



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

June 18, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



The Weeping Woman, Pablo Picasso, 1937

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)

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

Gathering Music

“We Cannot Measure How You Heal”

Scottish Melody

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

Wilbur Held

“God Shed His Grace on Thee”

Samuel Ward, arr. Hughes

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Melita, arr. Callahan



Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Declare His Glory”

Mary McDonald

*Call to Worship *from Matthew 10*

Jesus Christ summons us
to answer God's call of mercy.

**Christ gathers us and gives us power
to be healed and to heal,
to be forgiven and to forgive,
to be freed from sin and to set others free,
to tell one another and the world:
God's presence is at hand.**

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #93

“God, Our Father, We Adore Thee”

*Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

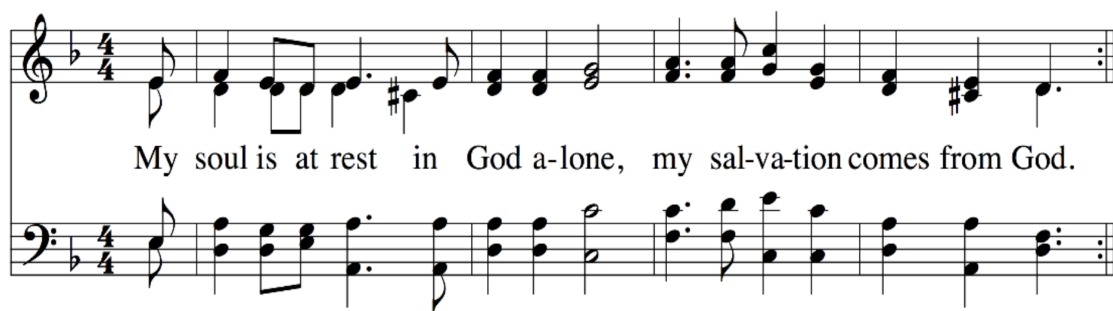
The mystery of God brings the promise of life. Though we are called to faith, we doubt the Spirit's power to overcome the sin and death that is so present in our lives. Yet, the resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals that nothing is impossible with God. Let us confess our sin and receive new life.

Triune God, Holy Three, Holy One, we confess that we do not know how to look for you. We do not sense your nearness, and if there are angels among us, we are unaware. We do not show hospitality to strangers. We do not trust that our hardships can be transformed by your Spirit.

O Covenant-keeper, forgive us. Let us laugh with joy because your grace has made peace among us. Send us out with this good news so that others will also receive your blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Christ gave his life
to save us from the wrath of God.
**Therefore, since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Trust the good news of the gospel:
**in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!**

***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

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”
How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory
Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished
I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Michael Townend

The Scripture Lesson

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Sermon

Where Is God When We Suffer?

***Hymn (See insert)**

“We Cannot Measure How You Heal”

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

Let us say something about what we believe:

The church responds to the message of reconciliation in praise and prayer. In that response, it commits itself afresh to its mission, experiences a deepening of faith and obedience, and bears open testimony to the gospel. Adoration of God is acknowledgment of the Creator by the creation. Confession of sin

is admission of all men's guilt before God and of their need for his forgiveness. Thanksgiving is rejoicing in God's goodness to all men and in giving for the needs of others. Petitions and intercessions are addressed to God for the continuation of his goodness, the healing of men's ills, and their deliverance from every form of oppression.

 **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

“Blessings”

David Elmer, soloist

Words and Music by Laura Story

We pray for blessings

We pray for peace

Comfort for family, protection while we sleep

We pray for healing, for prosperity

We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering

All the while, You hear each spoken need

Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

Chorus

Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops?

What if Your healing comes through tears?

What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?

What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?

We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love
As if every promise from Your Word is not enough

All the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

Chorus

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not our home

Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops?
What if Your healing comes through tears?
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?
What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy?
What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are your mercies in disguise?

***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.

Eternal, birthing God, you bring all things visible and invisible into being.

We pray in gratitude for the ability to worship you in freedom and peace and for the beauty of earth you created for our enjoyment and pleasure. As your Spirit brooded over creation like a mother bird, move in and through us again to care for creation as faithful stewards.

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

Faithful God, we pray for all people of the earth. You placed Adam and Eve in your Eden to live together in happiness and mutual caring - earthling and life-bearer corresponding to one another and living in love with you. Bring your peace, justice, and compassion to every household, village, city, and nation. Bind up the wounds of racial hatred; break the bows of poverty, disease, and hunger.

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

Life Giver, we pray for men, women, and children in all places that we might work together with you for safe homes and safe workplaces, safe health care and safe nations, where life is received with joy and nurtured to maturity.

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

Holy One, help us to remain faithful followers of Jesus. Set our feet on the narrow path that leads to life, and remind us each day of the many blessings you lavish upon us. May we never forget to say 'thank you,' even as called upon your mercy and power in times of need.

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 #740**

“Joy Unspeakable”

***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

“This Is My Father’s World”

Sheppard, arr. David Hegarty

On this Father’s Day, the **Radio Broadcast** is a gift in loving tribute from Jean and Robert Sturtz honoring their fathers, Charles G. Stewart and Roy L. Sturtz.

Leading in Worship Today:

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long , preaching

Bob Kimball, Liturgist

Carl Bingle, Organist

Sara Gleason, Director of Music

Chancel Choir

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 18th - Fellowship, After Worship, FH

Tuesday, June 20th - Staff Meeting, 12 Noon, Room 6

Saturday, June 24th, “Going Deeper” Small Group,
9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, June 25th - Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary,
Pastor Andrew, preaching

- Fellowship, after worship in Fellowship Hall

- **Open Table, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

Menu: Chicken Teriyaki Casserole, Cottage Cheese,
applesauce, corn bread



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

The
love of God
has been poured out
in our hearts
by the Holy Spirit.



Romans 5:5, NKJV