

# ***FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

**403 WASHINGTON STREET  
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601  
315-782-1750**

**February 20, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**



*"Sermon on the Plain," Cosimo Rosselli, Florence, 1439-1507*

How the Bible became the Bible is one of the most fascinating mysteries of all. For example, today we are going to hear words from what scholars call Jesus' *Sermon on The Plain* from the gospel of Luke. Listening carefully, we'll hear that these words sound very similar to things Jesus says in the gospel of Matthew – during a time scholars call Jesus' *Sermon on The Mount*. The two narratives have distinct differences; did Jesus give two sermons? Were Matthew and Luke present for the event and then decide to record it differently? Is Matthew more 'accurate' than Luke, or vice versa?

This is the mystery of the Bible. Historical scholarship teaches us that Matthew and Luke used similar source material in writing their gospels, which is why there are so many similarities. But in the same way that each of us might tell a similar story differently, each gospel writer tells the story of Jesus in a unique way. Does this diminish what we know and believe about Jesus? Absolutely not! In fact, this testifies to the power of the Holy Spirit and the unique experience each person has in encountering the Son of God.

## GATHERING

### Gathering Music

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

*Amazing Grace*

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

John Carter

David Cherwien

Dale Wood

### Pastor's Greeting and Words of Welcome

#### Prelude

*Offertoire*

Théodore Dubois

#### \*Call to Worship (from Psalm 37)

Leader: Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers.

**People: for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.**

Trust in the Lord, and do good;

**so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.**

Take delight in the Lord,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.**

He will make your vindication shine like the light,

**And the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

**Let us worship God together!**

#### \*Opening Hymn #686

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

#### \*Prayer of the Day

##### Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

The complexity of God is that God's mercy rains down on the just and the unjust, on the wicked and the righteous. We have this assurance through Jesus Christ, our Lord. This does not, however, release us from confessing our sins; confession makes it possible for us to live fully into God's mercy.

Confident in God, let us confess our sins together.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive.**

**Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. These things we pray through Christ our Savior.**

*a time of silence is kept*

Children of the Most High God:  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord  
We have received grace in good measure,  
Spilling out and running over.

**We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**\*Response - Hymn #813 – *Glory Be to the Father***

### **A Time With Young Disciples**

Hymn: *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**

### **First Scripture Lesson**

Romans 8:31-39 (New Testament, pages 158-159 in pew Bibles)

### **Anthem**

*Love Grows Here*

Don Besig

FPC Choir and organ

Take a look around you

Tell me what you see

People here to worship the Lord

Just like you and me

Some have come in gladness

Some have come with fear

But all have come because they know that love grows here

Yes, love grows here

And all of us can share

The wonder and joy that it can bring

For God is near

Teaching us to care

And showing our hearts

How to sing

Some of us are lonely

Some have many friends

Some lives just beginning

Some are near the end

Yet we come together  
Knowing he is near  
Once again reminding us  
That love grows near  
Yes love grows here  
And all of us can share  
The wonder and joy that it can bring  
For God is near  
Teaching us to care  
And showing our hearts  
How to sing  
Yes love grows here  
Yes love  
Grows here

## **Second Scripture Lesson**

Luke 6:27-38 (Old Testament, page 719 in pew Bibles)

## **Sermon**

“Who is in a Position to Condemn?”

Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long

## **\*HYMN #347**

*And Can It Be?*

## **\*Affirmation of Faith - from *The Confession of 1967***

Let us say what we believe:

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of man’s mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.**

**God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of his dealings with men. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. 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

*The Rose*

Angela and David Elmer

## \*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 #343

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

## \*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.

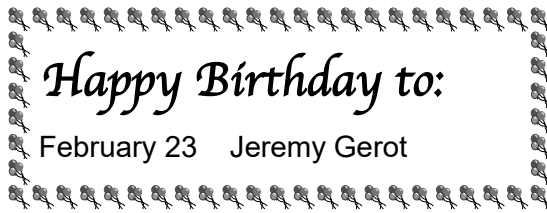
*During this time of public concern over health and wellness, please be respectful of those who may want to avoid physical contact while share The Peace; flashing the 'peace sign' is a perfectly appropriate way to share Christ's peace. 'Fist bumps,' 'elbow bumps,' or slick dance moves can also extend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

## Postlude

*Trumpet Tune in D Major*

David Johnson

Today's **Radio Broadcast** is a gift in loving memory of **Patricia McWayne** from her husband, Frederick, daughter Shane, son Shawn and daughter-in-law, Kathy.



*Happy Birthday to:*

February 23 Jeremy Gerot

*We Pray for...*

Nora, Deanne, Tyler, The Bariteau Family, The Allen Family, The Elmer & Lake Families, Grace & Sam, Brad & Carol, Waring, Mary Lynn, Midwest Tornado Victims, Josh L., Mary, Tom, Linda & Ken, Shane, Gerda, Ed, Robert, Jamie, Barbara, Annie, Madrid Scotch 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 and leadership.

**“The Chosen” coming to Watertown First Pres. Church in February**

What was it like to encounter Jesus face-to-face? How would He have made you feel; changed your way of thinking about God? Would he have turned your world upside down? Journey to Galilee in the first century. See the difference He made in the lives of those he called to follow him and how they were forever transformed. Experience the life and power of the perfect Son of God as never before - through the eyes of everyday people just like you.

We are pleased to offer “The Chosen in a series of 45 minute film episodes on the big screen in Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m. on Sundays after church services. Episode 1 will be shown on **TODAY** and continue with subsequent episodes for 7 weeks. We will follow up with a Bible Study Discussion group on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be available for the Sunday and Wednesday sessions.

A complimentary interactive Bible Study guide is available. Please sign up on the poster in fellowship hall, contact Donna Dayger, Kim Collins or the church office to reserve your copy. You may also sign up through the church website by clicking on the Chosen picture at the bottom of our home page.

The newly formed **Presbyterian Women of Jefferson County** will meet on Thursday, February 24th at 12 noon at Stone Presbyterian Church, 140 Chestnut St. to discuss future programming. All Presbyterian Women are welcome!

## THIS WEEK

“**The Chosen**” - first episode - TODAY, February 20th, 11:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Church Office Closed - Monday, February 21st** in observance of Presidents’ Day

**Staff /Admin. Meeting** - Tuesday, February 22nd, 3:00 p.m.

**Bible Study Discussion on “The Chosen”** - Wednesday, February 23rd, 6:00 p.m., FH

**NO Adult Handbell Rehearsals** this week

**NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal** this week

“**The Open Table**” **Community Meal** - Next Sunday, February 27th, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall (Take Out only)

# The Open Table

\*O taste and see that the Lord is good!—Psalm 34:8

On Sunday, February 27, FPC Watertown is pleased to welcome the community to *The Open Table*! *The Open Table* is a no-cost, no-strings-attached, homemade meal lovingly prepared by members of the church. Macaroni and cheese, sliced ham, and fruit will be served for take-out and all are welcome!

**When: Sunday, February 27, 5-6pm (or until we run out)**

**What: Macaroni and Cheese, Sliced Ham, and Fruit takeout dinner**

**Where: First Presbyterian Watertown, Northeast parking lot door  
(look for the signs!)**

**Who: Everyone is Welcome!**

*Church volunteers will be needed on February 27 to direct traffic, package and hand out meals, greet guests, & clean-up. **LOOK FOR THE SIGN-UP SHEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!***

**Staff emails: Church Office (Sue): [wfpsec@gmail.com](mailto:wfpsec@gmail.com)**

**Pastor Andrew’s cell phone: (410) 916-1673**



"But I say to you that listen,

*Love*

your enemies,

*do good*

to those who hate you,

*bless*

those who curse you,

*pray*

for those who abuse you."

Luke 6:27-28. NRSV

This service is being broadcast over radio station **WATN 1240**,  
Facebook: **[www.facebook.com/watertownfpc](https://www.facebook.com/watertownfpc)**, and  
Livestreamed from our website: **[www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org)**