



# First Presbyterian Church

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

July 24, 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.

**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**

"I Trust in Thee"

Mary McDonald

**\*Call to Worship** from Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

**You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.**

**You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
**If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
**even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**  
If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night’,  
**even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.**

**Let us worship God together!**

**\*Opening Hymn #63**

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

**\*Prayer of The Day**

**Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

When you try to picture God, what do you see? Do you see a stern, immovable God who looks down on creation with disgust and regret, or do you see a loving Father, a nurturing Mother, guiding creation to glory? In Jesus Christ, we know that God is loving, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Therefore, we can confess our sins to God not fearful of God’s wrath but in confidence of God’s grace and mercy.

Let us now bring our confessions to God.

**Loving God, you created us in love and have given us a simple commandment to follow: love you and love our neighbors as**

ourselves. We confess that we like to make that more complicated than it really is. We like to pick and choose who to love; we like to pick and choose who other people love, too. We have not been as frivolous and generous in loving others as you have loved us, and we are sorry.

Help us to go another way, God of New Life. Where there is hatred in our world, help us to show love. Where there is deep darkness from division and strife, help us to sow peace. When we turn from your way, lovingly guide us back so that we might walk in newness of life all of our days.

*a time of silence is kept*

The saying is sure and worthy of our full acceptance:  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
God no longer looks on us according to our sin  
But according to the righteousness of Christ.  
Believe the good news!  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**\*Response**

600

Amen

A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

## 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 22:1-13

## The Sermon

“Strengthening Faith, Part 2: Heaven, Hell and The Fate of  
Every Person Who Ever Lived”

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

*Let us say what we believe...*

**In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all people.**



## 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 “Wayfaring Stranger/Going Home” arr. J. P. Colman

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger  
A' trav'lin through this world of woe,  
But there's no sickness, no toil or danger  
In that bright land to which I go.

I'm going there to see my Father,  
I'm going there no more to roam.  
I'm just a going over Jordan.  
I'm just going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me,  
I know my way is rough and steep;  
But golden fields lie just before me,  
Where God's redeemed no more shall weep.

I'm going there to see my mother,  
She said she'd meet me when I come;  
I'm just a going over Jordan,  
I'm just a going over home.

Going home, going home,  
I'm just going home.  
Quiet like, some still day,  
I'm just going home.

It's not far, just close by,  
Through an open door.  
Work all done, care laid by,  
Goin' to fear no more.

Mother's there, 'specting me,  
Father's waiting too.  
Lots of folk gathered there,  
All the friends I knew.

I'm going there to see my Savior,  
I'm going there no more to roam.  
I'm just a going over Jordan.  
I'm just a going over home.  
I'm just a going over home.

### **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 #648** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

**\*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**

"Grand Choeur Triomphale"

Alexander Guilmant

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

The rosebud on the lectern this morning is in recognition of the birth of:

**Quinn Kelly Garrison**

born July 17, 2022

to Elizabeth Kelly and Mackenzie Garrison

Margot McGorman is proud grandmother. (Her first granddaughter!)