



# First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 26, 2025 • 10:30 Worship



# Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or have grown up here at FPC, we are glad you are worshipping here this morning!

## The Gathering

*\*indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

### Prelude

*Andante con moto* from Sonata No. 6

Felix Mendelssohn

### Welcome & Announcements

### Ringing of the Bell

### Choral Introit

*Lead Me, Lord*

Samuel Wesley

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face.  
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.

### \*Call to Worship

One: God called Abel, Enoch, and Noah to persevere in their faith.

**All: God called Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah,  
Jacob and Rachel to persevere.**

One: God told Moses to “fear not” and set God’s people free.

**All: God called Deborah, Gideon, Barak, Samson, David,  
and all the prophets to care for God’s people.**

One: God told the wise ones to follow the star and seek the child.

**All: The wise ones persevered against King Herod  
to pay homage to the newborn King.**

One: And now God calls us to run with perseverance the race before us.

**All: We look to Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.**

One: Let us persist in faith. Let us worship God together.

### \*Hymn No. 684

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

LUX PRIMA

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

**Holy One, like the wise ones we are on a journey to find you; however, sometimes we are like King Herod. We want knowledge, power, and the ability to decide for ourselves what our future should be. We forget our limitations and believe we can control those around us and control with whom you share your light and your love. Forgive us for our egos and forgive us for finding it hard to live with uncertainty. Remind us that you are our certain mercy and compassion. Show us that, with you, our journeys will always lead us to encountering you in mysterious and exciting ways.**

## **\*Kyrie Eleison**

*Lord, Have Mercy*



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, Have mer-cy up-on us.

## **\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

### **\*The Welcome and Peace**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

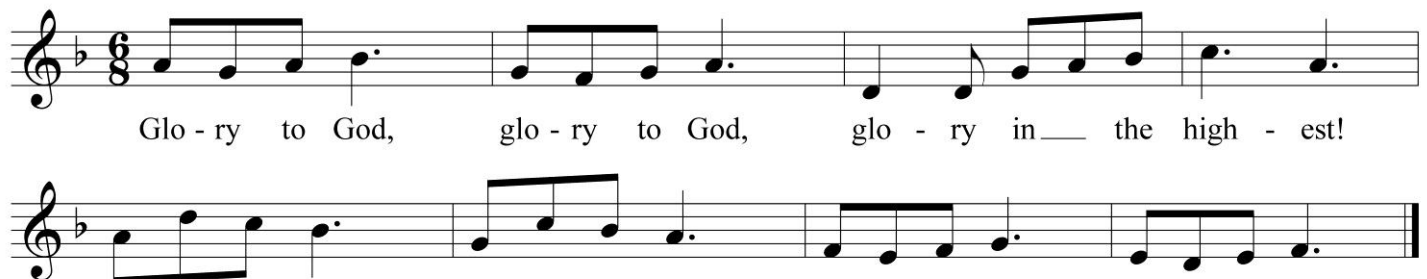
**All: And also with you.**

*The congregation greets one another with words and signs of peace.*

## **\*Gloria Patri No. 581**

*Glory be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in\_\_\_ the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

# The Word

## Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 90 from *Psalms for Praying*

Amy Jenal

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

*Prayer of Saint Patrick*

Bernard Sexton

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.  
Christ be with me.

## New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 12:1-2 (N.T., p. 226)

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

*Do Not Fear: Persevere*

Miriam Lawrence Leupold

# Our Response

## Time of Commitment

### \*Hymn No 687 (verses 1-4)

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*  
(Psalm 90)

ST. ANNE

## Prayers of the People

Harriet Seeley

*There is a "Prayers of the People" book on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We encourage the congregation to write their concerns and thanksgivings in the book before the service so they can be included in the Prayers of the People. Several petitions are offered, each concluding with: O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

## **Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts**

*Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at <https://firstpresalbany.org/give/> or scan the QR code.*



## **Offertory**

*Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*

arr. Alice Parker

Hark I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore.  
As I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah praise the Lamb.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, glory to the great I Am.

And my soul, though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,  
passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah praise the Lamb.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, glory to the great I Am.

Souls have crossed before me saintly to that land of perfect rest,  
and I hear them singing faintly in the mansions of the blest.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah praise the Lamb.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, glory to the great I Am.

## **\*Doxology (sung in unison)**

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

# **The Eucharist (Thanksgiving)**

## **Invitation to the Lord's Supper**

*All those, including children, who seek the way of Christ and desire fellowship in the church are invited to the Lord's Table to share in our common meal of Thanksgiving.*

## **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(prayer continues )*

One: And now with the confidence of the children of God, we are bold to pray:

**All: 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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People**

*The congregation is served at the front of the sanctuary, coming forward by the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. Communion is by intinction – take a piece of bread from the loaf or a piece of pita from the plate, dip it into the cup of juice, and eat. When served, you may respond by saying “Amen,” “Thanks be to God,” or another response. You may choose a sealed prepackaged communion element from one of the baskets – the ones with “GF” are gluten-free. If you prefer to receive communion in the pew, you may remain in your seat and signal an usher. Servers will bring you the elements.*

## **Communion Music**

*Dedication Prayer (Bist du bei mir)*

*J. S. Bach*

*Fiona McKinney, alto*

Come, come my voice, songs to God raising. His tenderness shalt thee rejoice.

Come, come my mind, God’s wisdom praising All earthly good in him shalt find

Come, come my eyes, God’s light receiving The road before thee clearly lies

Come, O my soul, in God believing. His blood shalt cleanse and make thee whole.

Come all my powers glad now perceiving God’s mighty strength above thee towers.

## Prayer after Communion

**We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son who is the true bread of heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

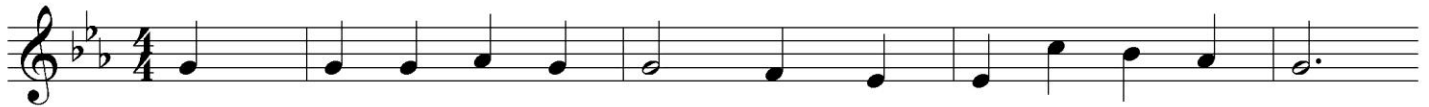
## The Sending

### \*Hymn

*We Look to You, O Jesus*

LANCASHIRE

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette



1. We look to you, O Je - sus, in faith, our Pi - o - neer,  
2. Through times of strife and an - guish, through times of joy and grace,  
3. Per - fec - ter of the faith, Lord, we look to you each day;



for you have gone be - fore us and brought your peo - ple here.  
through con - flicts with our cul - ture, you've brought us to this place;  
We work for peace and jus - tice, we wor - ship, learn and pray,



You showed us all God's king - dom, you gave us work to do;  
And still your world is chang - ing, and still we seek to be  
and wit - ness - es sur - round us, a host of saints a - bove,



in death you went be - fore us; for life, we turn to you.  
a church re - formed, re - form - ing in faith - ful min - is - try.  
As we con - tin - ue shar - ing the joy of your great love.

### \*Charge and Blessing

**\*Response by the People (in unison) Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

**\*Responsive Hymn No. 76**

*Do Not Be Afraid*

ISAIAH 43

Do not be a - fraid, for I am with you. Cho-sen and be - loved, you are my  
own. Do not be a - fraid, for I have re - deemed you:  
by your name I called you for my own.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Do Not Be Afraid'. It consists of three staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The music is simple and melodic, with a focus on the lyrics.

**Postlude**

*Allegro maestoso e vivace* from Sonata No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn

*Please be seated for the annual meeting.  
Come to Assembly Hall for Fellowship Time after the meeting.*

*For your convenience and as an aid to your worship experience, large print hymnals and  
Bibles are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

The music is reprinted under CCLI License #2853455 and OneLicense #A-716938.

**Serving you on Sunday, January 26**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Sue Haney, Lee Helsby, Harriet Seeley, Alison  
Stonbely

Online Worship Assistant: Fadia Ghobrial

Scripture Reader: Amy Jenal

Prayer Reader: Harriet Seeley

Communion Servers: Annette Johnson & Lillie McLaughlin

Offering Counters: Carol Green & John Myers

**Serving you on Sunday, February 9**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Kathie Keck, Amy Robinson

Online Worship Assistant: Mary Rogers

Scripture Reader: Dwight Cheu

Prayer Reader: Peg Schalit

Communion Servers: Sarah Lansaw & Ellen Eisenbraun

Offering Counters: Leslie Cheu & Marc Boucher



## **All are Welcome in this Place!**

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



### **First Presbyterian Church**

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

**We welcome children to our worship services.** Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Nursery care is available from 8:45am to 12:15pm and is staffed by experienced childcare providers Morgan Odom and Mary Margaret Cabuhat.

**Parking is available on Sunday mornings** in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

**We continue to livestream our Sunday worship services exclusively on YouTube.**

### **Christian Education on Sunday mornings**

9:15-10:15 Education Classes in the Education Building

*Godly Play* in the Preschool Class on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (age 3 thru kindergarten)

*Godly Play* in The Upper Rooms on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education in the Rose Room

## Announcements

**Next Sunday** is the **FOCUS winter worship service at 10:00am** at Emmanuel Baptist Church on State Street. There is no worship or education hour here at First. Pres.

**The Session has called the congregation to meet today, January 26**, following the 10:30 am worship service for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Presbyterian Church for the purpose of 1) hearing annual reports of Session, Board of Deacons, and other recognized groups of the church, 2) receiving the financial report of the year ending December 31, 2024, for information, 3) receiving 2025 budget for information, and 4) voting on changes in terms of call of co-pastors. This meeting will be held in the Sanctuary and online via MSTEams.

Glenn and Miriam Lawrence Leupold,  
Moderators of Session  
Marian Eaton, Clerk of Session

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. FPC's February donation is shampoo. All items must be new and unopened. The **FOCUS Food Pantry** is

also requesting one-pound bags of rice. Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

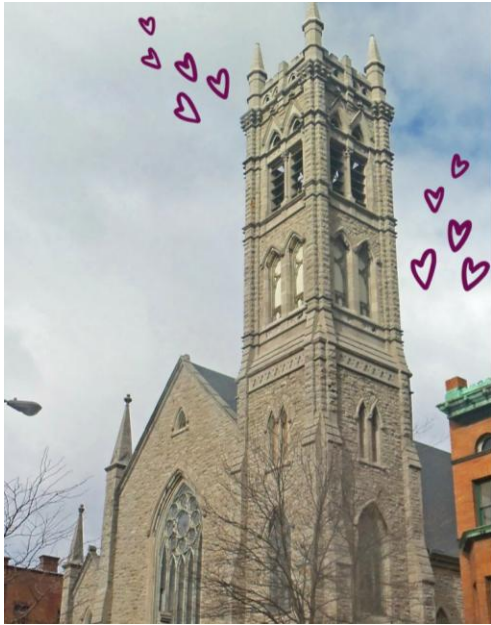
**Offering Envelopes** are available in the Assembly Hall if you are interested in having them for 2025. These are not dated or numbered and can be used at any time. They are in groups of 12. Please take as many as you need.



Aging With Pride  
Monthly Potluck  
**Sunday, February 2,**

**1:00pm - 3:00pm** First Pres Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for LGBTQ+ seniors to come together in a welcoming, supportive environment to share food, stories, and laughter.

The **paraments** (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the **pastors' stoles** (the cloth around their necks) are green, because that is the liturgical color for Ordinary Time (January 13 through March 4). Green is a sign of life in nature and as such it represents growth, life and hope. Most of the Church's year is Ordinary Time.



**Combined Winter Worship  
Sunday, February 2nd**

**Emmanuel Baptist Church  
275 State St, Albany  
10:00 am**

*Join us in-person or online*

Learn more: [www.focuschurches.net](http://www.focuschurches.net)

***Directions & Online Worship Details:*** <https://www.emmanuelalbany.net/>

*FOCUS Churches is six covenant churches, united in a common calling to respond to our neighbor's needs in the city of Albany and beyond. Join us as we come together in a single worship service.*

***Welcome to our new Executive Director, Keith Leahey***

*We look forward to gathering with everyone in February for our Combined Winter Worship. This year is especially exciting as we welcome Keith Leahey, our new Executive Director.*

***Worship with Communion—for those worshipping online:***

*Please gather your own communion elements prior to the service—any kind of bread and any kind of drink in any kind of cup.*

***Prepare for cooler temperatures:***

*The Emmanuel Baptist building runs on the cool side so we encourage you to dress warmly.*

***Parking:***

*Parking is available directly behind Emmanuel which can be accessed by driving through the alley next to Accuprint on Washington Avenue.*

***Mobility challenges:***

*People with limited mobility are encouraged to use the small lot on the east side of the Emmanuel building, entering from State Street. Street parking is available on State Street and Washington Avenue. If parking on Washington Avenue, walk through the Accuprint alley and enter through the church's back door.*

*Limited parking is also available across the street at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut St, Albany.*

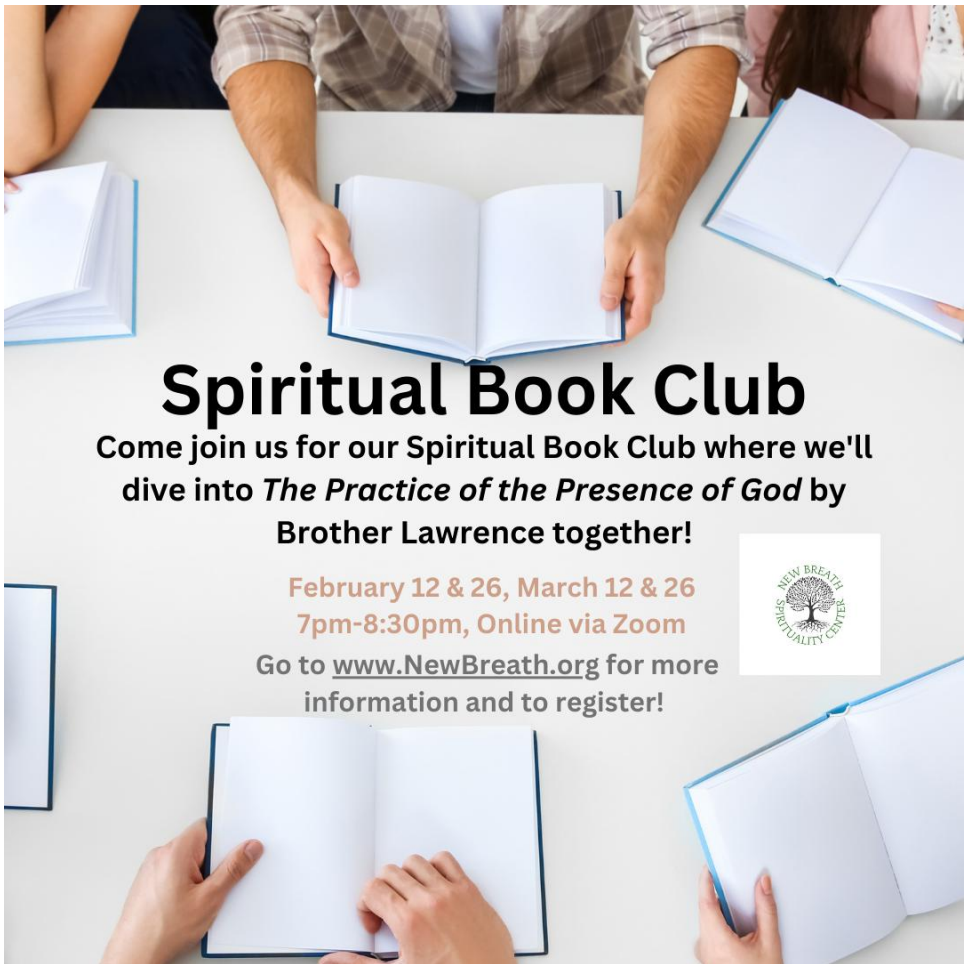


# Grace & Graze

Join us for prayer (grace) and snacks (graze)! We will try some prayer practices together, and spend some time in conversation. Did we mention snacks??

The 4th Tuesday of every month from  
7:00-8:30pm

First Presbyterian Church of Albany  
(362 State St.)




# Spiritual Book Club

Come join us for our Spiritual Book Club where we'll dive into *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence together!

February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26  
7pm-8:30pm, Online via Zoom

Go to [www.NewBreath.org](http://www.NewBreath.org) for more information and to register!





# Spring Retreat 2025

## “Loved by God”

Spend some time away with God and with others!  
We will be on retreat for the weekend, staying in  
the Chi Rho House at Camp Fowler in the beautiful  
Adirondack Mountains.

Friday, March 28th 5pm -  
Sunday, March 30th 11am

Go to [www.NewBreath.org](http://www.NewBreath.org) for more  
information and to register!



## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

**Sunday, 1/26** 11:45am Annual Meeting followed by Fellowship Time

Monday, 1/27 7:00pm Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, 1/28 6:30pm FOCUS Board Meeting  
7:00pm Grace and Graze

Thursday, 1/30 8:00am Men's Bible Study  
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **Next Sunday, 2/02**

10:00am FOCUS Winter Worship (at Emmanuel Baptist )  
1:00pm Aging with Pride Monthly Potluck

### **Sunday, 2/09**

9:15am Adult Education

9:15am Children's Education (1st through 5th grade)

9:15am Preschool Education

9:15am Youth Education

9:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on  
Facebook

11:45am Fellowship Time

## **Elders currently serving on Session**

Mirabelle Beck – Stewardship Committee Chair

Marian Eaton – Clerk of Session

Ellen Eisenbraun – Christian Education Committee Chair

Debbie Fagans – Anti-Racism Committee Chair

Kevin Fuscus – Property Committee Chair

Lori Hylton – Outreach and Mission Committee Chair

Annette Johnson – Nominating Committee Chair

Sarah Lansaw – Administration Committee Chair

Kelsey Mayo – Membership Committee Chair

Lillie McLaughlin – Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee Chair

Amy Robinson – Finance Committee Chair

Roseline Takor – Worship Committee Chair

## **Deacons currently serving on the Board of Deacons**

Susan Haney – Moderator

Heidi Iyok – Hospitality Team

Kathie Keck – Hospitality Team

Ellen Kemp – Flower Team

Steve King – Care Team

Alison Stonbely – Care Team



**First Presbyterian**  
Church of Albany

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[firstpresalbany.org](http://firstpresalbany.org)

*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music  
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell, Youth Director • Steven Minchin, Office Administrator*



# Faith Begins by Letting Go 684

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what  
 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ory's  
 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en -

had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,  
 roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;  
 larg - ing hearts, shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer,

though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both  
 prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it  
 bind - ing up the bro - ken parts; till we find the

right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
 we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
 com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

This text affirms that faith is not a state of being but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world. The movement from one stage of faith to another is suggested by gestures of the hand: letting go, holding on, reaching out.

## 687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our  
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are

hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the  
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine  
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing  
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
 bears all our years away;  
 they fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,  
 be thou our guard while life shall last,  
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

