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!

November 1, 2026
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
All Saints' 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 *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* David A. Schack

Words of Welcome

Song of Gathering *Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven* LLANFAIR
Come, behold! the Feast of heaven, Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
"Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!

Call to Worship
Our God desires to give us great gifts.
Let us ask for worthy gifts.
What would you have God do for you?
God, give us wisdom, love, and a commitment to do justice.

***Hymn 451** *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**
Merciful God, you have called together a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, and promised that nothing can separate us from your love. Yet we confess that we have not lived as your people. Where you call us to unity, we have chosen division. Where you offer abundance, we have clung to scarcity. Where you promise hope, we have surrendered to despair. We confess that we too often forget that we belong to a communion greater than ourselves, bound together not by our goodness, but by your grace. Forgive us, O God. Wipe away the tears of our failures and regrets. Wash us in the mercy of the Lamb, and renew in us the hope of that day when hunger and thirst shall be no more, when sorrow and death shall pass away, and all your saints shall gather in praise before your throne. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

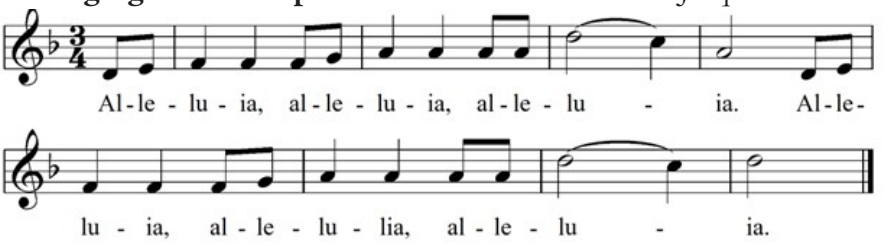
**Those who are able please stand.*

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

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones was composed for the tune *Lasst uns erfreuen* (Let us rejoice). The first stanza names the orders of angels who praise God, the second the "bearer of the eternal Word," meaning Mary, the third the "souls in endless rest," and the fourth invites us to join in "supernal anthems," praising the Trinity. No one is exempt from singing!

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

***Congregational Response** Jacques Berthier



***Assurance of Pardon**

***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.

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."

Children are invited to remain in the Sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Congregational Prayer for Illumination Hymn 454, stanza 1
Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your teachings true and holy,
drawn from earth to love you solely.

Lay Reader:
8:45 a.m. Joan Pinson
11:00 a.m. Matthew Crim

First Lesson Matthew 5:1-12, page 882
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson Revelation 7:9-17, page 1124
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *For All the Saints* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 508** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* KINGDOM

For the Bread Which You Have Broken was written by an editor of several Presbyterian hymnals and a leading American hymn scholar. The text echoes earlier hymns and joins our voices with the saints "seated at the heavenly board."

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Faithful Departed

Janet Noble
November 15, 2025

Peggy Andrews Randolph
December 7, 2025

Joseph Henry Booth
December 9, 2025

Kenny Wayne Tillman
December 9, 2025

Helen Alyne London
December 18, 2025

Dorothy Louise (Wright) Smith
January 2, 2026

Michael F. Adams
January 25, 2026

William P. Flatt
February 9, 2026

Johnny Earl Hyers
February 15, 2026

Nell Carnes
March 15, 2026

William Stephen Bachman, Jr.
May 16, 2026

Celestia Purcell Killingsworth Arrington
June 14, 2026

Charles David Lay
July 6, 2026

Joel Thomas Bowen, Jr.
August 3, 2026

William S. Patterson
August 12, 2026

Lilli Douberly Ramsey
August 30, 2026

Laura Magill Sorrells Hill
September 20, 2026

Carlton N. Mell, Jr.
October 26, 2026

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.*

Moment for Generosity Joy Holloway

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 Offertory *For All the Saints* Flor Peters

11:00 Offertory *Crossing the Bar* C.H.H. Parry

The anthem is a text by Alread, Lord Tennyson, set to music by English composer Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry.

Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar, when I put out to sea,
but such a tide as moving seems asleep, too full for sound and foam,
when that which drew from out the boundless deep turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark!
And may be no sadness of farewell, when I embark;
for tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place the flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crost the bar.

***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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

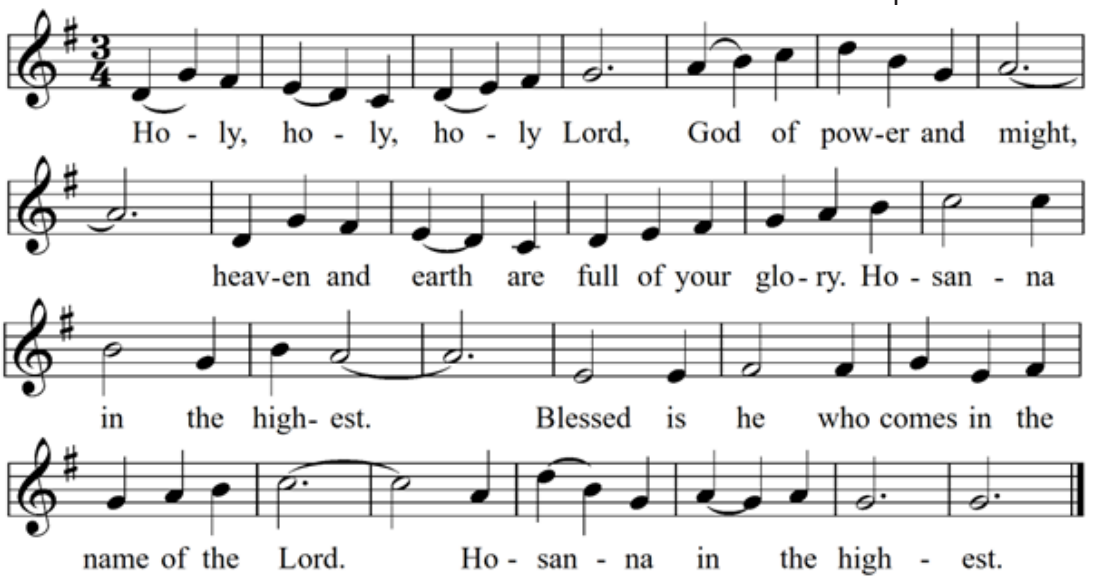
Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

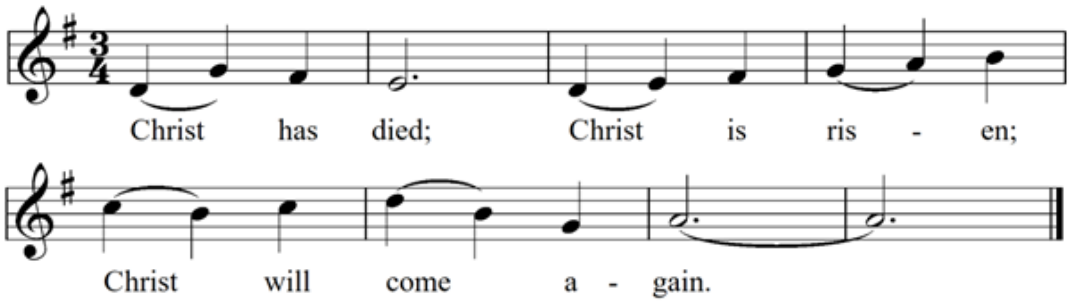
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.**We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise…

The musical setting of the communion liturgy was written by contemporary composer Thomas Pavlechko.

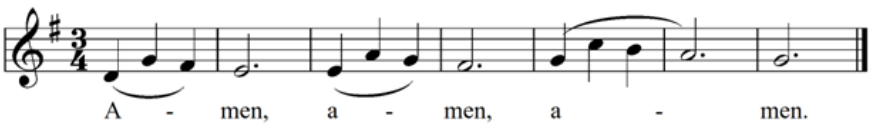
Sanctus



Memorial Acclamation



The Great Amen



Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

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.

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

For All the Saints, with its broad, sweeping tune, was created to be sung for a procession in an All Saints' Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring "fellowship divine" celebrated by the text.

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***Hymn 526** *For All the Saints* SINE NOMINE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** AR HYD Y NOS
Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Postlude *Sine Nomine* William Bates

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:10 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.

Children's Church is an important developmental time for children, but there are times when children remaining in worship, watching and learning from their parents, is even more valuable. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on Communion Sundays.

Gabriel Fauré *Requiem* concert 4:00 p.m.

The Chancel Choir will perform Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* in the sanctuary today at 4:00 p.m. with soloists Sammie Eskew and John Tsao, and guest instrumentalists Rachael Fischer, violin, and Elizabeth Bennett Veal, harp. The concert is part of The Wayne F. Middendorf Memorial Concert Series and is free and open to the public.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS
Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard, *Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader:
8:45 a.m. Joan Pinson
11:00 a.m. Matthew Crim

USHERS
8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Mary Peace
11:00 a.m. Chuck Toney, Laura Toney, 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 All the Saints.

NOVEMBER FLOWER TEAM
Susan Ferguson (chair), Shannon Ferguson, Susan Barrett, Amy Cowsert, Jennifer Trapnell

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.

Wed@First + LIFT - November 4
Million Dollar Spaghetti Night

Join us for Wednesdays@First where we will participate in our intergenerational LIFT (Living in Faith Together) by breaking bread, studying God's word, playing, and praying — all together as a family of faith on **November 4 and December 2 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** All are invited to participate!

Please RSVP for dinner online or by contacting the church office (e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338) by Monday, November , at 12:00 p.m. Price is $12/person and a $45/family max (complimentary for children 5 and under).

Project Safe Work Day
November 8, 2:00 p.m.

Join us to support Project Safe by helping to sort clothes, clean shelves, and tidy up the thrift store. Project Safe works to end domestic violence through crisis intervention, supportive services, advocacy, prevention, and education. For more information, please contact Kate Johnson at kateejohnson456@gmail.com. The Project Safe thrift store is located at 995 Hawthorne Ave #7, Athens, GA 30606 (in the former Bell's Shopping Center).

"Footsteps of Paul" Trip

As a result of their study of Acts last Spring, members of the Bible Basics class are exploring the possibility of a group trip to Greece and possibly Ephesus in the Fall of 2027 or Spring of 2028. If you are interested in learning more about how this trip is coming together, please join us for a light lunch and an opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas at **12:15 p.m. on November 8** in Moses Waddel Room. Please RSVP to Elaine Johnson (elaine@firstpresathens.org) by November 3 so that we can have lunch for you! If you are interested but cannot attend, please email Elaine by the same date, so that you can be included in informational updates as we move forward.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 1 - Daylight Saving Time Ends, Communion Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Food Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:15 p.m. New Members FirstThings Class, Staff Conference Room
4:00 p.m. Gabriel Fauré *Requiem* concert, Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Monday, November 2

2:00 p.m. Circle Two, Staff Conference Room
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, November 3

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
1:30 p.m. Circle 3/4
7:00 p.m. Circle Six, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, November 4

11:30 a.m. Our Daily Bread Lunch, First Baptist Church
4:30 p.m. Shakespeare & Friends Class, Staff Conference Room
5:30 p.m. Wed@First Supper - Million Dollar Spaghetti Night, Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, November 7

9:05 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
4:30 p.m. Resource Pantry, The PIT
5:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Commission Meeting, Library
5:30 p.m. Weekday School Committee Meeting, Staff Conference Room

Sunday, November 8

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard preaching
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
12:15 p.m. "Footsteps of Paul" Trip Interest Meeting, Moses Waddel Room
2:00 p.m. Project Safe Work Day, 995 Hawthorne Ave.
4:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
4:45 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
5:30 p.m. Youth Group, The PIT

Generosity Sunday, November 15

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it -- the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1

"Stewardship is an act of joyful worship." This has been the theme of our ongoing conversation about the faithful and financial practice of stewardship in support of our mission at First Presbyterian Church of Athens. Psalm 24 is clear in its declaration that all that we have is indeed a gift from God; the parable of the talents in the 25th chapter of Matthew tells us that we are to use those gifts to advance the kingdom on earth. The worship is in the giving, not the gift. On Generosity Sunday, we will present our estimates of giving as an act of faith and finance. We commit to making monetary gifts and we commit our lives as living gifts to God. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity as an act of worship to support the life and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Join us November 15 after the 11:00 a.m. service for the Generosity Potluck

On Sunday November 15 at approximately 12 noon, we'll celebrate God's generosity with an all-church potluck in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide baked ham and beverages – please bring a dish to share (crockpots welcome).

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

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Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday is Sunday, November 15

Can you provide a bag of food that can be used by an Athens family of four to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner? Please bring the items on the list below in a reusable bag to church on **November 15** or drop them off at the church during normal business hours by **Friday, November 13**. Alternatively, you can send a check for $50 to the church or donate at firstpresathens.org/giving (please select General Fund and add "Thanksgiving bags" in the memo box).

2026 Shopping List (* not in bags delivered prior to November 15)

- ☐ Cranberry sauce
- ☐ Chicken broth
- ☐ French fried onions (that go on top of green bean casserole)
- ☐ Stuffing/Dressing mix
- ☐ Cornbread mix
- ☐ Mac & Cheese
- ☐ Instant potatoes
- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Gravy (cans or jars)
- ☐ Cookies
- ☐ Fresh sweet potatoes*

Holiday Meals on Wheels

Every Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, volunteers from First Presbyterian Church deliver nutritional meals to homebound seniors. FPC also pays for the meals on these three days. Volunteers meet at the Athens Community Council on Aging at 135 Hoyt St. at 10:00 a.m. The routes take 30 minutes to an hour to complete.

If you are interested in delivering meals, please contact Mary Burton at marybu1325@gmail.com. Since this is a popular family event, please be sure to sign up early.

Salvation Army Angel Tree

Will you be someone's angel this year? Please consider purchasing Christmas gifts for one or more of the Salvation Army "angels" (infants –12-year-old children) which will be posted in Fellowship Hall starting November 8. Detailed instructions are available when you select your "angel." Please bring your gifts to church by **Sunday, December 6**, or to the church office by **Friday, December 4**.

Save the Date for the Women's Retreat!

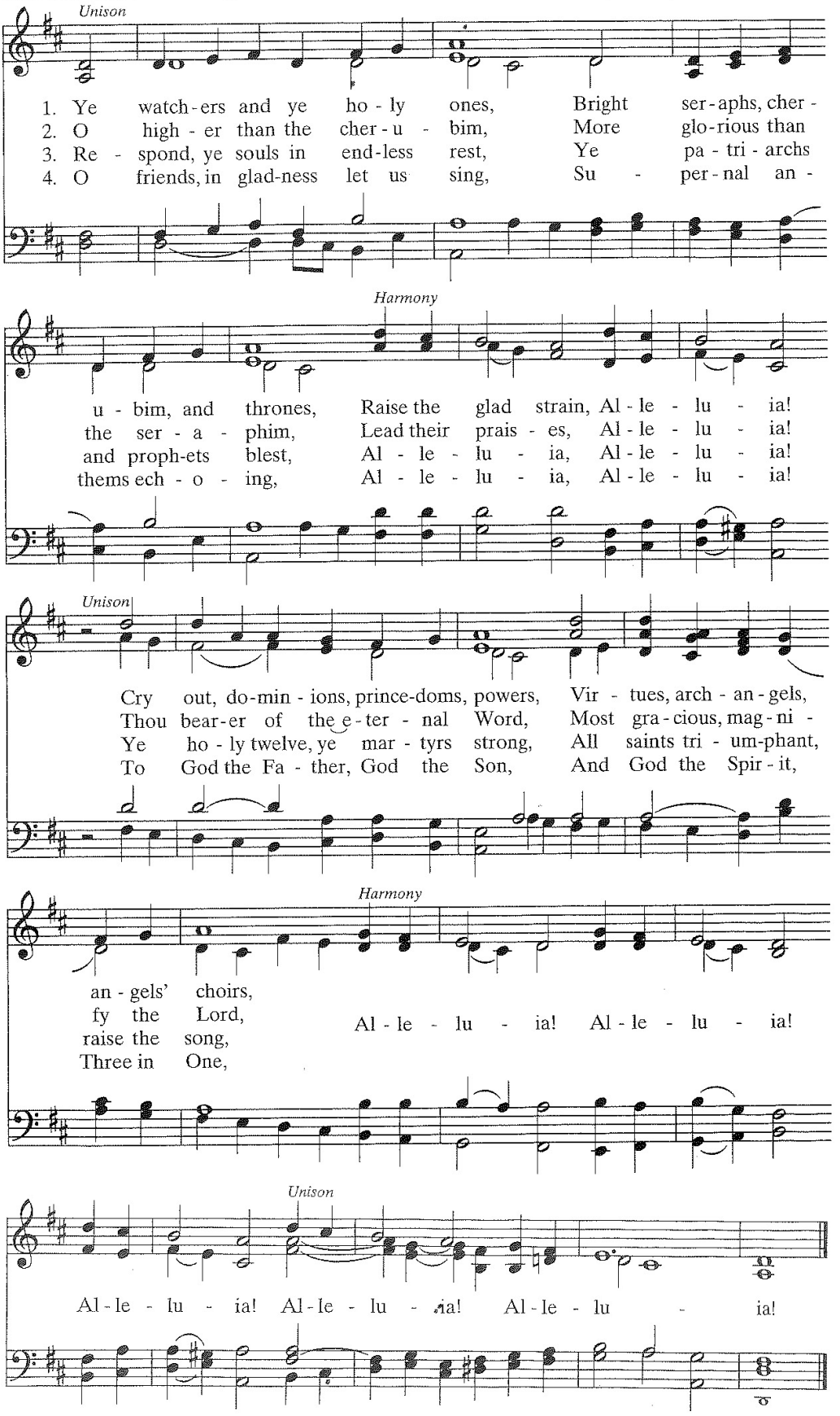
Save the date for the next FPC Women's Retreat on January 8-10, 2027 at Lake Cherokee, SC. Join us for a weekend of rest, study, reflection, and fellowship! Email Rev. Whitney Booth Lockard (whitney@firstpresathens.org) to reserve your spot or if you have any questions.

451 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

LASST UNS ERFREUEN LM with alleluias

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623; alt.
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

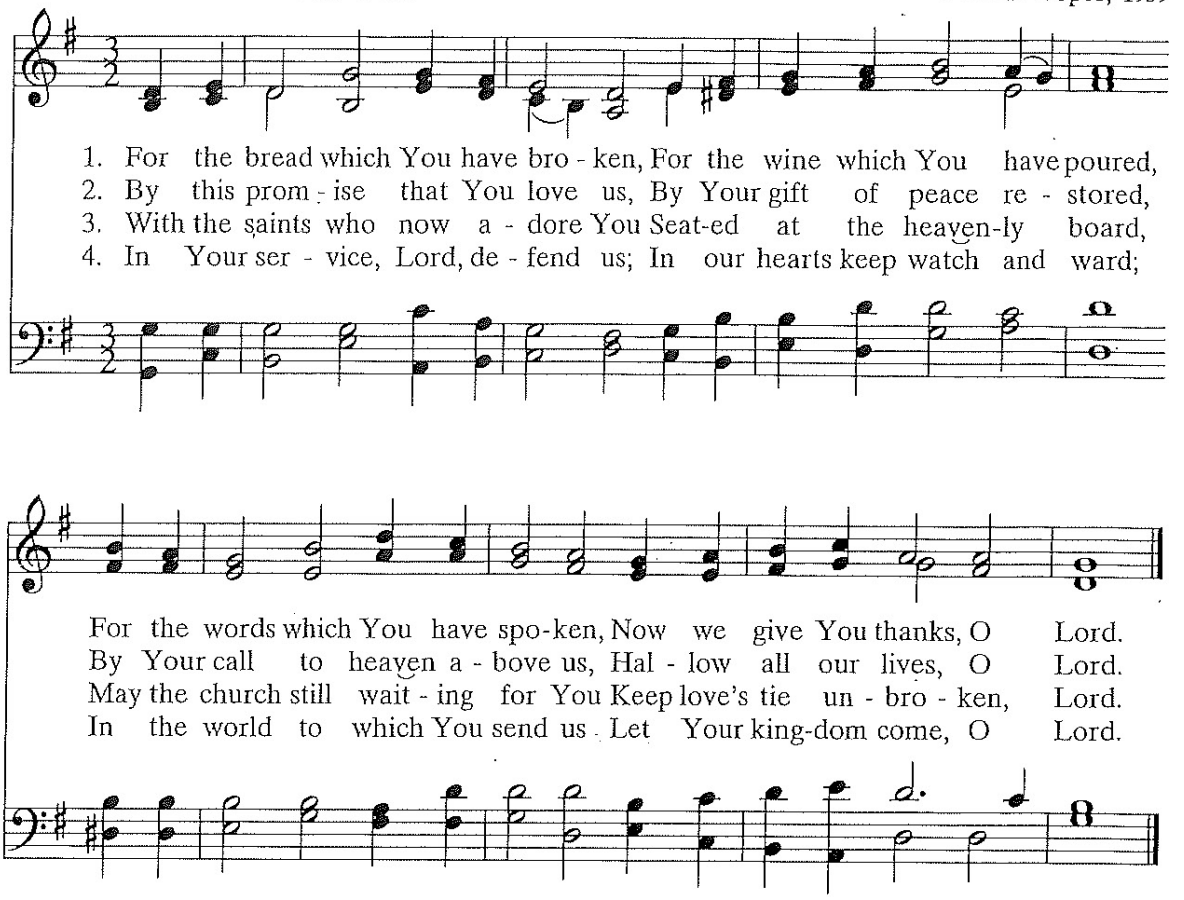
John Athelstan Laurie Riley, 1906



508 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM 8.7.8.7

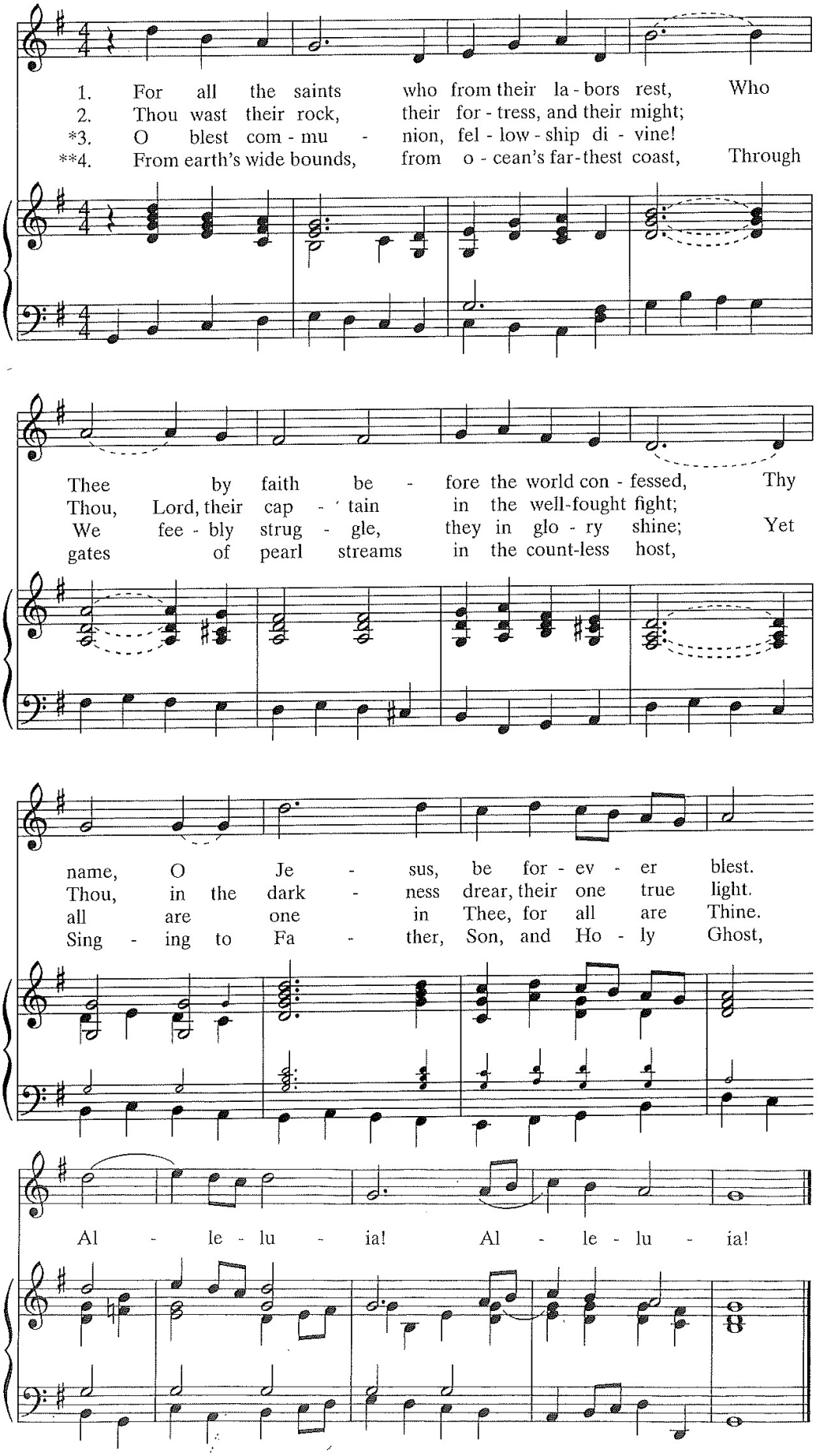
Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924; alt. V. Earle Copes, 1959



526 For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE 10.10.10 with alleluias

William Walsham How, 1864 — Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



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.

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For any questions, please contact Hannah at hannah@firstpresathens.org.

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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
Bible Basics is an intergenerational class that, as the name suggests, focuses on the Bible. This fall, the class is studying the gospel of Luke. If you interested in grappling with questions about this ancient text, please join us in 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. We'll begin this year with "Good & Evil." This eight-lesson study guide explores challenges to our faith journey and suggests O.T and N.T. passages to help us deal with them.
Coordinator: Jerry Rogers (jrogerswtw@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, food, music, prayer, scripture, class led discussion, community and inclusion. We're starting with Karen Armstrong's book, "St. Paul, The Misunderstood Apostle." Themes for this study: The reality of sin, The love of God, Effective grace, Salvation, Prayers in real life.
Led by: 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, the class will have a study and discussion of the course *Jesus and His Jewish Influences*, by Dr. Jodi Magness, professor at UNC Chapel Hill.
Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com)
Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

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

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Lindsay Griffeth	Susan Baldwin	Steven Brooks
Dan Nadenicek	Bill Bushnell	Courtney Dantzler
Karen Phillips	Amy Cowsert	Shannon Ferguson
Ethelyn Simpson	Matt Crim	Edward W. (Ned) Phares
Jeffrey Trapnell	Jay Holloway	Holly Sheats
Pat Tritt	Tom Lane	Lawton Stephens
John Turner	Joan Pinson	Madeline Van Dyck
Pat Waldrip	Paige Simmons	John Webster

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)*
Ms. Deanna Rollins, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant (wds@firstpresathens.org)*
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant (charlotteposs@gmail.com)*
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*
Mrs. Kathy Allaire, *Parish Nurse*
Mr. Wayne Brock, *Sexton*
Mr. Justin Winstanley, *Sunday Morning Manager*
Ms. Morgan Cassidy, *Children and Youth Ministries Intern*