

Let All We Do and Say Give Breath

*for First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia
upon its 200th anniversary*

Let all we do and say give breath
to what our forebears knew:
the living Christ who conquered death
is making all things new!
Through worship, Lord, and sacrament,
our founders grew in grace.
They searched your word for your intent
and found there Christ's embrace.

Their children's children year by year
passed on what they were taught.
The faith in you that they held dear
now shapes our life and thought.
We ask your help to speak and act
as they did in their day,
so how we live may then attract
disciples to your way.

We pray our witness may inspire
hearts lost in deep despair
to trust your Spirit's wind and fire
that blow and burn through prayer.
We pray our worship and our song
extend the range of sight
of seeking hearts that yearn and long
for beauty, goodness, light.

We pray to nurture those who strain
beneath the weight of grief,
who stand and stagger to regain
their hope and their belief.
We pray to feed with Christ's own bread
the hunger of the soul,
a hunger that is never fed
by status, wealth or role.

We pray to serve this wounded earth,
and as you, Lord, intend,
to live the visions of rebirth
that reconcile and mend.
We pray our work will also serve
those born in future days,
and we and they shall never swerve
from your unending praise.