



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

Third Sunday of Lent

March 20, 2022 + 10am



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it! Whether you are visiting First Presbyterian Church for the first time, or are a longtime member or friend, your presence today is a blessing to our community!

Three very important commitments guide our life together at First Presbyterian Church: *worship*, *mission*, and *discipleship*. In worship we commune with God and with another, sing and pray, and measure our lives according to God's Word. Through mission, both local and international, we live out Jesus' call to 'feed my sheep' and 'serve the least.' In study, prayer, and community, we develop as life-long disciples of Jesus, working for a more peaceful and just world.

Following worship, please stick around for fellowship time. Enjoy a cup of coffee. Spend time in the sanctuary in prayer. Introduce yourself to me and your fellow worshippers. We're glad you're here!

Pastor Andrew
(410) 916-1673 + andrew.long1085@gmail.com

If you are new here please fill out the card in the pew and place it in the offering plate so that we can get to know you better.

Hearing help is available during all worship services please see an usher for assistance.

Nursery Care is available for children to age 4 during all worship services. You can find the nursery in the education wing of the building. A restroom and quiet room can be found in the narthex.

Sunday School is available for children through middle school during worship, except on the first Sunday of the month.

If you are in need of prayer please see our Pastor before or after worship.

Today's Bulletin Cover *and* A Word About The Service

Senne Trip, a Dutch illustrator and animator, illustrated the picture on today's bulletin cover for a Dutch theology magazine in 2018. Trip's illustration demands very close attention as it tells the entire story of The Prodigal Son. Starting in the upper-left quarter of the picture, we see the father dividing his estate between his two boys, with a depiction of the younger son's 'activities' just below it. At the lowest plain of the picture, we see the younger son confronting the tragedy of his choices, living among pigs with visible ribs. At center, the father welcomes the Prodigal home as his older brother looks on.

How do we make the Father's love for us the center and foundation our lives and the motivation behind our interactions with others?



Gathering



Gathering Music

Three Lenten Spirituals

Anna Laura Page

Balm in Gilead

What Wondrous Love Is This?

Jesus Walked

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

arr. Hughes

Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

Rêverie

David Lasky

The large white candle on the communion table was lit on Ash Wednesday to honor the people of Ukraine and Russia during this time of conflict. During the prelude, you are invited to offer personal prayers to God or you may use the prayer printed here:

Eternal God,
you have called us to be members of one body.
Join us with those
who in all times and places
have praised your name,
that, with one heart and mind,
we may show the unity of your church,
and bring honor to our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Call To Worship** *Psalm 8*

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
**you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
**what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

**O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Let us worship God together!

***Opening Hymn #320** “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

***Prayer of The Day**

Confession of Sin *from The United Methodist Church*

With confidence and in faith, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

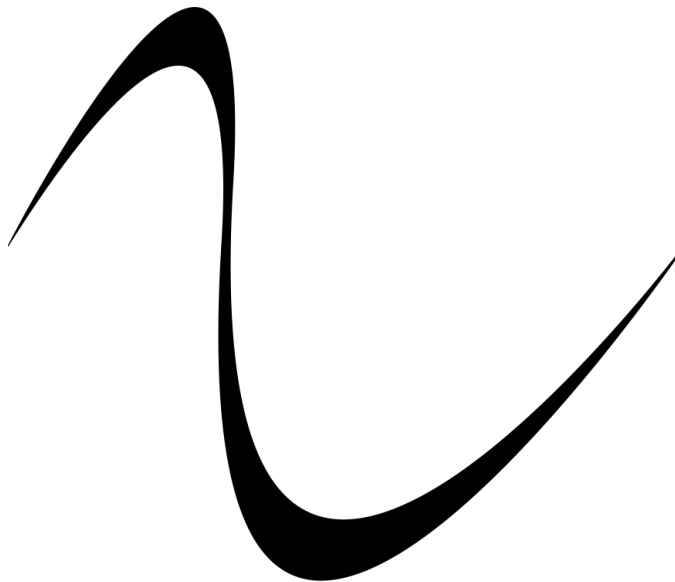
Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have made idols of our desires, our perceived righteousness, and even our fears. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have failed to embrace one another as equally valued members of one body, of which Christ alone is the head.

We have been lured into legalism and the confines of church polity, favoring human security over divine, radical grace. We have not heard the cry of the needy.

Even when we fail to seek forgiveness, and have not yet forgiven one another, forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Christ our redeemer. Amen.

Musical Meditation *Create In Me A Clean Heart*

Keith and Melody Green



Create in Me a Clean Heart

Keith and Melody Green

$\text{♩} = 120$



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O - - God,

6



and re-new a right spir - it with-in me. Cre - ate in me a clean heart,

11



O - God, and re-new a right spir - it with-in me.

17



Cast me not a - way from Thy pre-sence O Lord, and take not Thy

22



Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the

27



joy of Thy sal - va - tion, and re-new a right spir - it with-in me.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:

Through the expansive, mysterious, divine gift of grace,
made known in the person of Jesus Christ,
we have been reconciled and restored to our Creator,
and entrusted to bear this unimaginable love to the world.

Through Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

A Time With Young Disciples

*“Bless These Children, Lord, We Pray”
to the tune of “Seek Ye First”
words by Andrew Long*

Bless these children Lord, we pray;

And walk with them every day.

Teach us to hear them and cherish what they say:

Children will show us The Way.



The Word of God



Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 15:11-32, *First Nations Version*

“There was a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me now my share of what is coming to me.’”

“But the Father, who was good-hearted and loved his sons, divided all he had with his two sons anyway.

“Not many days later, the younger son took his share and went far away to another land. He began to spend it all on wild living and soon had nothing left. The time came when there was not enough food in the land for everyone, and he found himself poor and hungry. So he went to work for a rancher, who sent him out to feed the pigs. He became so hungry that he wanted to eat the husks he was feeding the pigs, but no one would even give him a meal.

“Soon the younger son came back to his right mind and said to himself, ‘Look, here I am naked and starving, but the servants who work for my father are well fed! I am going back to humble myself to my father. I will tell him that I have dishonored both him and the spirit-world above, and I am no longer worthy to be called his son. I will ask him just to let me be a hired servant to work in his fields.’

“He then made up his mind and began to go home. While he was still far away, his father saw him walking. The father’s heart opened wide and he ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. “The son said, ‘Father, I have failed the spirit-world above and you. I am not worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father ignored his son’s words, turned to his servants, and said, ‘Go! Find my best regalia and put it on him. Give him a headdress of feathers for his head and new moccasins for his feet! Go get the fattest calf and prepare a great feast for a celebration. This is my son! He was lost, but I have found him. He was dead to me, but now he is alive!’ Then they all began to feast, sing, and dance.

“Now, the older son was just returning from a hard day’s work in the field. He heard the music and dancing, so he asked one of the servants what was going on. The servant told him, ‘Your brother has come home and your father has prepared a great feast for him, because he is alive and well.’

“Hearing this, the older brother became very angry and refused to go into

the lodge. The father saw him brooding outside, so he went to him and urged him to come in.

“The older son said to his father, ‘Why can you not see? I have worked hard for you all my life, and done all that you have asked of me, but you have not even given me one small goat to have a feast with my friends. But when this son of yours, who wasted all you gave him on sexual favors with women, comes home, you kill the fattest calf for him.’

“‘My son,’ he said to him, ‘you are always close to my heart, and everything I have is yours. But it is a good thing for us to celebrate with glad hearts, for your brother was dead but now is alive. He was lost, but now we have found him!’”

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

Anthem *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* arr. Sateren

*Jerusalem, my happy home, When shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
O happy harbor of the saints, O sweet and pleasant soil!
In thee no sorrow may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.*

*Thy gardens and thy gallant walks continu’ly are green;
there grow such sweet and pleasant flow’rs as no where else are seen.
There trees forever more bear fruit, and evermore do spring;
there evermore the angels sit, and evermore do sing.*

The Sermon *Welcome Home, Part 3: What Greater Love?*

***Hymn** #606 “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

***Affirmation of Faith** *from The Confession of 1967*

Let us affirm what we believe:

In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them he took upon himself the judgment under which all men stand convicted.

God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all humanity. 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.

Offering

Financial gifts may be placed in the plates at the Offertory, or by the Venmo app or by searching for @First_Pres_of_Watertown.

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals He's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain: Come home; come home. You who are weary, come home.

Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling. Calling, "O Sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not His mercies, mercies for you and for me? Refrain.

Time is now fleeting; the moments are passing, passing from you and from me. Shadows are gathering; death's night is coming, coming for you and for me. Refrain.

O for the wonderful love He has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Refrain.

The Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer

In our tradition, we use 'debts' and 'debtors' during The Lord's

Prayer, but you are invited to speak the words that are most familiar to you.

***Closing Hymn #147 "How Great Thou Art"**

***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 neighbor.

Postlude

Chaconne en SOL-mineur

Louis Couperin (1626-1661)

During the postlude, you are invited to offer personal prayers to God or you may use the prayer printed here:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have won for us,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

Leading in Worship Today:

Pastor Andrew, preaching

Bob Kimball, liturgist

Carl Bingle, organist

Sara Gleason, choir director

Clancy Cox, soloist

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

Today's Radio Broadcast is a gift in loving memory of Patricia McWayne, from her husband, Frederick, daughter, Shane, and son, Shawn, and daughter-in-law, Kathy.

There will be a brief congregational meeting at the end of worship on March 27 for the purpose of ordaining and installing Elders and Deacons and electing a Nominating Committee.

Community and Congregational Care

We Pray For...

Nelson, William, Steven, Nora, Tyler, Grace, Sam, and Ruth, Mary, Lynn, Midwest Tornado Victims, Josh L., Mary, Gini, Tom, Linda and, Ken, Shane, Ed, Millie, Gerda, Jamie, Annie, Plattsburgh First Presbyterian, Northern New York Presbytery, Synod of The Northeast, the sick, all essential workers, students and teachers, medical professionals, all serving in the military, peace and justice, all people in positions of power and leadership.

Happy Birthday to...

3/22 Todd Thiebeau

3/23 Robert B. Brown

3/23 Linda Briggs

3/24 Carl Bingle

3/26 Sarah McCullough Deem

First Presbyterian is blessed to provide space for several community-based ministries and programs. All are open to members of the church and community and meet on the following days:

+Al-Anon, 6:30pm Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall

+Special Religious Education, 6:30pm Tuesdays, Sanctuary

+Alcoholics Anonymous—First Watertown Group
8:00pm, Fellowship Hall

The Open Table

*O taste and see that the Lord is good!—Psalm 34:8

Tonight! 5-6pm!

Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 20

10 am Morning Worship, sanctuary
10-11 am Charismatic Church, chapel
11:45 am “The Chosen” Episode 5, Fellowship Hall
12:15 pm Watertown Multi-Ethnic Community, chapel
5-6 pm The Open Table

Monday, March 21

9 am-4 pm Office Open

Tuesday, March 22

9 am-4 pm Office Open
12 pm Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Special Religious Education, sanctuary

Wednesday, March 23

9 am-4 pm Office Open
6 pm “The Chosen” Bible Study Session 5, Room 6

Thursday, March 24

9 am-4 pm Office Open
10:30 am-1 pm Presbyterian Women of JeffCo Lunch, Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 25

9 am-2 pm Office Open

Saturday, March 26

8:30 am-12:30 pm Blood Drive
8:00 pm AA, First Watertown

All Women of the church are invited to the monthly gathering of PW of Jefferson County on Thursday, March 24th in the Fellowship Hall of First Pres. The meeting will begin at 11:00am and lunch will follow at 12pm. Bring your own sandwich, if you like. Soup and dessert will be provided. Please come and see what we are up to!

Wednesday
MARCH 30

**TAKE OUT
PULLED PORK
DINNER**



TO BENEFIT:
Malawi Early Literacy Team



[HTTP://MALAWIEARLYLITERACY.ORG](http://MALAWIEARLYLITERACY.ORG)

Malawi Early Literacy Team
(M.E.L.T.)

Proceeds will provide books, teacher training, and the MELT1 Mobile Library to remote villages in the Northern region of Malawi.

First Presbyterian Church of Watertown
403 Washington Street Watertown, NY 13601

March 30th ~ 4pm - 6pm ~ \$10

Take out pulled pork dinner includes pulled pork, roll, parsley new potatoes, coleslaw, corn, and a brownie for dessert!

ANY QUESTIONS CALL HEATHER WHITE
315-778-9867