

ARISE AND SHINE



*Rising
Light*

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 introduce yourself to our pastor or worship leader.

Hearing help is available during all worship services - hearing aids are available in the narthex.

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

Sunday School for pre-school through grade 6 meets after "Young Disciples Time." NO Sunday School today.

Sanctuary trees are given to the glory of God and
in memory of **Norman R. Ahlheim** by Cindy & her family.

Chiming The Hour of Worship



Pastor's Greeting and Words of Welcome



Choir men: Keep your - lamps - trimmed and bur - ning; keep your lamps trimmed and bur - ning; keep your

Choir women: Dar - ker mid - night lies be - fore us; dar - ker mid - night lies be - fore - us; dark - er

Choir and Congregation: Lo, the mor - ning soon is break - ing; lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing; lo, the

Choir and Congregation: Keep your - lamps trimmed and bur - ning; keep your lamps trimmed and bur - ning; keep your



lamps trimmed and bur - - ning, the time is draw - ing nigh.

mid - night lies be - fore us, the time is draw - ing nigh.

morn - ing soon is break - - ing, the time is draw - ing nigh.

lamps trimmed and bur - - ning, the time is draw - ing nigh.

Gathering Song

“Keep Your Lamps”

African American Spiritual

*Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come!

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I
fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I
be afraid?**

The day will dawn and the Morning Star will rise in our
hearts!

**So we proclaim the praises of him who called us out
of darkness - into his marvelous light!**

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #754

“Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending”

*Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him, yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son purifies us from sin. Let us confess our sins to God, our merciful Father.

Most holy and mighty God, we have sinned against you by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have run from your ways and embraced the darkness of this present evil age.

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ your only Son and our only Savior. Keep our hearts attentive to the signs and seasons, so that we are found ready on the day of Christ's coming!

a time of silence is kept

Amen.

Friends in Christ, if we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just and will
forgive our sins and cleanse us
from all unrighteousness.

In Jesus' name, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

***Response** *from "Angels We Have Heard On High"*
Gloria, in excelsis deo!
Gloria, in excelsis deo!

A Time With Young Disciples

Lighting the First Advent Candle



We Listen For God



Prayer for Illumination

Anthem

“Noël: O Sing to God”

Charles Gounod

O sing to God your hymns of gladness,
Ye loving hearts your tribute pay;
Your Lord is born this happy day.
Then pierce the sky with songs of gladness,
Disperse the shades of gloom and sadness;
O sing to God your hymns of gladness.
O Word of God for us incarnate,
By faith we hear Thine angels sing,
Their hymns of praise to Thee their King.
We join with them in adoration,
We pour to Thee our supplication,
That Thou wouldst grant us, Lord, salvation.

The First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

The Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:67-79

The Sermon

Rising Light

*Hymn

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, from the
3 See, the Lamb so long ex - pect - ed comes with
near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the all
dark - ness we a - rise; Christ, our sun, all
par - don down from heaven. Let us haste, with
works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day!"
ill dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - given;
4 so when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.
5 Honor, glory, might, dominion to the Father and the Son,
with the everliving Spirit while eternal ages run.

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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.

Song of Offering #186

“Lord, Be Glorified”



Donations can be made by either scanning the QR code from the Venmo app or by searching for _of_Watertown.

Musical Offering

“The Shepherds’ Farewell”

Hector Berlioz

A Prayer for Washing Hands from *Psalm 26*

I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O Lord,
**singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.**

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 for us to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to
give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God...

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the celestial choirs
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son...

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...

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.**

And now we pray through music as Christ has taught us:

“The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

**Communion of The People
Prayer After Communion**

***Closing Hymn #255**

“Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming”

***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

“Alleluia” from Exultate Jubilate, K. 165 W.A. Mozart



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

December 3, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.