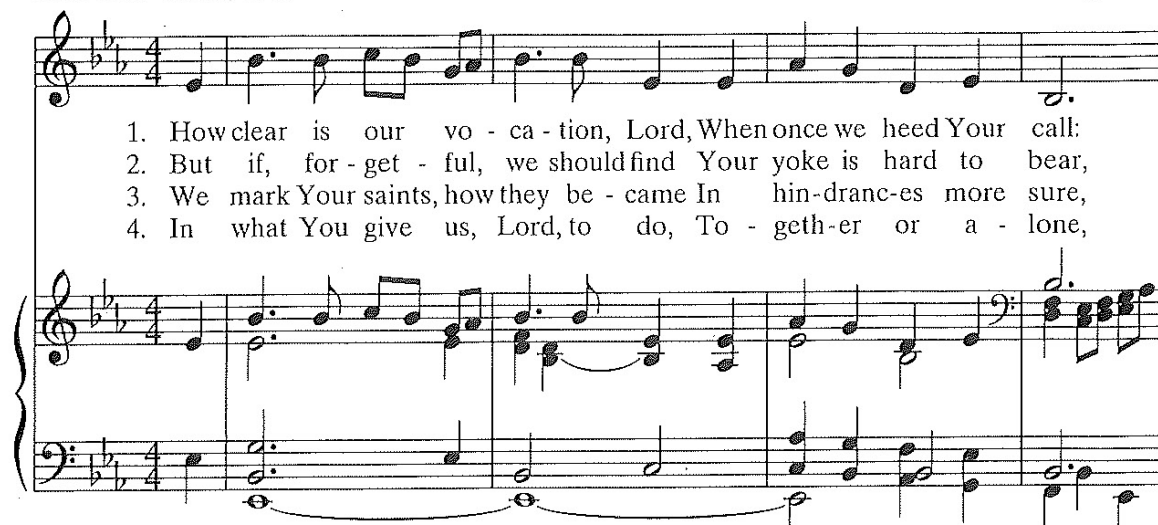
How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

419

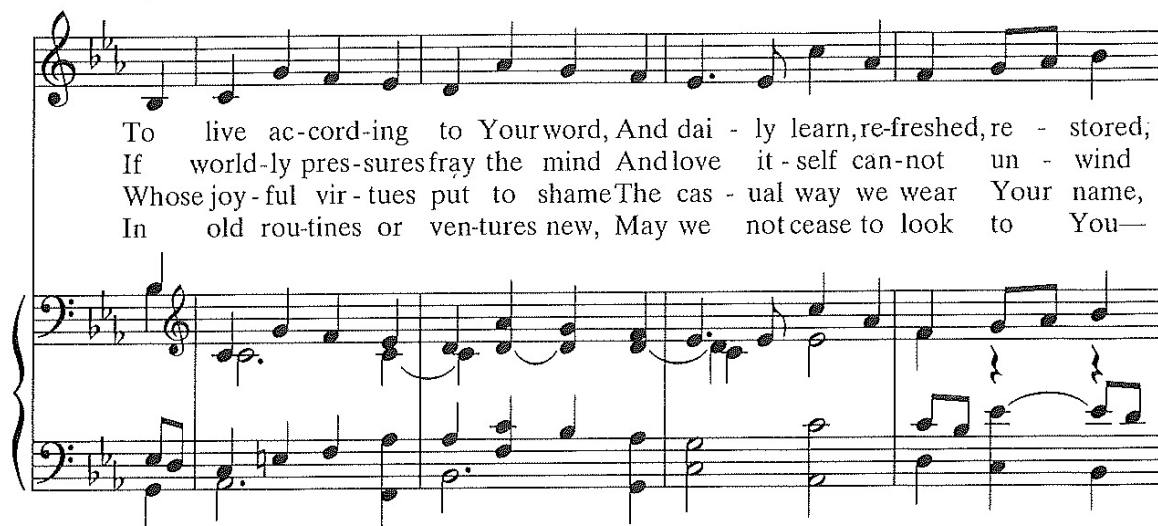
REPTON 8.6.8.8.6.6

Fred Pratt Green, 1981

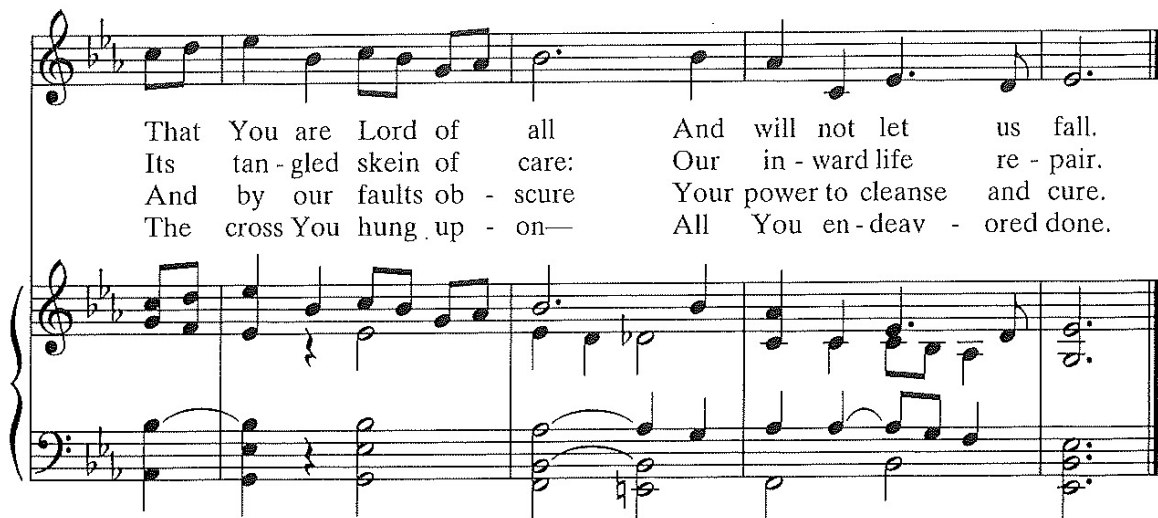
C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888



1. How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, When once we heed Your call:
 2. But if, for - get - ful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear,
 3. We mark Your saints, how they be - came In hin - dranc - es more sure,
 4. In what You give us, Lord, to do, To - geth - er or a - lone,



To live ac - cord - ing to Your word, And dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored;
 If world - ly pres - sures fray the mind And love it - self can - not un - wind
 Whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame The cas - ual way we wear Your name,
 In old rou - tines or ven - tures new, May we not cease to look to You—



That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.
 Its tan - gled skein of care: Our in - ward life re - pair.
 And by our faults ob - scure Your power to cleanse and cure.
 The cross You hung up - on— All You en - deav - ored done.

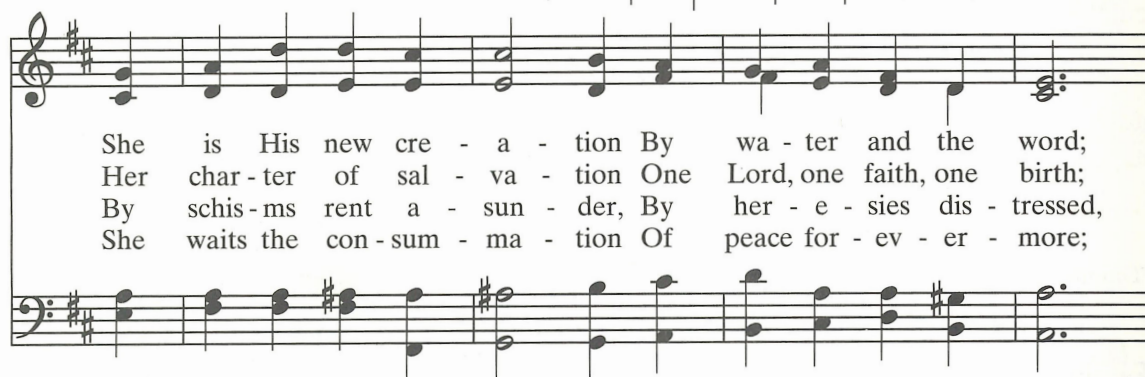
Samuel John Stone, 1866; alt.

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D

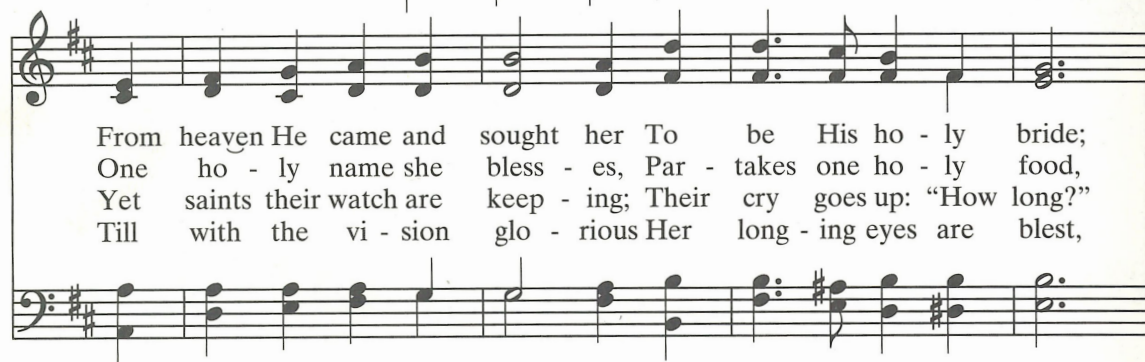
Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864



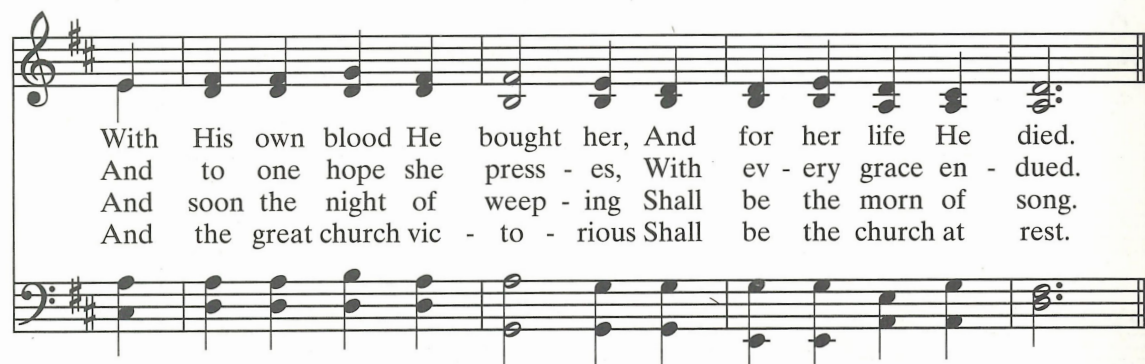
1. The chur - ch's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. Though with a scorn-ful won - der This world sees her op - pressed,
 4. Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word;
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth;
 By schis - ms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;



From heaven He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up: "How long?"
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 And to one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great church vic - to - rious Shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth has union
 With God the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won:

O happy ones and holy!
 Lord, give us grace that we,
 Like them, the meek and lowly,
 May live eternally.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

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

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 Dantzer
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. 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*