



## First Presbyterian Church of Watertown

January 21, 2024

The Third Sunday After Epiphany

*“Transfiguration,” a modern icon by Kelly Lattimore, depicts that pinnacle moment in Jesus’ life that began the long, painful journey to the cross. At Jesus’ feet are Peter, James, and John. Could James and John have ever imagined where their love for the Lord would take them?*

### Gathering Music

**+Gathering+**

### Pastor’s Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

**Prelude**     *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne and Earthly Crown*

arr. Mary McDonald

**\*Call to Worship** *from Psalm 62*

For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation.

**He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.**

Once God has spoken;  
twice have I heard this:  
**that power belongs to God,  
and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.**

**For you repay to all  
according to their work.**

**Let us worship together!**

**\*Opening Hymn #292 “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”**

**\*Prayer of The Day**

**Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

The psalmist reminds us that God is pure, steadfast love. In love, God beckons us to draw close with our prayers and confessions, ready to hear and forgive. With the confidence of the children of God, let us confess the ways we have sinned against God and one another.

**Forgiving God, we repent of all the ways we turn from you: in passing judgment on others, by ignoring the needs of our neighbors, in imagining that ‘someone else’ will take care of the many issues that touch our lives. We confess that it is simply easier at times to turn a blind eye than it is to boldly confront sin and evil with your great love.**

**Forgive us. Have mercy upon us and show us a new way. Strengthen our hearts and our bodies that we might once again take up the cross of Jesus Christ and follow him.**

The musical notation is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a repeat sign followed by the melody for the first line of lyrics: "The Lord is my light, my Light and sal - va - tion: in". The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics: "God I trust, in God I trust. The". A fermata is placed over the final note of the second staff, with the word "fine" written above it. A small number "3" is written to the left of the second staff, indicating a triplet of notes.

And together we say: **Amen.**

This is the plain Word of God:  
in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
Live in the newness of life today and always!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Response**            *Gloria Patri*

**A Time With Young Disciples**

**+We Listen for God+**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Anthem***I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

John Carter

I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.

Tho' none go with me, I still will follow,  
Tho' none go with me I still will follow,  
Tho' none go with me, I still will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!  
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.  
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,  
By His own hand He leadeth me;  
His faithful foll'wer I would be,  
For by His hand He leadeth me.

The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
No turning back, no turning back.

**The First Scripture Lesson**    Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

## **The Second Scripture Lesson Mark 1:14-20**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

This is the Word of The Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Sermon**      *And they left their father...*

**\*Hymn**      “You Walk along Our Shoreline”      *(insert)*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**      *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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **We Respond To God**

#### **Community Connect**

*At this time in worship we share information on how you can connect even better with the community at FPC Watertown. During this time we also share our joys and concerns, as well as any other relevant information to our life together.*

**Song of Offering**                    *from "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"*

**Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days -  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my silver and my gold -not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose,  
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it Thine -it shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart - it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**Musical Offering**                    *In the Garden*

C. Austin Miles, arr. Kenneth Baird  
Michele Bariteau, flute

**The Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

God of new visions,  
we pray for people in high places of power,  
that they may focus their eyes on you.  
And we pray for the lowly victims of power,  
that they may also focus their eyes on you.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who bless with their lips  
but curse with their mouths,  
including ourselves.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill  
and those facing the end of life.  
Give them the gift of prayer,

that they may pour out their hearts to you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church and its leaders,  
that we may hear and respond to your call  
to be fishers of people.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rock of our salvation,  
through Christ and your Holy Spirit  
bring us into the new world that you are shaping  
even as this world is passing away.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us now as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

**\*Closing Hymn** #101 “All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

**\*Blessing and Benediction**

**\*Passing The Peace of Christ**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Please safely share some sign of  
Christ’s peace with your neighbors.

**Postlude**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Genevan Psalter, arr. Fred Bock

Leading Worship Today:

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long, preaching  
Marcia Kettrick, liturgist  
Sara Gleason, Director of Music  
Carl Bingle, organist  
Michele Bariteau, flute  
The FPC Chancel Choir

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Dear friends in Christ,

First Presbyterian Church experienced tremendous spiritual growth, faithful discipleship, and plenty of joy and laughter in 2023. We are blessed with vibrant and meaningful worship services, dedicated teams of volunteers who oversee ministries from fellowship to digital media, and a reputation in the community for generous outreach and hospitality. It is a great honor for me to walk with you as we serve God together!

2024 will be a year of great challenge and opportunity for First Presbyterian Church. We hope to maintain our worship ministries, increase discipleship and community presence opportunities, and complete important capital projects. We do this, though, amidst realities of continually rising costs and reduced income from pledged giving and the church's investments.

After careful consideration, and with the support and guidance of the Finance and Personnel committees, I have made the decision to meet these challenges early in the year by eliminating the Church Secretary/Office Assistant position. Personnel costs are always among the highest for any organization. Sue Beaman's final day at the church was Tuesday, January 16, and I thanked her on behalf of the congregation for her many years of service. I am now working closely with your other Session committees and our staff to chart a course for 2024 to ensure no interruptions to our regular ministries and programs.

From now until February 13, the church office will be open by appointment only. During this time I will be formulating an office staffing model that honors both needs and resources. *The church is not closed.* Please email or call me or Stacey Bristow, Church Administrator, if there is any way we can assist you during this time. The staff will also be using this time to catch-up on year-end tasks from 2023 and formulate internal plans for 2024. New office hours will be announced prior to reopening on February 14.

Please be sure to attend *Celebration Sunday* on February 4. During that time we will celebrate what our community accomplished in 2023 and we will think and pray together about where God is leading us in 2024.

***Please also mark your calendar for March 3—Session has called a special meeting following worship for the exclusive purpose of having a more in-depth and wholistic discussion about the church's financial position and opportunities.***

I am grateful for your continued prayers and support for First Presbyterian Church as we seek to be a loving witness to Christ in the community and beyond!



Pastor Andrew's contact information:

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Stacey Bristow, Church Administrator, contact information:

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**We pray for healing for:** Deanne, Gerda, Jennifer, Elise, John, Pat, Sue, Sherrie, Carole, Jane, Millie.

**We pray for those who are unable to join us in-person:**

Linda, Jamie, Dorothy, Shane, Ed, Annie.

**We pray for our mission partners:**

Tyler, Rochelle, and Mphatso, Grace, Sam, and Ruth, Isaiah, MELT, The Women of Grace, NNY Presbytery, Synod of The Northeast, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Josh Garry and Family (preparing for ministry).

**We pray for our local and national leaders:**

Watertown's Mayor and City Council, the President of The United States and Congress, the Governor of New York and State Legislature.

**We pray for those serving our nation:**

The Wright Family, those in conflict in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, and Sudan.





### **Celebration Sunday**

Join us for a potluck lunch on **February 4, 2024** immediately following worship to celebrate all that God is doing in our community. We'll hear highlights of what our committees accomplished in 2023 and what they hope to accomplish in 2024, we will be immersed in sights and sounds of God's love at work among us, and we'll take action to renew Pastor Andrew's Terms of Call.

*There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall where you can RSVP for Celebration Sunday and indicate what you plan to bring and share.*



### **The 2024 Souper Bowl of Caring** Sunday, February 11, 2024

Joining with churches and groups across the United States, First Pres is going to take part in the Souper Bowl of Caring! On February 11, the day of The Big Game, we will collect canned soups and monetary donations to benefit the food pantry at the Watertown Urban Mission. Even one can of soup or \$1 can go a long way to tackling hunger!



## Volunteer Church Work Days

**January and February are a great time to catch up on all those little projects we've put off until after the holy days!**

*Please note the following dates as they may effect your committee or group meeting:*

January 23-26: the stage in Fellowship Hall will be cleaned, organized, and painted.

Join us on **February 3 and 10 from 9am-2pm** for Volunteer Work Days! There will be work for all skill levels and we'll provide lunch! Let us know you're coming by signing up in Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office at (315) 782-1750.



**Sunday, March 3**

*immediately following worship*

The Session of First Presbyterian Church calls a special congregational meeting for Sunday, March 3, immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall for the purpose of discussing the church's finances in-depth. At this meeting the congregation will hear and be able to ask questions of Session leadership about the 2024 budget, the funding of anticipated capital projects, and the congregation's commitment to outreach. Join us!

*Will we enjoy a meal together that day, too? Of course—we're Presbyterian! More on that to come.*