

The background features a stylized design with three fish in grey outlines. Two fish are in the upper left, and one is in the lower right. They are connected by thick red lines that form a partial frame. There are also two solid red circles, one in the top left and one in the bottom right.

ATHENS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE 3, 2018
8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.

Welcome

We are glad you are here! Thank you for joining us for worship this Sunday. Members of this congregation have been gathering here to worship since 1804. Over the past two centuries our congregation has changed, but our mission remains the same: to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are inspired by the words of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who encouraged believers to "do all the good you can, in all the ways you can."

Attendance

Please let us know of your attendance this morning by completing the pew pad.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday school for children age 2 through adult each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Children

At Athens First United Methodist Church, we invite families to worship together. Children's Church is held for children in kindergarten through grade 2 most Sundays during the 11:00 a.m. service.

Financial Report

Budget for 2018 | \$3,231,864

Amount Given YTD | \$1,257,185

Goal for May | \$236,827

Amount after 3 Sundays | \$171,620

Attendance on May 27

Total Worship | 617

8:30 a.m. | 111

9:45 a.m. | 208

11:00 a.m. | 215

Online | 82

Sunday School | 164

Contact Us

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Facebook: @Athens First United Methodist Church
athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

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Ministers

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rusty@athensfirstumc.org

The Worship of God

8:30 a.m.

GATHERING SONG

“His Eye is on the Sparrow” | Civilla D. Martin

**I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

Flowers

The flowers on the
altar are given to the
glory of God and in
celebration of the
marriage of Erin
McCollum and Mason
Towe by Amy and
John McCollum.

INVOCATION

Betsy Butler

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 126 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” | MIT FREUDEN ZART

*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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 71 “Glory Be to the Father”

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Katie Elder

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Susan Taylor

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who**

trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem Lyrics

Oh my, I didn't know
what it means to believe.
But if I hold on tight, is
it true? Would You take
care of all that I do? Oh
Lord, I'm getting ready to
believe. Oh my, I didn't
know how hard it would
be. But if I hold on tight, is
it true? Would You take
care of all that I do? Oh
Lord, I'm getting ready
to believe. Then we'll be
waving hands singing
freely. Singing standing
tall is now coming easy.
No more looking down,
can't you see? Oh Lord,
I'm getting ready to
believe.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"I'm Getting Ready" | Michael Kiwanuka

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" | THE OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20 | p. 179

SERMON

"Choose Life" | Bob Winstead

HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH 430 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" | MARYTON

Verse 1

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Here and now, God's Spirit is at work. The Spirit nurtures us around this table made for sharing. Through our communion with Christ and with one another, we are being made new. Let us pray.

God of new beginnings, because you come among us to make us whole, we approach your table with delight and expectation: glad to be comforted, ready to be challenged, knowing your generous love for all. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Creator God, like a still, small voice you have made your presence felt to prophets and healers, to a people in exile, to those gathered together on the day of Pentecost. In the life of Jesus your healing touch was felt and all were

made welcome. Undeterred by death, you revived those who looked for you, and offered the gift of your Spirit as your eternal, supporting presence.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

We celebrate these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ. As we remember Christ's offering for us through this Holy Sacrament, we live out the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Loving God, who in Jesus Christ gives us our salvation, consecrate by your Holy Spirit these elements of Holy Communion. Bless us as we receive them this day that we may be your faithful people. In our Risen Savior's name we pray.

Amen.

Receiving of the Elements

At Athens First United Methodist Church, all are invited to commune at Christ's table. If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher. Gluten-free elements are available at the center station in the front of the sanctuary.

Song Lyrics

God is my shepherd. I
won't be wanting. He
makes me rest in fields
of green with quiet
streams. Even though I
walk through the valley
of death and dying, I will
not fear 'cause you are
with me. Your shepherd's
staff comforts me. You
are my feast in the
presence of enemies.
Surely goodness will
follow me in the house
of God, forever.

Music During Holy Communion

"The House of God, Forever" | Jon Foreman

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

UMH 733 "Marching to Zion" | MARCHING TO ZION

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

"Recessional in C" | Hopson

The Worship of God

9:45 &
11:00 a.m.

Gathering

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Erin McCollum and Mason Towe by Amy and John McCollum.

THE PRELUDE

“Jesus Shall Reign” | Held

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Sung by the Sanctuary Choir

Praise & Thanksgiving

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

UMH 89 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” | HYMN TO JOY

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The Apostles' Creed

9:45 a.m. | Betsy Butler

11:00 a.m. | Josh Miles

**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 Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at 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 Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 71 “Glory Be to the Father”

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Martha Aenchbacher

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Proclamation of the Word

Anthem Lyrics

Here, O my Lord, I see
thee face to face; here
would I touch and handle
things unseen; here
grasp with firmer hand
eternal grace, and all my
weariness upon thee
lean. This is the hour of
banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table
spread for me; here let
me feast, and feasting
still prolong the hallowed
hour of fellowship with
thee. Here would I feed
upon the bread of God,
here drink with thee the
royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside
each earthly load, here
taste afresh the calm of
sin forgiven Too soon
we rise; the symbols
disappear; the feast,
though not the love, is
past and gone. The
bread and wine remove,
but thou art here, nearer
than ever, still my shield
and sun.

THE OFFERING AND THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Face to Face” | Mark Burrows

***THE DOXOLOGY**

UMH 94 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts; praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20 | p. 179

THE SERMON

“Choose Life” | Bob Winstead

Response to the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

When we gather to praise God and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to the will of God. Accepting God's power to become new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Spirit of the Living God, all nations, tribes, and tongues belong to you. All glory, honor, and praise are due your name. Therefore, we confess that we have been a divided people—mother from child, brother from sister, and neighbor from friend. Have mercy on us and send your power upon the church that we may know, once more, that you have baptized us in one baptism, one faith, one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Tear down the walls of hatred and the towers of sin in our lives. May your Spirit descend upon our lives and make us holy and one. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers, anointing them to speak your Word. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation sings:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him and declared him your beloved

Son. With your Spirit upon him he turned away the temptations of sin. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, as on the Day of Pentecost.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may be your light in the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that we may be filled with your glory and grace. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forevermore.

Congregation sings:

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Invitation

This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but

because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table then, sisters and brothers, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join in God's Kingdom.

The Receiving of the Bread and Wine

At Athens First United Methodist Church, all are invited to commune at Christ's table. If you need to be served in your pew, please call this to the attention of an usher. Gluten-free elements are available at the center station in the front of the sanctuary.

Song Lyric Translation

Where charity and love
are, God is there. Christ's
love has gathered us into
one. Let us rejoice and
be pleased in Him. Let us
fear, and let us love the
living God. And may we
love each other with a
sincere heart.

The Music During Communion

"Ubi Caritas" | Durufle

Sung by the Chamber Ensemble

The Prayer after Receiving

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*THE HYMN

TFWS 2149 "Living for Jesus" | LIVING FOR JESUS

Sending Forth

*THE BLESSING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"We Receive Your Blessing"

We receive your blessing, we receive your grace as we walk in the light shining from your face. May the peace that you give change the way that we live. We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

* THE POSTLUDE

"Recessional in C" | Hopson

The background of the flyer is a vibrant yellow-orange gradient. On the left side, there is a stylized illustration of a tree with dark brown branches and a large, light-colored volleyball with orange and grey panels. The tree's shadow is cast onto the volleyball and the background. The text is positioned on the right side of the flyer.

Girls Volleyball Camp

Grades 5–12

**June 12–14 & June 19–21
6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.**

Volleyball camp is a great opportunity for girls in grades 5-12 to learn and strengthen skills while also growing in Christ. We will work on fundamental skills while being led by current and former college-level volleyball players.

Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org

athensfirstumc.org/recreationcamps

In Memoriam

Frances Armstrong
May 25, 2018

Sympathy

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Brett Ganas in the loss of his sister, Kristin Ganas, on May 19.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Frances Armstrong, who passed away May 25.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Lauren and Josh Goodman on the birth of their son, Brooks Cleveland, on May 19!

Congratulations to Katherine and Mike Hodges on the birth of their daughter, Mary Lauren, on May 23!



Special Offering | Today

Today we will take up the Annual Conference Special Offering. Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson has named the Ministerial Education Fund as the 2018 Annual Conference Special Offering. The Ministerial Education Fund has helped thousands of men and women become pastoral leaders in the United Methodist Church. It is nurtured and funded by United Methodists to provide scholarships to seminary and undergraduate students, course-of-study for local pastors, and license to preach school. Please make checks payable to AFUMC and indicate "Ministerial Education Fund" or "MEF" in the memo line. Thank you for your gift!



Summer FUNday School | June & July

Get ready for some FUN during Sunday school in June and July as we merge kids in kindergarten through grade 12! Our older students may elect to serve in leadership positions each Sunday while the younger children will have the opportunity to learn by seeing how the big kids do it! Mornings will include praise and worship, large and small groups, and games. After checking in on KidCheck, drop-off will be in the youth room at 9:45 a.m., and kids can be picked up from the youth room at 10:45 a.m.

Robin Stewart | robin@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Laney Jones | laney@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

GriefShare

Join us Tuesday, June 5, as we discuss how long the journey of grief typically lasts. GriefShare meets Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in room 100. Please register online so that we will have materials prepared for you. The cost is \$20. You may pay online or in person.

Learn more | athensfirstumc.org/griefshare

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org

Newcomer Orientation

Everyone is invited to attend Newcomer Orientation the second Sunday of each month. Join us on June 10 in the Hospitality Room (on the Adult Sunday School hallway) at 9:45 a.m. You can learn more about Athens First United Methodist, including ways to get involved and how to become a member.

Martha Aenchbacher | martha@athensfirstumc.org

Recreation Summer Camps

We are excited to offer a variety of camp programs this summer through our recreation department: three sessions of Junior Jam Basketball Camp, and two sessions of Volleyball Camp. Register online for your children to attend these camps, as spots will fill quickly!

Register | athensfirstumc.org/recreationcamps

Rusty Wood | rusty@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

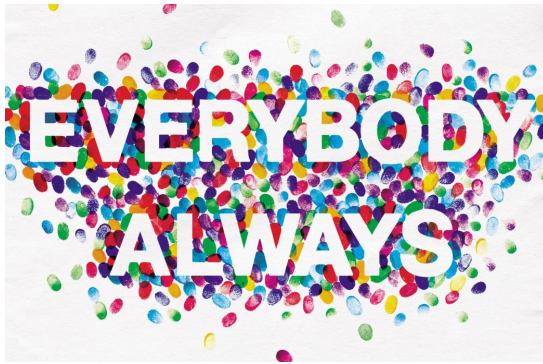
Smart Lunch, Smart Kids

Join us this summer as our church partners with Action Ministries on Wednesdays, starting June 13, to serve lunch in two nearby neighborhoods. This summer program serves kids who normally receive free lunch during the school year. Volunteers from our church will go and meet the children and families on the playground of each neighborhood. While there, we invite children to participate in educational games/activities and sit with them while they enjoy their lunch. It is a wonderful way to share God's love with the children in our community.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/missions

Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Sarah Beth Barger | sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org



Connect Group | Young Adult

Join the Young Adult Connect Group for a new summer Bible study, *Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People*. In this five-lesson study, best-selling author Bob Goff shares stories from his life that have helped him understand what it truly means to love everybody the way Jesus loved them; without fear, insecurity, or restriction. The group will meet on Thursday

evenings in room 222 from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., beginning June 21. For more information, contact Laney Jones. Please register online.

Register | athensfirstumc.org/registration

Laney Jones | laney@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Summer Worship | July

This July we will offer three worship services at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m. led by our clergy with hymn-singing and music from The Early Service Band and friends. Please note that each Sunday in July will be in Hancock Hall as we refresh the sanctuary with new paint.



Consignment Sale | Donations

As summer begins, consider donating your gently used children's items to the sale: baby equipment (car seats and cribs excluded), children's clothing (all seasons), school uniforms, toys, and books. All proceeds from this year's sale will go to support Foster Care Ministry in Athens and surrounding communities. Please contact Betsy or Sarah Beth if you would like to bring your donated items to the church during office hours or on the weekend!

Betsy Butler | betsy@athensfirstumc.org | 706-543-1442

Sarah Beth Barger | sarahbeth@athensfirstumc.org

Wesley Heritage Tour

Another Wesley Heritage Tour is forming to travel to visit John Wesley sites in England for May 24-June 4, 2019. The tour will include a 6-8 week Bible study before the trip, and a 10-night tour with stops in London, Bristol, Lincoln, Epworth, and Oxford. We will worship at Wesley's Chapel in London on Aldersgate Sunday, visit his birthplace, visit the New Room in Bristol (the oldest Methodist building in the world), and see the spot where Wesley had his Aldersgate conversion. For more information, including itinerary and pricing, contact Stephen Mitchell at the church.

Stephen Mitchell
smitchell@athensfirstumc.org
706-543-1442



This Week

SUNDAY, JUNE 3 | PSALM 139:13-18

- 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
- 9:00 a.m. **Fun Gym** GYM
- 9:45 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Adult Sunday School SECOND FLOOR AND SAYE BUILDING
Preschool Nursery & Sunday School FIRST FLOOR
Youth Sunday School: First Word YOUTH AREA
Grade 5 & 6 Sunday School: Fuel ROOM 120
- 10:00 a.m. **Sack Lunch Ministry** HULL STREET ENTRANCE
- 11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** SANCTUARY
Preschool Nursery FIRST FLOOR
- 4:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
Carillon Ringers ROOM 150
- 6:00 p.m. **VBS Youth Volunteer Training** YOUTH AREA

MONDAY, JUNE 4 | MARK 3:20-30

- 9:00 a.m. **Vacation Bible School** HANCOCK HALL
- 12:00 p.m. **VBS Extended Day Camp** GYM

TUESDAY, JUNE 5 | MARK 3:31-35

- 9:00 a.m. **Vacation Bible School** HANCOCK HALL
- 10:30 a.m. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** PANERA BREAD
- 12:00 p.m. **VBS Extended Day Camp** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120
- 6:00 p.m. **GriefShare** ROOM 100
- 7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts Troop 1** SCOUT HUT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6 | I SAMUEL 8:4-17

- 9:00 a.m. **Vacation Bible School** HANCOCK HALL
- 12:00 p.m. **VBS Extended Day Camp** GYM
- 5:30 p.m. **66 Love Letters** JOHN WESLEY PARLOR
- 6:30 p.m. **Connect & Grow Group** ROOM 224

THURSDAY, JUNE 7 | I SAMUEL 8:18-20

- 9:00 a.m. **Vacation Bible School** HANCOCK HALL
- 10:00 a.m. **Our Daily Bread** FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
- 12:00 p.m. **VBS Extended Day Camp** GYM
- 5:00 p.m. **Vacation Bible School Family Meal & Celebration** HANCOCK HALL
- 5:30 p.m. **Fashion Fitness** ROOM 120

FRIDAY, JUNE 8 | PSALM 138:1-5

SATURDAY, JUNE 9 | PSALM 138:6-8

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