



# First Presbyterian Church

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

June 11, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



*Pharaoh Returns Sarah to Abraham, Isaac Isaacsz, 1640*

# 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](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)

**Sunday School** for pre-school through grade 6 meets after "Young Disciples Time." **Heather White is teaching today.**

# Gathering

## Gathering Music

“Come, Holy Spirit, Come”

“Now We Call the Holy Ghost”

“Blessed Trinity”

John Carter  
Johann Gottfried Walther  
Anna Laura Page

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

### Prelude

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Hebrew hymn, arr. Hustad

### \*Call to Worship *from Psalm 33*

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Praise befits the upright.

**Praise the Lord with the lyre;**

**make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.**

Sing to him a new song;

play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

**For the word of the Lord is upright,**

**and all his work is done in faithfulness.**

He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

**By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,**

**and all their host by the breath of his mouth.**

He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;

he put the deeps in storehouses.

**Let all the earth fear the Lord;**

**let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.**

**Let us worship God together!**

### \*Opening Hymn #23

“The God of Abraham Praise”

## Prayer of the Day

## Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

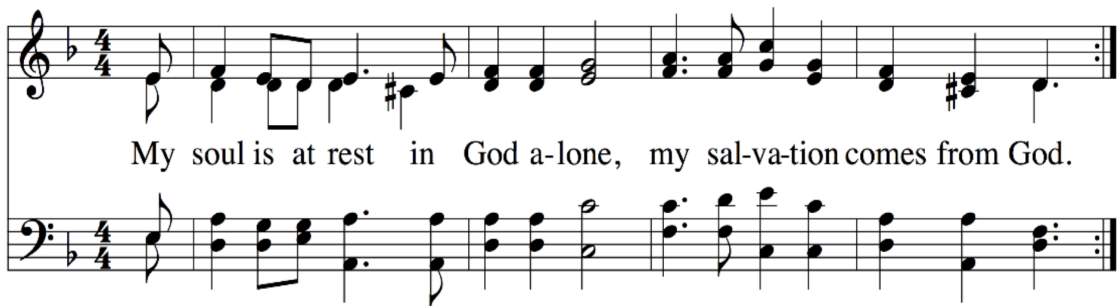
It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick, says Jesus. And there is an old spiritual that says, “There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.” With confidence and trust, let us confess the afflictions that separate us from God’s love so that we can receive the care of the ultimate physician.

**God of calling, you called Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebeckah, Jacob and Rachel, and men and women throughout time and history, and gave them the strength they needed to follow you. You also called a people to be your own and cared for them so that they could live in true abundance. You have also called us to be disciples of Jesus Christ. But sometimes we prefer to close our eyes and cover our ears, turning our backs to your will.**

**Forgive us, O God, and grant us the confidence and hope we need to follow when you call. And not just to follow, but to do so with joy and faith into a bright future beyond anything we could hope for or imagine. Amen.**

## Sung Meditation

“My Soul is at Rest” (Psalm 62)



My soul is at rest in God a-lone, my sal-va-tion comes from God.

## Assurance of Pardon

Jesus was delivered to death for our sins  
And was raised to life for our justification.  
God has poured out love upon us,  
And we have received forgiveness for our sins.  
**We can now live in peace! Amen!**

**\*Response** *Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**A Time With Young Disciples**



**We Listen For God**



**Prayer for Illumination**

**Anthem**

“Through the Eyes of Faith”

Craig Courtney

For a heritage of faith, we lift our prayer and praise,  
for those who held within their grasp a vision of today.  
Unwavering, they kept their eyes upon the goal ahead.  
With firm resolve, they walked the path where ancient footprints  
lead.

**Refrain:**

Through the eyes of faith, through the gates of time,  
Saints have seen a path, when other eyes went blind;  
And they stayed the course when many stayed behind.  
Through their eyes we see, and in their steps, we climb.

For a legacy of faith, we lift a prayer in praise,  
For those to whom we pass the torch, we hold in our embrace.  
Firmly planted in the faith, their eyes are lifted high.  
We race where generations walked, and where we race, they fly.

**Refrain**

**The Scripture Lesson**

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to

be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) - in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## **The Sermon**

*Was Abraham Really All That?*

### **\*Hymn #690**

“He Leadeth Me”

### **\*Affirmation of Faith** *from The Scots Confession of 1560*

Let us say something about what we believe:

**We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must**

worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory. 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

“O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer”

Nathan Stiff

Sung by Sara Gleason

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Greatest treasure of my longing soul  
My God, like You there is no other  
True delight is found in You alone  
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom  
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach  
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom  
My highest good and my unending need  
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Strong defender of my weary heart  
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver

And my shield against his hateful darts  
My song when enemies surround me  
My hope when tides of sorrow rise  
My joy when trials are abounding  
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night  
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
Gracious Savior of my ruined life  
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders  
In my place You suffered bled and died  
You rose, the grave and death are conquered  
You broke my bonds of sin and shame  
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer  
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

**\*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.

God of love and compassion, we need your guidance and healing. Without you we are nothing, but with you we have the power of Christ to overcome the world and its trials and temptations. Teach us to bring our prayers to you that your will might be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

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

God, we pray for those who can hear your calling to a specific vocation but are too afraid to take the first step. We pray for those who are in the process of discernment and formation in an attempt to answer your call. We pray for those who have been called but, for many reasons, have been unable to answer. We also pray that you would make your calling in our lives clear that we might serve you and our Lord Jesus Christ with boldness and faith.

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



God, we pray for those who feel like they are dying, emotionally or physically, and cannot find peace or comfort. We pray for those who in their older years must make decisions as to where to go for the rest of their lives and who have to confront new challenges. Make us a community of faith for all seasons of life, a place where all can feel the warm embrace of your love.

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

God, we pray for nations and leaders, with the hope that they will not follow their own plans, but the purposes of your heart. We pray for peace to come to life in places where there is violence and discord, particularly in this nation as we continue to wield weapons of words and steel against one another. Bring the prophet Isaiah's vision to life where all weapons are melted and then formed into gardening tools.

Lord, 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 (see insert)**

“How Can I Keep From Singing?”

**\*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** “Laudation”

Gilbert Martin

Today's **Radio Broadcast** is a gift from First Presbyterian Church.

## Leading in Worship Today:

The Rev. Dr. , preaching  
Bunny Gorman, Liturgist  
Carl Bingle, Organist  
Sara Gleason, Director of Music  
Chancel Choir



*Happy Birthday to:*

June 11 Alex Roth  
June 13 Shane McWayne  
June 13 Hartley Schweitzer  
June 13 Spencer Sudduth

## We Pray For...

Linya, Barbara, Mary, Calvin's Family, Wink, Frank, Sam and Reid, Alicia, Jennifer, Elise, John, Alice, Dorothy, Pat, Bob, Sue, Barbara, Sherrie, Amy, Jamie, William, Fred M., Josh L., Sister Diane, Shirley, Tyler, Rochelle, and Mphatso, Grace, Sam, and Ruth, Mary, Suzanne, Linda, Shane, Ed, Millie, Gerda, Annie, FPC Watertown, NNY Presbytery, Synod of The Northeast, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the people of Ukraine, the sick, all essential workers, students and teachers, medical professionals, all serving in the military, for peace and justice, all people in positions of leadership and power.

## **Connecting to Our Community and the World**

**First Presbyterian** is blessed to provide space for several community-based ministries and programs. All are open to members of the church and community and meet on the following days:

**Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall**

**Alcoholics Anonymous - First Watertown Group, 8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

**The Spare Closet, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays and the 1st Saturday of each month, Basement.**

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES.**

**TODAY, Sunday, June 11th - CHURCH PICNIC, after Worship**

**Tuesday, June 13th - Staff Meeting, 12 Noon, Room 6**

**Wednesday, June 14th - Facilities Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Room 6**

**Thursday, June 15th - Session Meeting, 5:00 p.m.**

**Next Sunday, June 18th - Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary,  
Pastor Andrew, preaching**

**- Fellowship, after worship in Fellowship Hall**

***Next Open Table: Sunday, June 25th, 5:00 p.m.***



Scan this QR code to register for  
**Vacation Bible School -  
Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19, 26,  
from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**



No unbelief made  
[Abraham] waver  
concerning the  
promise of God,  
but he grew strong  
in his faith as he  
gave glory to God.

Romans 4:20, ESV