

About this icon, Latimore recently said, “In our age of endless images, with social media and advertisements, we’re constantly being inundated with this stuff. What icons can do is say, this is what we’re choosing to see as a community. These different images – images of the Trinity being seen as three women of color, or Christ being seen in a different representation that is more true to him being a man of color – they can teach us how to see the world in a new way. Hopefully, the work that I can do is seeing the saints that are among us, and the images of God that are in plain sight, here and now.”



“Refugees: The Holy Family,” Kelly Latimore

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

January 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

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.

Gathering Music

- “O Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus” Mary McDonald
“Quelle est cette odeur agréable?” Lani Smith
“Huron Carol” Alfred Fedak
“There’s a Song in the Air, a Star in the Sky” K. Varner



Pastor’s Greeting and Words of Welcome

Prelude

“The Three Wise Men” Olive Russell

*Litany for Epiphany

Arise, shine; for your light has come!
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Nations will come to his light,
and rulers will seek his radiance.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

He will judge the people with righteousness
and defend the cause of the poor.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The mystery of the ages is revealed;
the eternal plan of God is known to all.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us kneel down before him to give
him honor, glory, and praise.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us offer him all the treasures of our
hearts and our lives.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

a time of silence is kept

God of endless light, you sent a star - rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Opening Hymn #291**

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

God judges the nations with righteousness, and answers the poor with justice. The presence of sin in our lives leaves us impoverished of the riches of God’s grace and mercy. Yet when we turn back to God, we will receive healing and forgiveness. Let us, then, with confidence confess our sins together.

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

And together we say, **Amen.**

A time of silence is kept

The mercy of the Lord is like rain,
like showers that water the earth.

In the name of Jesus Christ, 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



We Listen For God



Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson, Part 1

Matthew 2:1-12

Anthem

“Welcome to Our World” arr. Jack Schrader

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking, how we need to hear from God. You’ve been promised, we’ve been waiting; welcome, Holy Child.

Hope that you don’t mind our manger, how I wish we would have known. But long-awaited, holy Stranger, make yourself at home, please make yourself at home.

Bring your peace into our violence, bid our hungry souls be filled. Word now breaking heaven’s silence, welcome to our world, welcome to our world.

Fragile finger sent to heal us, tender brow, prepared for thorn, tiny heart, whose blood will save us, unto us is born; So wrap our injured flesh around you, breathe our air and walk our sod. Rob our sin, and make us holy Perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God.

The Scripture Lesson, Part 2

Matthew 2:13-23

The Sermon

When Is God With Us?

*Hymn #281

“What Child Is This?”

Affirmation of Faith from *The Scots Confession of 1560*

We constantly believe that God, after the fearful and horrible departure of humankind from his obedience, did seek Adam again, call upon him, rebuke and convict him of his sin, and in the end made unto him

a most joyful promise, that “the seed of the woman should bruise the head of the serpent,” that is, that he should destroy the works of the devil.

This promise was repeated and made clearer from time to time; it was embraced with joy, and most constantly received by all the faithful from Adam to Noah, from Noah to Abraham, from Abraham to David, and so onwards to the incarnation of Christ Jesus; all did see the joyful day of Christ Jesus, and did rejoice. 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

“Birthday of a King”

William Harold Neidlinger

In the little village of Bethlehem
There lay a Child one day
And the sky was bright with a holy light
O'er the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain:

Alleluia! O how the angels sang
Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light
'Twas the birthday of a King.

'Twas a humble birthplace, but O how much
God gave to us that day
From the manger bed what a path has led
What a perfect, holy way.

A Prayer for Washing Hands from *Psalms* 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 to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give
you thanks and praise,
God of majesty and splendor...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices
with angels and archangels 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, our Lord...

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 and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ...

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 as Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:
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.

**Words of Institution
Communion of The People
Prayer After Communion**

***Closing Hymn #288**
“We Three Kings”

***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

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

G. Macchia

First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org