



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

March 26, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



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." Heather White is the teacher today.

Gathering Music

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Dale Wood

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Dale Wood

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

John Carter



We Approach God in Worship



Pastor’s Greeting and Words of Welcome

Prelude

“From the Depths I Call to Thee”

J. S. Bach

*Call to Worship from Psalm 103

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

He will not always chide, 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 high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
**As far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #407

“God Has Spoken by His Prophets”

*Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin *and* Assurance of Pardon

The Lord remembers that we are dust. God knows our fallen sinfulness and calls us to repent of our sins. The Apostle Paul, who once persecuted the church, rejoiced in the grace he received and the mercy shown to him. In the assurance of the same mercy, let us confess our sins to God.

Almighty God, with Paul we too are foremost in sin. We sin against you daily. With our words and actions, we hurt others, even those in the body of Christ, our brothers and sisters in faith. We turn from your Word and your ways to follow the path of our own sinful desires. We have not considered the needs of others as much as we consider our own, and we have not been quick to respond to the needs of the world in the way you expect. We have not loved fully and with all that we have. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Set out feet firmly on the path that leads to life and refresh us daily as we strive to be the people you have called us to be.

a time of silence is kept

God gives us grace through the gift of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus took our sins onto himself and carried them to the cross. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Response from “Amazing Grace”**

**When we've been here ten thousand years,
bright, shining as the sun;
we've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we first begun!**

A Time With Young Disciples

“This Little Light of Mine”

African-American Spiritual

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine...
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!
Jesus gave it to me...
Shine, shine, shine..**



We Listen for God's Word



Scripture Introduction and Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson

Isaiah 53:1-6

Anthem

“He was despised” from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

He gave his back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair.

He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

The Second Lesson

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The Sermon

Grace for the Wretched

*Hymn #705

“It Is Well With My Soul”

*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's Word



Testimony

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.

The 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

“Surely, He Hath Borne Our Grievs” from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows!
He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

*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**

Prayers of the People *and* The Lord's Prayer

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Almighty God, you showed grace to Paul, who called himself the foremost of sinners. You have shown grace to us, even though we are sinners undeserving of your love and forgiveness. During this Lenten season and always, lead us by your Spirit to true repentance. Gracious Lord,
Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to be our Savior. He carried our sins in his own body to the cross and by his wounds we are healed. Lead us to forgive others as we have been forgiven, so that by the witness of our words and our lives, they too will come to believe in Jesus and receive your healing forgiveness. Gracious Lord,
Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we pray for your servants who are in need of physical healing. Hold them in your loving care and shield them from doubt and fear. Comfort them through the promises of your holy Word and lead us to find ways to serve them in their time of need. Gracious Lord,
Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you called Paul, who once persecuted your church, to be an ambassador for Christ the King. You have called us to reflect the light of our Lord in this dark world and to defend the hope that we have in him. By the power of your Spirit make us bold witnesses for Jesus so that others will believe in him as their Savior. Gracious Lord,
Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, in the life of your servant Paul and in our own lives, you have displayed your mercy and perfect patience. We rejoice in your love and grace as we seek to witness to our Lord with our words and actions until we live forever in your presence. Gracious Lord,
Have mercy on us and 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**

“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears
relieved.**

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

**The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come.
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me
home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as
the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first
began.**

***Blessing**

***Passing The Peace of Christ**

Postlude

“Postlude in G Minor”

Garrett Parker

This morning, the **Radio Broadcast** is a gift in loving memory of
Dr. Douglas M. Sanford from his loving wife, Mary Sanford.