



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 3, 2022 + 10:00 a.m.



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 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.

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

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).

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

Thomas Bertram Poole's, Prodigal Son Parable, is a narrative of symbolic themes such as dark and light in the two halves of the painting, wealth and poverty in the different living conditions of the father and the son, and joy and sorrow in the body language of the two characters. Most striking is the shape of the cross cast between the father and son by the sunrise. Such is the journey of reconciliation and forgiveness: from dark to light, from joy to sorrow, from nothing to everything, through the cross.

Today we conclude our deep study of the Parable of The Prodigal Son by focusing on the celebration feast. What was it really like? Was there music and dancing? What else did the father serve along with good beef and fine wine? What place can and should joy play in our lives as followers of Jesus?



Gathering



Gathering Music

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?	A.L. Page
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna	John Carter
Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended?	Dale Wood
Christ, We Do All Adore Thee	Théodore Dubois

Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude	“The Royal Banners Forward Go”	James Biery
	Choir and Organ	

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.

O Jesus, our great high priest,
 be present with us
 as you were present with your disciples,
 and make yourself known to us in the breaking of bread. Amen.

*Call to Worship *from Psalm 126*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
 we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy;
 then it was said among the nations,**

‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

Let us worship God together!

***Opening Hymn #327** “The Old Rugged Cross”

***Prayer of the Day**

Confession of Sin *from The Reformed Church of America*

Let us now come before God with our confession, confident in God’s readiness to forgive and heal.

God of mercy and grace, in this time we pray. We are good people. We try to do the right thing. However, if we think deeply on our lives and connections, we see that we fall short of being the best that we can be a lot of the time. We seek to love others, but at times get caught up in our own problems and issues. We seek to love ourselves, but at times get caught up in other’s problems and issues. We seek to be caring, but at times we end up caring more about ourselves rather than the deep needs of others.

Help us to find forgiveness, for things that we have done that need forgiveness for which others have been left hurt or disillusioned. Help us to find forgiveness, for things that we have failed to do or which have gone undone, and for which others have been left in need or uncared for. Help us to find forgiveness for things that others have done or failed to do for us, and for which we have been left wounded or disappointed.

God of love and forgiveness, God of love compassion and redemption, may we find all good things that undo that which is bad. This is asked in the name of the Christ, who embodied all these things in his life shared with us. Amen

Musical Meditation *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Keith & Melody Green

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O - - God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O - - God, and re-new a right spir - it with-in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pre-sence O Lord, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir-it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion, and re-new a right spir - it with-in me." The score ends with a double bar line.

6
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O - - God,
11
and re-new a right spir-it with-in me. Cre - ate in me a clean heart,
17
O - - God, and re-new a right spir - it with-in me.
22
Cast me not a - way from Thy pre-sence O Lord, and take not Thy
27
Ho - ly Spir-it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of Thy sal - va - tion, and re-new a right spir - it with-in me.

Assurance of Pardon

God has opened our ears and our hearts to know God's love and forgiveness.

There is nothing we need to do other than love one another and love God, for all things come from God's love.

Go forth knowing you have been forgiven and restored to God. Live in the way of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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, *The Voice*

Once there was this man who had two sons. One day the younger son came to his father and said, “Father, eventually I’m going to inherit my share of your estate. Rather than waiting until you die, I want you to give me my share now.” And so the father liquidated assets and divided them.

A few days passed and this younger son gathered all his wealth and set off on a journey to a distant land. Once there he wasted everything he owned on wild living. He was broke, a terrible famine struck that

land, and he felt desperately hungry and in need. He got a job with one of the locals, who sent him into the fields to feed the pigs. The young man felt so miserably hungry that he wished he could eat the slop the pigs were eating. Nobody gave him anything.

So he had this moment of self-reflection: “What am I doing here? Back home, my father’s hired servants have plenty of food. Why am I here starving to death? I’ll get up and return to my father, and I’ll say, ‘Father, I have done wrong—wrong against God and against you. I have forfeited any right to be treated like your son, but I’m wondering if you’d treat me as one of your hired servants?’”

So he got up and returned to his father. The father looked off in the distance and saw the young man returning. He felt compassion for his son and ran out to him, enfolded him in an embrace, and kissed him.

The son said, “Father, I have done a terrible wrong in God’s sight and in your sight too. I have forfeited any right to be treated as your son.” But the father turned to his servants and said, “Quick! Bring the best robe we have and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Go get the fattest calf and butcher it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate because my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and has been found.” So they had this huge party.

Now the man’s older son was still out in the fields working. He came home at the end of the day and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant said, “Your brother has returned, and your father has butchered the fattest calf to celebrate his safe return.”

The older brother got really angry and refused to come inside, so his father came out and pleaded with him to join the celebration. But he argued back, “Listen, all these years I’ve worked hard for you. I’ve never disobeyed one of your orders. But how many times have you even given me a little goat to roast for a party with my friends? Not

once! This is not fair! So this son of yours comes, this wasteful delinquent who has spent your hard-earned wealth on loose women, and what do you do? You butcher the fattest calf from our herd!”

The father replied, “My son, you are always with me, and all I have is yours. Isn’t it right to join in the celebration and be happy? This is your brother we’re talking about. He was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found again!”

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

Anthem

Table of Grace

by Connie Harrington & Anna Hutto/Parks

Hear the good news, you’ve been invited, No matter what others may say;
Your darkest sin will be forgiven, And you always have a place.

So come you weak, and heavy hearted. Don’t try to hide our earthly fears.
For in His eyes we all are equal. Don’t be afraid, come as you are.

Refrain: At the table of grace the cup’s never empty. The plate’s always full
and it’s never too late to come and be filled with love never ending.
You’re always welcome at the table of grace.

Let the first become the last. Let the poor put kings to shame.
They’re willing hearts will be their treasure by the power of Jesus’ name.

Refrain

The Sermon *Welcome Home, Part 5: The Banquet*

***Hymn #604** “I Then Shall Live

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

Let us affirm what we believe:

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes humanity's natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. It is the will of God that his purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from his creation.

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists his will and disrupts his creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in men and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.



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

The Offertory

How Can I Keep From Singing

Tomlin/arr. Lloyd Larson

There is an endless song
Echoes in my soul
I hear the music ring
And though the storms may come
I am holding on
To the rock I cling

Refrain:

How can I keep from singing Your praise
How can I ever say enough
How amazing is Your love
How can I keep from shouting Your name
I know I am loved by the King
And it makes my heart want to sing

I will lift my eyes
In the darkest night
For I know my Savior lives
And I will walk with You
Knowing You'll see me through
And sing the songs You give

Refrain

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to The Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving *and The Lord's Prayer*

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.

**Praise to you, O God, for all your works.
You created the world and called it good and
made us in your image to live together in love.
You made a covenant with us, and even when
we turned from you, you remained ever faithful.**

Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:
**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 of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son.
He lived among us and told your story.
He healed the sick and welcomed sinners.
He shared our pain and died our death,
then rose to new life that we might live,
and all creation be restored.

Remembering your boundless love revealed
to us in Jesus Christ, we break bread and share the cup,
giving ourselves to you to live for him in joy and praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon
us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine
that they may be for us the body and blood
of Christ and that we may be his body for the world.
By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another until we
feast with him and with all your saints in your eternal realm
of justice and peace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

Words of Institution
Communion of The People
Prayer After Communion

***Closing Hymn “My Life Flows On”**

1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

***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.

During this time of public concern over health and wellness, please be respectful of those who may want to avoid physical contact while sharing The Peace; flashing the 'peace sign' is a perfectly appropriate way to share Christ's peace. 'Fist bumps,' 'elbow bumps,' or slick dance moves can also extend Christ's peace to your neighbors.

Postlude "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" David Cherwien

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

God of grace,
you have given us minds to know you,
hearts to love you,
and voices to sing your praise.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit as we leave this place,
that we may celebrate your glory
and worship you in spirit and truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leading in Worship Today:

Pastor Andrew, preaching

Cherie Danforth, liturgist

Carl Bingle, organist

Sara Gleason, choir director

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

Today's **Radio Broadcast** is a gift from First Presbyterian Church.

Today's Flowers are given with loving thoughts for
all God's children.



The Deadline for **Easter Flower** donations and names to be included in the bulletin is **April 8, 2022**. All checks should be made payable to **First Presbyterian Church**, with **“Easter Flowers”** in the memo line. Please mail or bring checks, with the names of those you would like to honor or remember, to Sue in the church office.

All Easter flower money received will be donated to
the ***Meals on Wheels Program!***

Community and Congregational Care

We Pray For...

Kevin & Alicia, Becky, Linda, John, Tyler & Rochelle,
Grace, Sam & Ruth, Midwest Tornado Victims, Josh L., Mary, Gini,
Tom, Linda & Ken, Shane, Ed, Millie, Gerda, Jamie, Annie,
Rouses Point Presbyterian Church, NNY Presbytery, Synod of
The Northeast, the sick, all essential workers, students & teachers,
medical professionals, all serving in the military, peace & justice,
all people in positions of power & leadership.

Happy Birthday to...

- 4/3 Bob Gorman
- 4/3 Bettina Rutigliano
- 4/4 Deanna Nelson
- 4/5 Peter Thomas
- 4/5 Ben Azah
- 4/6 Maureen Gorman
- 4/8 Donna Dayger
- 4/8 Brie Thomas
- 4/9 Day Hills

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, 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall

Special Religious Education, 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Chapel

Alcoholics Anonymous - First Watertown Group, 8:00 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall

Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 3

- 10 a.m. - Morning Worship, sanctuary
- 10-11 a.m. - Charismatic Church, chapel
- 11:45 a.m. - "The Chosen" Episode 7, Fellowship Hall
- 12:15 p.m. - Watertown Multi-Ethnic Community, chapel
- 3:00 p.m. - Orchestra of NNY Concert, Sanctuary

Monday, April 4

- 9 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - Office Open

Tuesday, April 5

- 9 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - Office Open
- 6:30 p.m. - Al-Anon, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. - Special Religious Education, Chapel

Wednesday, April 6

- 7:30 a.m. - Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 9 a.m.-4:00 p.m. - Office Open
- 6 p.m. - "The Chosen" Bible Study Session 7, Room 6

Thursday, April 7

- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Office Open
- 5:00 p.m. - Deacons,
- 6:30 p.m. - Handbell Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 8

- 9 a.m.-2 p.m. - Office Open
- 1:00-2:30 p.m. - Trombone Quartet Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday, April 9

- 8 p.m. - A.A. - First Watertown Group, Fellowship Hall



Holy Week Worship Schedule

PALM SUNDAY, April 7th

“Palms to Passion”

A traditional way to celebrate Palm Sunday is to read the Passion Narrative of Jesus. The Passion Narrative is a patchwork of the various accounts of Jesus’ final days from the four gospels, usually read in parts by designated readers and the congregation. To honor this tradition, our Palm Sunday celebration this year will be called “Palms to Passion.” The service will follow the last several days of Jesus’ life with readings from the Bible, special music by FPC’s choir and musicians (including “The Palms”), and thoughtful readings from poetry and prose. There will be no sermon that day; instead, the music and the words of Scripture will speak for themselves.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 14th

7:30pm Tenebrae and Holy Communion

A Tenebrae is a worship service of gradually lighting and then gradually extinguishing candles as a symbol of Jesus’ coming into and being taken from the world. This service

will recall the events of the first Last Supper, and will include the sacrament for us to share together. The service ends in almost complete darkness as Good Friday begins.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 15th

Community Good Friday/Stations of The Cross, Time and Locations: TBD

12:30pm The Seven Last Words of Christ

A quiet service of readings, silence, and reflection, held in FPC's Sanctuary during the time when Jesus was crucified. This service will remember Jesus' final words.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 17th

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Thompson Park Pinnacle

8:30am Morning Spoken Prayer and Holy Communion

This service will be held, weather permitting, on FPC's labyrinth.

9:00am Come and Go Easter Brunch, Fellowship Hall

10:00am Morning Worship with Molto Brass and Choir

After worship - Easter Egg Hunt





Have you been collecting your 40 Cans For Lent that was advertised in the Spring Newsletter? Bring your cans and boxes to church on Palm Sunday, April 10, where they will be blessed before being taken to the Watertown Urban Mission! Here's the list of items:

1. Peanut Butter
2. Jelly
3. Tomato Soup
4. Canned Chicken
5. Pasta
6. Spaghetti Sauce
7. Cereal
8. Oatmeal
9. Canned Green Beans
10. Canned Peaches
11. Canned Carrots
12. Applesauce
13. Rice
14. Dried Beans
15. Canned Tuna
16. Rice
17. Flour
18. Sugar
19. Macaroni and Cheese
20. Hearty Soup
21. Chicken Noodle Soup
22. Hamburger Helper
23. Canned Corn
24. Baked Beans
25. Granola Bars/Protein Bars
26. Canned Pears
27. Coffee
28. Toilet Paper/Baby Wipes
29. Mayo
30. Instant Mashed Potatoes
31. Canned Mixed Veggies
32. Crackers
33. Cornbread Mix
34. Canned Fruit Cocktail
35. Feminine Hygiene Product/
Diapers
36. Tooth brush
37. Toothpaste
38. Bath Soap
39. Shampoo