



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

April 30, 2023 + 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 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.

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." **Pete Thomas is the teacher today.**

Gathering

Gathering Music

Four Eastertide Hymns

Michael Burkhardt

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

“This Joyful Eastertide”

“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”

Pastor’s Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Welsh hymn, arr. L. Smith

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 23)

Who is the Lord, our God?

The Lord is our shepherd and there isn’t a thing we need.

How does the Lord take care of us?

The Lord gives us safe places to rest.

The Lord shows us the way and walks with us.

The Lord feeds us until we are more than satisfied.

Do we have anything to fear?

No.

**Even when the enemy is prowling around
the Lord is on duty, protecting us.**

And how long will the Lord be so good to us?

Forever!

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #370

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

*Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin *and* Assurance of Pardon

The gospels tell us that on Good Friday, as Jesus was dying, the curtain in the Jerusalem temple was torn in two. This happened as Jesus had predicted, and it was a powerful symbol that the

human-created barrier between us and God was removed forever. We offer our confessions today not because God is angry with us, but because there is nothing between us and God, and God is ready to heal us and restore us to new life.

In confidence, let us confess our sins together.

Lord God of all creation, we confess before you and one another that we sinned against you by our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have sinned against you by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have sinned against you and one another by failing to live by your Law of Love. We have not given good witness to the resurrection of Jesus by our words and actions. We have not always been kind to one another, to ourselves, or to our neighbors. We have, at times, slipped into being Sunday Christians only, not allowing your grace to infuse our daily living.

We are sorry and we turn to you for forgiveness and healing. Help us to turn and go the Way of Love. Show us how to offer and seek forgiveness from our neighbors, that all creation might be reconciled again in your amazing grace. Amen.

Sung Meditation

Confitemini Domino / Come and Fill

Ostinato Refrain

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Assurance of Pardon

God does not look on us as despised sinners
but as those who have been redeemed by the
life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Friends, believe this very good news:
We have been forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*Response *Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

A Time With Young Disciples



We Listen For God



Scripture Introduction *and* Prayer for Illumination

The First Scripture Lesson

I Peter 2:19-25

Anthem

“Welcome”

Mark Miller

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in.
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace,
Singing welcome,

Refrain:

Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,

And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,
Singing welcome,

Refrain

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem, Where our
mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!
Crying welcome!

Refrain

The Second Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

The Sermon

Kingdom Economics

***Hymn (see insert)**

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”

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

Let us say something about what we believe:

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for all people. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

The risen Christ is the Savior of all. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations. 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



Donations can be made by either scanning the QR code from the Venmo app or by searching for [@First_Pres_of_Watertown](#).

The Offertory

“A Place at the Table”

arr. Mary McDonald

For everyone born, a place at the table,
For everyone born, clean water and bread,
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
For everyone born, a star overhead.

Chorus

And God will delight when we are creators
Of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators
Of justice, justice and joy.

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,

Chorus

For young and for old, a place at the table,
A voice to be heard, a part in the song,
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
For young and for old, the right to belong.

Chorus

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
Abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
For just and unjust, a new way to live.

Chorus

For everyone born, a place at the table,
To live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
For everyone born, the right to be free.

Chorus

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God, you have promised to hear our prayers and to fulfill our needs according to your will. We bow before you today in humble gratitude for the opportunity to worship you and to ask for your compassionate care to be known in our lives and in the lives of all people. Send your Spirit to dwell with us in new ways so that we might know your abiding presence in the midst of complex times.

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

God of justice, you have shown us how to build longer tables, not higher walls. And though we have not always been faithful messengers of your generous welcome and hospitality, we know that you can help us to change our ways. As we have been brought near to you by the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, show us how to bring others closer to your heart of love.

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

God of time and space, recent events in the world have caused us to tremble to shake, literally and spiritually. Whether earthquakes, civil unrest, or other disasters, we do wonder about the times we are living in. Give us confidence once again in your providential care of creation so that we can live in peace that you are unmovable and unchanging.

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

Holy God, your people in every time and place have faced their own trials, temptations, and victories. Give us eyes to see your many blessings in our lives and fortify us against the storms. Heal our bodies when they fail. Comfort our hearts when we are anxious. And remind us daily that love is only love when it is given away.

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 #399**

“We Are God’s People”

***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

“Song of Triumph”

Roland Diggle

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

Today's flowers are given in memory of **Norm Ahlheim** by Cindy and family.

Leading in Worship Today:

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long, preaching
Beth Linderman, Liturgist
Carl Bingle, Organist
Sara Gleason, Director of Music
Chancel Choir

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

April 30 Bob Sturtz
May 1 Matt Gorman
May 4 Sarah Sinclair
May 7 Katrina Cox

We Pray For...

Family of Robert B. Brown, Wink, Frank, Reid, Sam, Alicia, Jennifer, Elise, John D., Alice, Dorothy, Pat, Bob, Sue, Barbara, Sherrie, Amy, Jamie, William, Fred M., Josh L., Sister Diane, Shirley, Tyler, Rochelle & Mphatso, Grace, Sam & Ruth, Mary, Suzanne, Linda, Shane, Ed, Millie, Gerda, Annie, FPC Watertown, NNY Presbytery, Synod of The Northeast, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the people of Ukraine, the sick, all essential workers, students & teachers, medical professionals, all serving in the military, for peace & justice, all people in positions of leadership & power.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES.

**Today, Sunday, April 30th—Orchestra of Northern New York
concert - *Brahms Symphony #1* (honoring Tom & Mabel Walker),
3:00 p.m., Sanctuary**

Tuesday, May 2nd - Staff Meeting, 12 Noon, Room 6

**Wednesday, May 3rd - All Church Fellowship Breakfast & Program,
8:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

Thursday, May 4th - Deacons' Meeting, 5:00 p.m., FH

**Next Sunday, May 7th - Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary,
“Going Deeper” Large Group Session 5 - 11:30 a.m., FH
Outreach Committee Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Room 6
Open Table - 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

**Do you have any costume jewelry or pretty scarves
that are taking up space in your house?**

Here's a way to gift your unwanted treasures:

On each Malawi trip, the Women of Grace: Widows Fund crew take each widow a small personal gift, something she will love, but never be able to afford. Necklaces, bracelets, and scarves are always highly valued. (And they are light, unbreakable, and easy to pack for us.)

**If you have any items you are willing to donate, please bring them in
and place them in the labeled box in Fellowship Hall by May 14th.**

If you have any questions, please see Angela Elmer or Margot McGorman.

For you were going astray like sheep,



*but now you have returned to the shepherd
and guardian of your souls.* 1 Peter 2:25, NRSV