



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

December 31, 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." NO Sunday School today.

Chiming The Hour of Worship

Gathering

Pastor's Greeting and Words of Welcome

*Call to Worship from *Psalm 96*

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;
tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

*Opening Hymn #277

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Prayer of Intercession

Beloved in Christ, it is our duty and delight to
prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which has come to pass,
and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from the holy scriptures
the tale of the loving purposes of God from
the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption
brought us by this holy child;
and let us make this house of prayer
glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world...
and all his people...
for peace upon the earth he came to save...
for love and unity within the one Church he did build...
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time,
let us remember the poor...

the cold, the hungry...
the oppressed...
the sick and them that mourn...
the lonely and the unloved...
the aged and the little children...
and all who do not know the Lord Jesus,
or do not love him, or who by sin have
grieved his heart of love...
Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one...

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer
up to the throne of heaven,
in the words that Christ himself has 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.**

The First Lesson

Adam and Eve Disobey God
Genesis 3:87-15, 17-19

***Carol #250**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The Second Lesson

A Great Light

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Carol #251

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

The Third Lesson

A Little Child Will Lead Them

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

***Carol #244**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

The Fourth Lesson

Mary Gives Birth in Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-7

Carol #261

“Away in a Manger”

The Fifth Lesson

Angels Announce The Messiah

Luke 2:8-16

***Carol #265**

“The First Noel”

The Sixth Lesson

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-14

Carol #273

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

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.

Offertory

“Go Tell It!

Michele Bariteau, flute

arr. Tom Fettke

*Closing Hymn #270

“Joy to the World!”

*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

Toccata on “Joy to the World”

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

David Cherwien

Today’s **Radio Broadcast** is given by the congregation in loving memory of church members who passed away this year.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

December 31 Lauri Piiparinen
December 31 Peter Van Eenenaam
December 31 Sarah Thomas
January 3 Eric Green
January 5 John Jeffries
January 5 Jane Schweitzer
January 6 Marcia Bulger

We pray for healing for:

Deanne, the family of Veronica, the family of Amy, Gerda, Jennifer, Elise, John, Pat, Sue, Sherrie, Carole, Jane, Millie.

We pray for those who are unable to join us in-person:

Linda, Jamie, Dorothy, Shane, Ed, Annie.

We pray for our mission partners:

Tyler, Rochelle, and Mphatso, Grace, Sam, and Ruth, Isaiah, MELT, The Women of Grace, NNY Presbytery, Synod of The Northeast, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Josh Garry & Family (preparing for ministry)

We pray for our local and national leaders:

Watertown's Mayor and City Council (and Mayor-elect and soon-to-be council members), the U.S. President and Congress, the Governor of New York & State Legislature.

We pray for those serving our nation:

The Wright Family, those in conflict in Ukraine, Israel and

HAPPY NEW YEAR

