



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

July 16, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



The Sower, Vincent Van Gogh, 1888

Today's service was planned and written by the participants of Session #5 of "Going Deeper."

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)

There is no Sunday School during July and August. Sunday School will resume in September.

Gathering Music

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”

Allen/Crosby, arr. Turner

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Crusader’s Hymn, arr. Smith

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”

Welsh hymn, arr. Sewell

“To God Be the Glory”

Doane/Crosby, arr. Macchia

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” arr. Mark Hayes

Leanne Elmer, piano and organ



Pastor’s Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Here I Am, Lord”

arr. Jack Schrader

*Call to Worship *Psalm 119*

The Lord exists forever;

your word is firmly fixed in heaven.

Your faithfulness endures to all generations;

you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

By your appointment they stand today,

for all things are your servants.

If your law had not been my delight,

I would have perished in my misery.

I will never forget your precepts,

for by them you have given me life.

I am yours; save me,

for I have sought your precepts.

The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,

but I consider your decrees.

I have seen a limit to all perfection,

but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

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

God’s amazing love is revealed to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, all for our salvation. We approach God in confession not as despised sinners but as prodigal children coming home to the embrace of the father. With humility, let us confess our sins together.

Gracious God, thank you for planting our feet firmly in the soil of your Word. Planted, we flourish. But too often we wither, we get strangled by weeds of arrogance and brambles of selfishness.

The promise of your grace gives us hope for forgiveness, and so we ask you to forgive us once again. Help us to embrace one another as we grow together in your love.

a time of silence is kept

Amen.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

God’s promise through Christ is this:
we have been set free from sin and death.

Thanks be to God!

***Response**

“Prelude and Dance”

Judy Hunnicutt

Handbells: Phyllis Elmer, Leanne Elmer, David Elmer,

Melissa Elmer, Angela Elmer & Jenny Whitenack

A Time With Young Disciples



We Listen For God



Prayer for Illumination

Anthem

“Come, Thou Fount”

arr. Craig Courtney

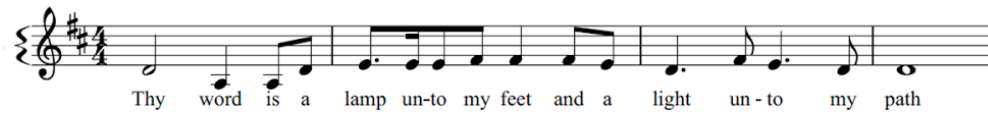
David and Angela Elmer, duet

The First Scripture Lesson

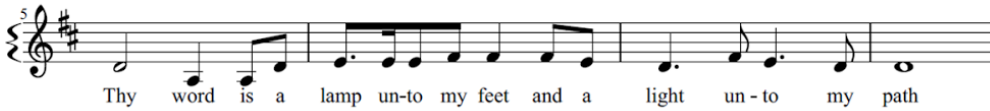
Psalm 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.



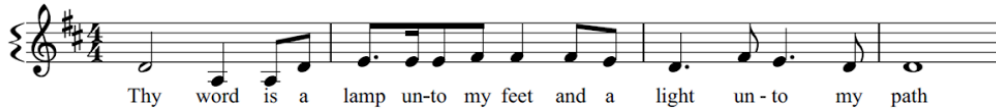
D A D A G A D



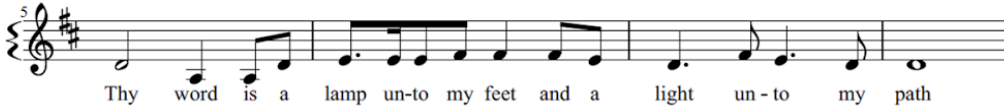
I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.
Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your ordinances.

I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.

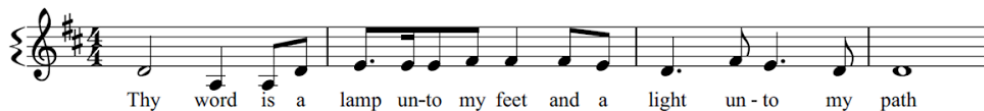
The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.



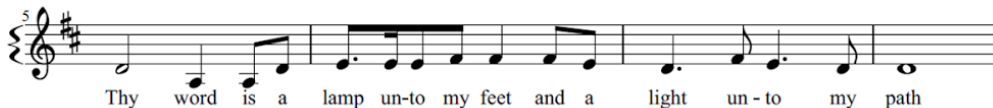
D A D A G A D



Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.
I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.



D A D A G A D



The Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Sermon

Broadcasting

*Hymn #563

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

*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.

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

“All Good Gifts” from *Godspell*
David Elmer, soloist

Stephen Schwartz

*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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Holy and Gracious God, we bless you and thank you for today’s worship and for the opportunity to once again gather in your presence in peace and safety. As today’s music and message carry us back into the world, make us bold broadcasters of your Word and love. Help us to sow the goodness of your love and mercy wherever we go.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Good God, we live in a world bound by fear. We ask that you help to ease the tensions that exist between your people. Bring peace where there is discord. Shine light where there is darkness. Speak a bold word of judgment against the systems and structures that hurt your people, that fear may cease and love might abound.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, teach us how to never forget your love. We fall victim to sin and death, yet you have called us to rise from the grave; keep our hearts and minds in your perfect peace and love so that we will never wander from your warm embrace. Guide us and hold us by your side.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us now as we pray to you in the name of Jesus Christ, as he 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.

***Closing Hymn #184**

“Thy Word”

Congregational Meeting

for the purpose of receiving and voting on proposed changes to the church's by-laws.

***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

“Voluntary in A Major”

William Selby

This morning, the **Radio Broadcast** is a gift from the congregation of First Presbyterian Church.