



# First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + [www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org)

July 17, 2022 + 10:00 a.m.



**STRENGTHENING**

*faith*

# 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 measure our lives according to God's Word. 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](mailto: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.

**Sunday School** is available for children through middle school during worship, except on the first Sunday of the month.

**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).

## **A Word About Today's Service**

For the remainder of the summer we'll be taking a closer look at specific questions and topics that you, the community at FPC, have submitted to Pastor Andrew for Sunday sermons. Some of these questions and topics are about the Bible, how it was formed and how it came to be what we read today; some are about forgiveness, heaven and hell, and calling. This sermon series is designed to help strengthen our faith in an increasingly complex world by reminding us of the basics of our faith, the tools we possess as Christians to bring light to a weary world, and to help us answer with confidence and joy why we follow Jesus Christ. You may leave each Sunday service with the answers you are seeking, or you may leave with more questions. Remember the words of our Lord: "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you" (Mt. 7:7).



## Gathering



### Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

### Singing In

### Prelude

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Michele Bariteau, flute

Wm. Bradbury, arr. Fritchie

### \*Call to Worship from Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits -  
**who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.

**The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;  
**as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

**Let us worship God together!**

## **\*Opening Hymn #225**

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

## **\*Prayer of The Day**

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

Confession is not easy. Admitting that we have done wrong, to God and our neighbors, is counter-cultural. Saying, “I’m sorry,” doesn’t happen nearly as much as it should. Yet, our faith calls us to confession before God and one another so that we might be cleansed by God’s mercy and set on the narrow path that leads to life.

Confident in God’s grace, let us confess our sins together.

**Merciful and abundant God, we’re not terrible sinners, at least not like David who coveted another’s wife or Peter who flatly denied knowing Jesus. But we’re not guiltless either. We might not covet another person, but we certainly yearn for things even though you’ve given us all we need. We might not deny Jesus, but we certainly don’t always claim him as the center, the guide, the leader of our lives.**

**Create in us clean hearts to serve you. Open our mouths with praise and joy. Give us strength and courage to love you and love our neighbors as ourselves, for this is all the law and prophets. Fling wide the gates of your mercy that we might walk in abundant life today and always.**

*a time of silence is kept*

The psalmist says it most clearly;  
As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has God removed our transgressions from us.  
Believe the good news!  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

## \*Response

600

Amen

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Amen'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system is for the first line of lyrics: 'A - men, a - men.' The second system is for the second line: 'A - men, a - men, a - men.' The music is in 2/2 time and features a simple, rhythmic melody with accompaniment in the bass line.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
MUSIC: African American; arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988

AMEN

## A Time With Young Disciples

“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.**

## We Listen for God

### Prayer for Illumination

**The Scripture Lesson** Matthew 10:5-15 & Matthew 18:21-22

### The Sermon

“Strengthening Faith, Part 1: Forgiveness”

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

*Let us reflect on what we believe...*

**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for all people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to humankind, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.**

**The risen Christ is the Savior for all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations.**



**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 “Who Am I”**

Mark Hall

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth  
Would care to know my name, would care to feel my hurt?  
Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star  
Would choose to light the way for my ever wandering heart?  
Not because of who I am, But because of what You've done.  
Not because of what I've done, But because of who You are.

I am a flower quickly fading: here today and gone tomorrow.  
A wave tossed in the ocean, a vapor in the wind.  
Still You hear me when I'm calling.  
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling.  
And You've told me who I am.  
I am Yours, I am Yours.

Who am I, that the eyes that see my sin  
Would look on me with love and watch me rise again?  
Who am I, that the voice that calmed the sea  
Would call out through the rain and calm the storm in me?  
Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?  
'Cause I am Yours, I am Yours.

### **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 #705** "It Is Well with My Soul"

**\*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.

### **Postlude and Piano Send-Off**

"Glorious Victory"

*(based on favorite Easter hymns)*

arr. Lani Smith

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