



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!

October 30, 2022
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Reformation 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

Hymn 229, 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

We gather to worship God, whose name is hallowed.

Hallowed be God's name!

We gather, seeking God's reign.

We gather, seeking God's will.

May we be strengthened here and sent out,

furthering God's reign and doing God's will.

Let us worship God.

*Hymn 260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Wise and gracious God, we confess that we tend to confuse your divine wisdom with human power. We tend to perceive our most beloved leaders as wise, despite how far they may stray from your paths. We tend to project our own sense of wisdom upon leaders we have already chosen. We could instead choose our leaders by seeking your wisdom and discerning your call. Give us the wisdom, discernment, and courage to raise up those whose wisdom we have not yet perceived. And give us the strength to follow ultimately where you would lead. Amen.

*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).

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns..

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.”

After the Passing of the Peace at the 11:00 a.m. service, children, ages Pre-K - grade 5, are invited to Children’s Church held in the Children’s Ministry Suite on the first floor.

The anthem is an English translation of a text by Martin Luther, inspired by the Latin text *Dona nobis pacem*, set to music by Felix Mendelssohn.

Lay Readers: Kent Burel, Melinda DeMaria, Tom Landrum, Alan Merrill

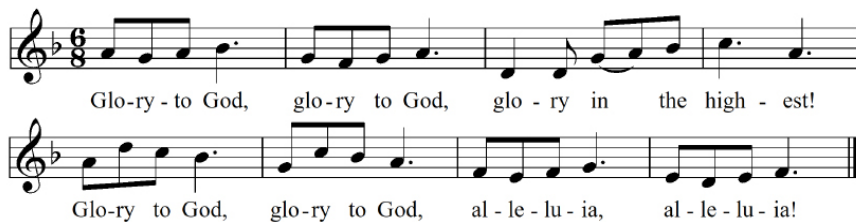
The author of *O God of Earth and Altar* also wrote in the fields of theology, history, and detective stories. The hymn is a plea for government, church, and people to become a united force for good in the world.

This is an excerpt from “A Brief Statement of Faith,” found in the Book of Confessions from PCUSA (1983).

*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

First Lesson

Matthew 6:9-10, page 883

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

11:00 Anthem

Grant Us Your Peace

Felix Mendelssohn

Grant us your peace, O loving Lord, our rock and firm foundation,
our faith is in your excellent Word speaking to every nation
your promise of sure salvation.

Second Lesson

1 Kings 3:5-28, page 302

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

Sermon

“Love the Lord, only...” or “Love the Lord only”

The Rev. Leigh Bonner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn 291

O God of Earth and Altar

LLANGLOFFAN

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,
of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God’s commandments. Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still. In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

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 *Jesus, Still Lead On* Paul Manz

***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 insert** *God, Bless Your Church with Strength!* DIADEMATA

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

You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your pledge through your bank, or donate online using this QR code or at firstpresathens.org/give. Thank you for your generosity.

God, Bless Your Church with Strength! was written in 1984 for the 150th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church, South Bend, IN, by Association Pastor John A. Dalles. The text focuses on the changing world and the church's response to it. Dalles wrote the text with the tune *Diademata* in mind.

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

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.

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.

Children, Pre K – 5th Grade, are invited to Children's Church during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. On most Sunday mornings, Children Church is for our younger elementary aged children Pre K – 1st Grade. However, on the last Sunday of the month ALL elementary aged children are invited! During this morning's Children's Church, the children will learn how they can serve as an Acolyte, Call to Worship Liturgist, and Communion Helper during the worship service. Children's Church will be held downstairs in the Children's Ministry Suite. We will depart for Children's Church following the Passing of the Peace. To pick up your child after the service, please go to the church courtyard entrance of the Children's Ministry Suite.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF, Today

Join us **today**, October 30 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service out on the front porch of the church. Children will be dressed in their church friendly costumes ready to collect donations for UNICEF as well as pass out Halloween treats for all! The United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF) needs our support! Tens of millions of children have been uprooted from their homes due to crisis and conflict. Please help us support UNICEF as they work hard to ensure that children all over the world have access to safe water, medicine, and nutrition as well as access to vaccines. We hope to see you out of the front porch next Sunday to Trick or Treat for UNICEF!

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Leigh Bonner, *Interim Associate Pastor*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Kent Burel, Melinda DeMaria,
Tom Landrum, Alan Merrill

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head), Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Larry Jones (head), Laura Toney

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Owens

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Chuck Toney

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Christ caring for people through people” is the Stephen Ministry motto. Stephen Ministers bring God’s love into the lives of others by listening, caring, supporting, encouraging, and praying with and for a person going through a difficult time.

If you know of someone in need of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders:

Ron Gilreath: rjgilreath@att.net, 770-335-9976

Lisa Oelke: lisakoelke@gmail.com, 706-540-4251

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

FOOD SUNDAY

You may bring donations of **1 lb plain white rice, breakfast cereal (cold, not oatmeal or grits)**, to church **Sunday, November 6**. You may also bring items to the church office until **Friday, November 4**. Thanks for your donations in October, it makes a big difference to our neighbors in need.

Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday is November 13

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 13 or drop them off at the church during normal business hours by **Friday, November 11**. Alternatively, you can send a check for \$50 to the church or donate at firstpresathens.org/give (please select General Fund and add “Thanksgiving bags” in the memo box).

2022 Shopping List (* not in bags delivered prior to November 13)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> Mac & Cheese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken broth | <input type="checkbox"/> Instant potatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French fried onions (that go on top of green bean casserole) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravy (cans or jars) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffing/Dressing mix | <input type="checkbox"/> Cookies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornbread mix | <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh sweet potatoes* |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown and serve rolls* |



Fall Programs 2022

September 18 - November 13

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Chair Yoga with Mel Berzack,
The Sun Room, Tinsley-Stern Building

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. “Dante’s Inferno” with Ron Bogue,
Room 308

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir, Room 202

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall

***6:30 – 7:30 p.m. “This I Believe: A Conversation
About the Apostles’ Creed” with
Dr. Baer,** Moses Waddel Room

***6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir,** Room 202

**Childcare Provided*

Wednesday Night Dinner

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



\$10 adults, \$40 max per family (complimentary for children 5 and under). Please RSVP in the Atrium, online at tinyurl.com/WedAtFirst, using the QR code, or by contacting the church office e-mail frontdesk@firstpresathens.org or call 706-543-4338 by Mondays at 12:00 p.m.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 30 - Reformation Sunday, Trick or Treat for UNICEF

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Leigh Bonner preaching
- 9:45 p.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 203
- 3:30 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 4:00 p.m. New Elder Training, Moses Waddel Room
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group Fire Pit, Ness House

Monday, October 31

- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Room 205

Tuesday, November 1

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 2:00 p.m. Circle 3/4
- 7:00 p.m. Circle 6, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, November 2

- 4:30 p.m. Chair Yoga with Mel Berzack, The Sun Room (Tinsley-Stern Building)
- 4:30 p.m. Dante's Inferno with Ron Bogue, Room 308
- 5:00 p.m. St. Andrews Choir Rehearsal, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Wed@First Supper, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. "This I Believe: A Conversation About the Apostles' Creed", Moses Waddel Room
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, November 3

- 9:10 a.m. Weekday School Chapel, Children's Ministry Suite
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Care Commission Christmas Tea Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Matthew 25 Conversations: Church and Politics?, Zoom (ID: 823 2740 0638)

Sunday, November 6 - All Saints' Sunday, Communion Sunday, Food Sunday, Daylight Savings Ends

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 p.m. Sunday School and Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Atrium Refreshments, Atrium
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, The PIT
- 6:00 p.m. Combined Dinner Youth Group, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group, The PIT

LOOKING AHEAD

November 13 - Stewardship Dedication Sunday, Thanksgiving Food Bag Sunday,
Project Safe Work Day

Matthew 25 Conversations

November 3, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom (ID: 823 2740 0638)

Everyone is invited to join the Matthew 25 Commission on Thursday, November 3 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom (ID: 823 2740 0638) for a conversation about the role of church in politics. We will be joined by Rev. David Lewicki, co-pastor of North Decatur Presbyterian Church and interim chair of Presbyterians for a Better Georgia. PBG is a partnership of PCUSA congregations supporting public policy to serve our most vulnerable neighbors. Before our gathering, please visit their website at www.p4bg.org to learn more.

Project Safe Work Day

Sunday, November 13, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Help tidy the Project Safe Thrift Store in Bells Shopping Center, 995 Hawthorne Ave. #7. The store will be closed to shoppers during our work time. Project Safe works to end domestic violence. Please contact Kitty Donnan at kittydavedonnan@gmail.com to volunteer.

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

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.

Godly Play, 9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

Children's Ministry Suite • Pre-K – 5th Grade

Children are invited to Godly Play during the Sunday School hour. Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children “discover” who God is rather than being “told” who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offer children a safe and nurturing space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

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, and books are available at the children's tables located in the Narthex and on both sides of the choir loft.

Children's Church, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Children, Pre-K – 1st Grade are invited to Children's Church to continue worshipping together by listening to God's Word, singing to God, praying to God and giving to God. On the last Sunday of the month, children, Pre-K–5th Grade are invited to a special Children's Church in the Children's Ministry Suite.

****All children are invited to remain in the sanctuary on the 1st Sunday of the month to take part in worship and Communion with family.***

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

Middle School Coordinator: Erin Osborne

The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

Sunday School (9:45 a.m.)

Middle School class is using a well-loved curriculum called re:form. With funny videos, creative activities, and lots of time to explore big and small questions of faith, this will be a fun, class for all our 6th–8th graders!

High School youth are encouraged to attend the intergenerational Inquirers Class that meets in the Moses Waddel Room. This semester, we are tackling issues of homelessness and how we can work together on the Matthew 25 goal to eradicate systemic poverty. Once a month, high schoolers will also be invited to worship together followed by lunch and a time of reflection.

Youth Group

Sunday night youth group is a fast hour of games, get-to-know you activities, devotionals and discussion. This year our theme is Justice and Joy. Youth will gather in the PIT to talk about their faith and begin to understand their role in doing justice AND bringing joy to a hurting world.

Middle School meets 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

High School meets 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Combined Youth Dinner (6:00 p.m.)

Between MS and HS youth groups, everyone will gather in Fellowship Hall for a shared meal. If you'd like to help provide a meal for our youth, please sign up here: tinyurl.com/FPCYouthDinnerHosts

For more information about youth ministry at FPC, visit www.fpcathenspit.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON

Builders • Room 301

This class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come join for a time of fellowship and support. *Coordinators: Dr. Ryan Baer (ryan@firstpresathens.org), The Rev. Leigh Bonner (lbonner@firstpresathens.org)*

College Connections • Room 302

How does your life intersect with the stories we call Holy Scripture? We will take a deep dive into the writings of the New Testament with the goal of journeying from Matthew to Revelation. Grad and undergrad students are welcome to join at any time. *Coordinator: The Rev. Will Norman (will@pscuga.org)*

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with a focus on Matthew 25: Poverty and Homelessness. *Coordinator: Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org)*

HYBRID (in person and over Zoom)

Del Dunn Sunday School Class • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture – with a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Zoom and in-person.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 875 216 0708, PW: 634175

New Voices • Room 310

Did John Calvin and Martin Luther get it right? How does the concept of “A Priesthood of Believers” guide our Church life? How does it inform our discussion of critical theological theories and lessons? And, how can the Waymaker (who?) guide us through difficult times? *Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)*

Zoom ID: 843 8852 1222, PW: 185185

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jjtscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

Martin Luther, 1529

Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852

Martin Luther, 1529



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth;



For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a -
 The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y



power are great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
 can en - dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 they may kill, God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.



O God of Earth and Altar

291

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6 D

Stanzas 1-2, Gilbert Keith Chesterton, 1906

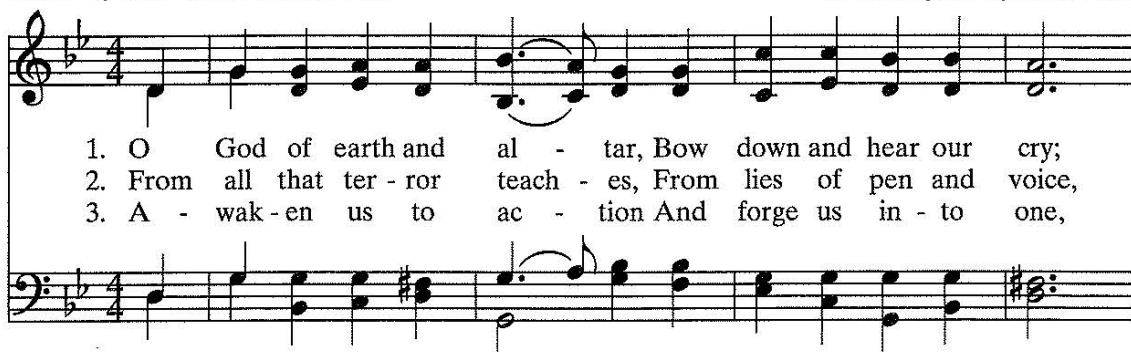
Stanza 2 alt. Jane Parker Huber, 1985

Stanza 3, Jane Parker Huber, 1985

Welsh folk melody

Evans' *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865

As in *English Hymnal*, 1906



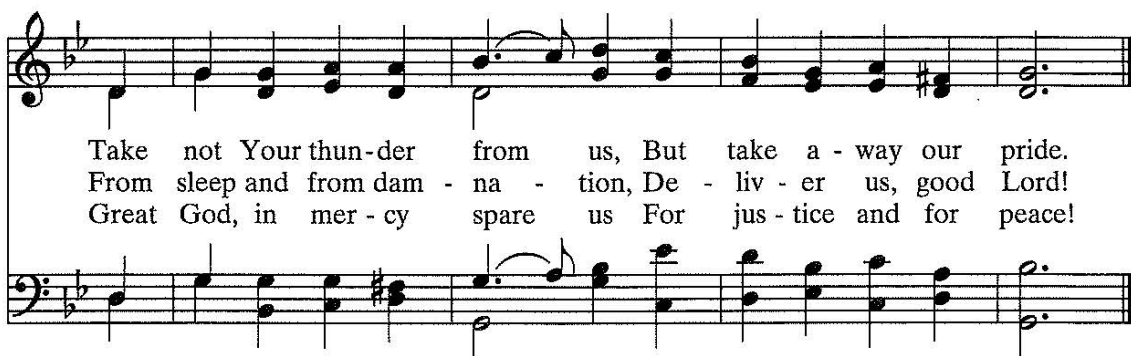
1. O God of earth and al - tar, Bow down and hear our cry;
 2. From all that ter - ror teach - es, From lies of pen and voice,
 3. A - wak - en us to ac - tion And forge us in - to one,



Our earth-ly rul - ers fal - ter, Our peo - ple drift and die;
 From all the eas - y speech - es That make our hearts re - joice,
 De - fy - ing sect and fac - tion; O God, Your will be done!



The walls of gold en - tomb us, The swords of scorn di - vide;
 From sale and pro - fa - na - tion Of hon - or and the sword,
 Op - pres - sive sys - tems snare us; Our ap - a - thies in - crease.



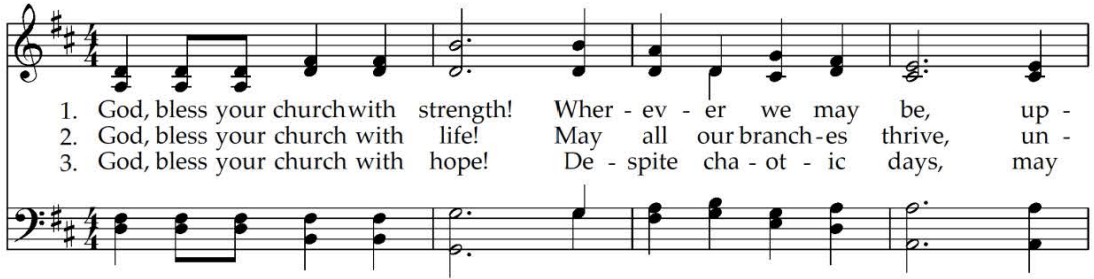
Take not Your thun - der from us, But take a - way our pride.
 From sleep and from dam - na - tion, De - liv - er us, good Lord!
 Great God, in mer - cy spare us For jus - tice and for peace!

God, Bless Your Church with Strength!


DIADEMATA

John A. Dallas, 1984


George Job Elvey, 1868



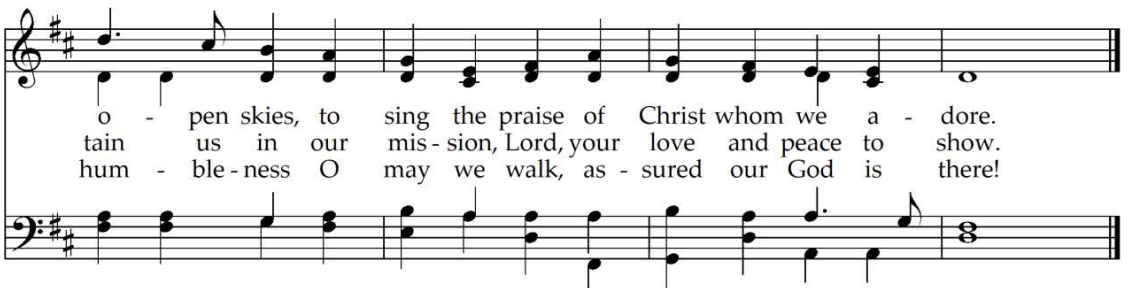
1. God, bless your church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may be, up -
2. God, bless your church with life! May all our branch-es thrive, un -
3. God, bless your church with hope! De - spite cha - ot - ic days, may



build your ser - vants as we work in com - mon min - is - try. Urge
blem - ished, whole - some, bear - ing fruit, a - bun - dant - ly a - live. From
we in cha - os shine to light a path - way through life's maze. May



us from fledg - ling faith to ven - ture and to soar through
you, one ho - ly vine, in free - dom may we grow; sus -
just - tice be our aim, and kind - ness ours to share, in



o - pen skies, to sing the praise of Christ whom we a - dore.
tain us in our mis - sion, Lord, your love and peace to show.
hum - ble - ness O may we walk, as - sured our God is there!