



# First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + [www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org)

April 2, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



*detail from St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas  
The Greek letters above Jesus' head read, 'the palm-carrying,' and  
the letters on either side of his head mean, "Jesus Christ."*

# 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 lives together at First Presbyterian Church: *worship*, *mission* and *discipleship*. In worship we commune with God and with one another, sing and pray, and 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](mailto: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.

**If you are in need of prayer**, please see our Pastor before or after worship, or write your prayer requests in the green book at the front of the sanctuary (by the flags)

**Sunday School** for pre-school through grade 6 meets after "Young Disciples Time." Bunny Gorman is the teacher today.

## Gathering Music

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Dale Wood

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Dale Wood

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

John Carter

## Chiming the Hour of Worship

### \*Call to Worship *The Covenant of Peace - A Liberation Prayer*

Who is this riding among us?

**Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of God.

**Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.**

Who is this riding the animal of peace?

**Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.**

Blessed be the freedom he brings.

**Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.**

Who is carrying the palm of peace?

**Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.**

Blessed be our leader, the Prince of Peace.

**Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.**

Who is this that destroys the weapons of war?

**Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of God.

**Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.**

Who is it that frees the oppressed from prison?

**Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.**

Blessed is he who releases all captives.

**Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.**

Who is this that makes wars to cease in all the world?

**Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth.**

Blessed is he who restores the Paradise of Eden.

**Hosanna, may his Way be victorious.**

**\*Processional Hymn (see insert)**

“The Palms”

Jean-Baptiste Faure

**\*Prayer of the Day**



**Reading**

Matthew 21:1-11

**Handbell Anthem**

“Hosanna!”

arr. Jason W. Krug



**Reading**

John 13:1-5, 31b-35

**Special Music**

“This Little Light of Mine”

Sung by FPC’s Children

traditional spiritual

**Blessing the 40 Cans For Lent Food Drive**



**Reading**

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

**Anthem**

“Celtic Communion”

arr. Mark Hayes

Bread of the World in mercy broken,  
Wine of the Soul in mercy shed,  
by Whom the words of life were spoken,  
and in Whose death our sins are dead.

Look on the heart by sorrow broken;  
look on the tears by sinners shed;  
and be Your feast to us the token  
that by your grace our souls are fed!

Christ behind me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ beside me,  
One in Three;  
Christ above me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ within me,  
Three in One. Amen.

**\*Prayer** by Rubem A. Alves

Let us pray...

My God, I need to have signs of your grace.  
Give me your sacraments,  
the first fruits of your kingdom.

I thirst for smiles  
**for sweet odors,**  
**for soft words,**  
**for firm gestures,**  
**for truth and goodness,**  
**and for triumphs**  
**(no matter how small)**  
**of justice.**

You know, O God, how hard it is to survive captivity  
without any hope of the Holy City.

**Sing to us, God, the songs of the promised land.**  
**Serve us your manna in the desert.**

Let there be, in some place,  
a community of men, women, elderly,  
children, new-born babies,

**as a first fruit,**  
**as our appetizer,**  
**and our embrace of the future.**  
**Amen.**

 **Abandonment** 

**Reading**

Mark 14:26, 32-42

**Anthem**

“I Believe”

Mark Miller

FPC Quartet; Julia Wright, soloist

I believe in the sun, even when it’s not shining.

I believe in love, even when I don’t feel it.

I believe in God, even when God is silent.

 **Betrayal and Arrest** 

**Reading**

Luke 22:47-53

**Hymn #302**

“Lamb of God”

 **Passion** 

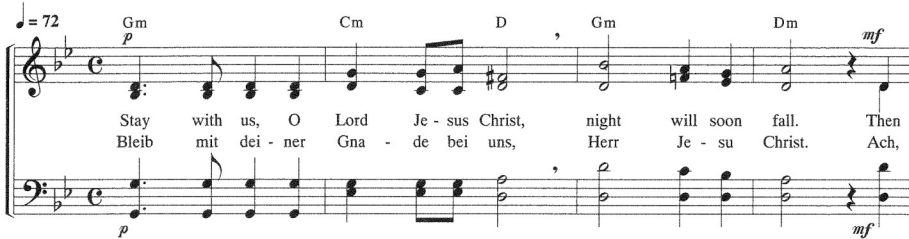
**Reading**

Matthew 26:57, 27:1-2, 11-14

**Hymn**

Stay with us

Bleib mit deiner Gnade 21



Musical score for the first system of the hymn. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72. The music is in a homophonic style with chords. The lyrics are: "Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then Bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, Herr Je - su Christ. Ach,". Chords are indicated above the staff: Gm, Cm, D, Gm, Dm. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*.



Musical score for the second system of the hymn. It continues from the first system. The lyrics are: "stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness. bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, du treu - er Gott." Chords are indicated above the staff: Gm, Eb, Cm, F, Bb, Cm, Bb, F, Gm, D. Dynamics include *f* and *p subito*.

# Reading

Matthew 27:24-26

# Hymn

Stay with us

Bleib mit deiner Gnade 21

♩ = 72

The musical score is written in G minor, 3/4 time, with a tempo of 72 beats per minute. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then Bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, Herr Je - su Christ. Ach,'. The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: 'stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness. bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, du treu - er Gott.' The score includes various dynamics such as *p*, *mf*, *f*, and *p subito*, and chord markings like Gm, Cm, D, Eb, F, and Bb.

Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then  
Bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, Herr Je - su Christ. Ach,

stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness.  
bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, du treu - er Gott.

# Reading

John 19:16-22

# Hymn

Stay with us

Bleib mit deiner Gnade 21

♩ = 72

This musical score is identical to the one above, featuring the same melody, bass line, lyrics, and musical notation. It is written in G minor, 3/4 time, with a tempo of 72 beats per minute. The lyrics are: 'Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then Bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, Herr Je - su Christ. Ach,' and 'stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness. bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, du treu - er Gott.' The score includes dynamics like *p*, *mf*, *f*, and *p subito*, and chord markings such as Gm, Cm, D, Eb, F, and Bb.

Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then  
Bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, Herr Je - su Christ. Ach,

stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness.  
bleib mit dei - ner Gna - de bei uns, du treu - er Gott.

# Reading

John 19:23-30

## Hymn

Stay with us

Bleib mit deiner Gnade 21

Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then  
Bleib mit deiner Gnade bei uns, Herr Je - su Christ. Ach,

stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness.  
bleib mit deiner Gnade bei uns, du treu - er Gott.

## Prayer

*a time of silence is kept*

*“The cross we bear precedes the crown we wear. To be a Christian one must take up his cross, with all its difficulties and agonizing and tension-packed content and carry it until that very cross leaves its marks upon us and redeems us to that more excellent way which comes only through suffering.”*

*--Martin Luther King, Jr.*



**Honor to The Lamb**



## Reading

Colossians 1:15-20 & Revelation 7:9-17



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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Gracious God, we give you all honor and praise for the gift of today's worship. We thank you that we can worship you in freedom and truth, and we praise you for all the voices, hearts, and minds that have made worship today possible. May it leave us prepared to enter into this week that is filled with hosannas, heart-break, and hallelujahs.

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

Gracious God, Jesus entered into Jerusalem not as a conquering hero but as a peaceful bringer of salvation. The people waved palm branches and articles of clothing, not weapons of great power, though they were a people under occupation. Help us to follow Christ's example of peace and non-violence. Give us courage to confront our ways of violence and amend them by beating all weapons into gardening tools.

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

Gracious God, Christ dined with his disciples on the night before he died, giving them a commandment of love and remembrance. Help us to daily gather at Christ's table of grace that we might be fed and nourished to become bold proclaimers of his abundant love. And as we are fed at his table, show us the abundance of our resources so that we might share with all in need.

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

Gracious God, on that dark Friday Christ was crucified by a system of violence and oppression. Open our eyes to see that Christ is still being crucified in our world: in every school shooting, in every divisive act and gesture, and in our ambivalence to the ways we hurt one another and your creation. Teach us that thoughts and prayers only please you when they are met by action and change.

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

Gracious God, as Christ laid silently in the tomb for three days, bring our hearts to rest in you. Continue to teach us your ways, conform us to the cross of Jesus Christ, and bring us at last to the day of resurrection when we will learn once again that life is stronger than death, that love is stronger than hate, and that nothing in heaven or on earth will never be able to separate us from your amazing grace and love.

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

Hear us now as we pray to you in the name of Jesus Christ, as he 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 (see insert)**

“Lift High the Cross”

arr. Joel Raney

*The Director of Music will signal the congregation when to stand and sing*



## **Holy Week Begins**



**Benediction** “Holy Week” by Ann Weems

*Holy is the week...*

*Holy, consecrated, belonging to God...*

*We move from hosannas to horror  
with predictable ease*

*of those who know not what they do.*

*Our hosannas sung,  
our palms waved,*

*let us go with passion into this week.*

*It is time to curse fig trees that do not yield fruit.*

*It is time to cleanse our temples of any blasphemy.  
It is time to greet Jesus as the Lord's Anointed One,  
to lavishly break our alabaster  
and pour perfume out for him  
without counting the cost.*

*It is a time for preparation...  
The time to give thanks and break bread is upon us.  
The time to give thanks and drink of the cup is imminent.  
Eat, drink, remember:*

*On this night of nights, each one must ask,  
as we dip our bread in the wine,  
"Is it I?"*

*And on that darkest of days, each of us must stand  
beneath the tree  
and watch the dying  
if we are to be there  
when the stone is rolled away.  
The only road to Easter morning  
is through the unrelenting shadows of that Friday.  
Only then will the alleluias be sung;  
only then will the dancing begin.*

## **Postlude**

*"Andante" from Piano Concerto No. 2      Dmitiry Shostakovich*  
*Shotakovich's second piano concerto is exuberant  
and joyful but also plaintive and subdued. The second  
movement, after a boisterous first movement, moves  
easily in and out of minor tonalities as if in a dream-like  
state. The piece reflects the range of emotions that  
accompany us through Holy Week, from joy and  
celebration to sorrow and pain. The movement ends  
on with an ominous repetition of a single note that  
ominously fades into silence.*

## **\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

This Palm Sunday **Radio Broadcast** is a gift in honor of our choirs and music staff who add so much beauty to our worship during this Holy Season, and throughout the year.

The rosebud on the lectern this morning is in recognition of the birth of:  
**Wesley Erich Bingle**  
born March 11, 2023  
to Peter and Amanda Bingle  
Janna and Carl Bingle are proud grandparents.



*“Christ Breaks The Rifle”* is a provocative icon by celebrated artist Kelly Latimore. Latimore wrote this icon after the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and has donated all proceeds from its sale to verified fundraisers addressing that great tragedy. The icon is not meant only to be provocative, but to reflect the biblical ideal of non-violence. The prophet Isaiah said, “He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (2:4) and the Psalmist wrote, “He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire” (46:9). **May it be so.!**