



# First Presbyterian Church

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

August 21, 2022 + 10:00 a.m.



**STRENGTHENING**

*faith*

# 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](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 will resume in September.

## **A Word About The Current Sermon Series**

For the remainder of the summer we'll be taking a closer look at specific questions and topics that you, the community at FPC, have submitted to Pastor Andrew for Sunday sermons. Some of these questions and topics are about the Bible, how it was formed and how it came to be what we read today; some are about forgiveness, heaven and hell, and calling. This sermon series is designed to help strengthen our faith in an increasingly complex world by reminding us of the basics of our faith, the tools we possess as Christians to bring light to a weary world, and to help us answer with confidence and joy why we follow Jesus Christ. You may leave each Sunday service with the answers you are seeking, or you may leave with more questions.

Remember the words of our Lord:

*“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you” (Matthew 7:7).*

 **Gathering** 

**Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome**

**Singing In**

**Prelude**

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King/Invention No. 8” J.S. Bach, J. Darwall

**\*Call to Worship** (*adapted from Psalm 55*)

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;  
hear me and answer me.

**We call to God, and the Lord saves us.**

Evening, morning and noon, if I cry out in distress,  
God hears my voice.

**God rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me,  
even though many oppose me.**

God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change -

**Cast your burdens on the Lord and God will sustain you;**

God will never let the righteous be shaken.

**But as for me, I trust in you O God.**

**Let us worship God together!**

**\*Opening Hymn #104**

“O Worship the King”

**\*Prayer of The Day**

**Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

We gather here as God's creation, we gather fully human, aware of our shortcomings and aware of our sins. Yet we gather to worship a God who loves us despite our flaws and promises to forgive us and urges us to forgive one another 70 times 7 times. Let us join our voices together in the responsive prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we live our lives struggling in our own burdens and failing to trust You with all the things that hold us down.**

Your scripture says, “Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.”

**We chase material things and success that fades.  
We prioritize our schedules above our faith.**

Your scripture says, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

**We live as if hope doesn’t exist. We fail to see the bigger picture of the needs of the world that You have called us to serve.**

Your scripture says, “He saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done, but because of His own purpose and grace.”

**We carry grudges, avoid conflict, and live in dysfunctional relationships instead of seeking wholeness and reconciliation.**

Your scripture says, “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”

**We don’t live as if Your promises are true. We don’t give You our whole lives and follow You in the gift of Your forgiveness.**

Your scripture says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but will have eternal life.”

**Help us to daily live in the gift of Your forgiveness. Help us to serve and live holy lives out of that gift.**

*a time of silence is kept*

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## \*Response

600

Amen

Musical score for 'Amen' in 2/2 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: African American; arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988

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.**



**We Listen for God**



## Prayer for Illumination

### The Scripture Lesson

Matthew 11:25-30

### The Sermon

“Strengthening Faith, Part 6: New Yokes and Burdens”

**\*Affirmation of Faith - *Excerpts from the Confession of Belhar***

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;**

**We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;**

**We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another;**

**We believe that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;**

**We believe that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;**

**We believe that we need one another and build up one another, admonishing and comforting one another;**

**We believe that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity;**



**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

“God Help the Outcasts”

Alan Menken

Dave Elmer, Soloist, Carl Bingle, Organist

## \*The 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

### \*Closing Hymn #370

“Rejoice the Lord is King”

### \*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

“Ein’ feste Burg ist Unser Gott”

M. Luther, arr. David Cherwien

### **Leading in Worship Today:**

The Rev. Julia Wright, preaching

Bunny Gorman, Liturgist

Carl Bingle, Organist

Dave Elmer, Soloist