



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

March 5, 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." Kelly Thomas is the teacher today.

Gathering Music

“The Wondrous Cross”
“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”
“Our Great Savior”
“It Is Well with My Soul”

Mason, arr. John Carter
Maker, arr. Mary McDonald
Hyfrydol, arr. Lani Smith
Bliss, arr. Janet Linker



We Approach God in Worship



Pastor’s Greeting and Words of Welcome

Prelude

Brian Boru’s March

Irish Traditional, arr. Ervin Monroe

*Call to Worship from Psalm 6

O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath.

**Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;
heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.**

My soul also is greatly troubled.

But you, O Lord - how long?

**Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for
the sake of your steadfast love.**

For in death there is no remembrance of you;
in Sheol who will give you praise?

**I am weary with my moaning;
every night I flood my bed with tears;
I drench my couch with my weeping.
My eye wastes away because of grief;
it grows weak because of all my foes.**

Depart from me, all you workers of evil,
for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer.

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #324

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

***Prayer of the Day**

Confession of Sin *and* Assurance of Pardon

A son received a generous inheritance, but wasted it all in sinful living. He acknowledged his sin and returned in humble repentance, seeking his father's mercy. Our gracious heavenly Father has given us so much, but we too have misused his gifts and wasted what we have received. Humbly repenting of our sins, let us seek forgiveness from God and from one another.

Gracious God, we confess that we are not always thankful for the gifts we have received, the gifts of family, home, work and friends. Daily we choose to follow paths that may lead us away from you, the pathways of our own desires. We turn away from your will and your Word. We have acted in disregard of the great needs around us, forgetting our neighborly duties and turning our backs on those in need.

Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who took up the path of the cross for us. Lead us back home to the place of your salvation, that we might walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.

a time of silence is kept

The father welcomed his wayward son and celebrated his return, saying, "My son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

God our heavenly Father has had mercy on us, showering us with his grace through Jesus, who suffered the penalty of death for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God!

***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...**



We Listen for God's Word



Scripture Introduction and Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson

Joel 2:1-5, 12-13

Anthem

“Jesus Take All of Me”

Heather Sorenson

Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God I come I come

Just as I am though tossed about
With all my conflict all my doubt
Fightings and fears within without
O Lamb of God I come I come

Chorus

Jesus take all of me
I come to You I run to You
There is nothing that you don't see,
I love you just as I am

Just as I am Thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome pardon cleanse relieve
Because Thy promises I believe
O Lamb of God I come I come

Just as I am Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down
now to be Thine, yes Thine alone
O Lamb of God I come I come

The Second Lesson

Luke 15:11-32

The Sermon

Grace for the Lost

*Hymn #648

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*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

“Amazing Grace”

William Walker, arr. Ervin Monroe

***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, we give you thanks and praise for your amazing grace in our lives. We were lost in sin and now have been found.

We were dead in sin and now we are alive in Christ! Heavenly Father, through Christ you have welcomed us home and will one day welcome us into your eternal presence. Gracious Lord,

Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have redeemed us in Christ. We pray that you would lead us by your Spirit to be faithful in the study of your holy Word. Keep us on the path of righteousness so that we carry out the good works that you have prepared for us. Gracious Lord,

Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, we pray for those who are suffering with illness and loss and for those who are struggling in matters of faith because they feel lost and alone. Help us to serve them in love and bring them the comfort of the promises of your Word. Gracious Lord,

Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, so many people are lost and suffering in poverty, hunger and need. Lead us to opportunities to help them with their earthly needs and bring to them the eternal hope that is found only in Jesus. Gracious Lord,

Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Almighty God, empower us with your Spirit to be bold witnesses to those who are still lost in the darkness of sin. Help us to share with them the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. We pray, too, that our words of witness will be supported with our acts of love and service. We want others to know that you are the heavenly Father who waits to welcome them home. Gracious Lord,

Have mercy on us and hear us 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.**

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

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below, will be forever mine.**

***Blessing**

***Passing The Peace of Christ**

Postlude

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Joel Raney

This morning, the **Radio Broadcast** is given with love and thanks for the lives of **Genevieve L., Donald A., and James E. Barbour**, by Gerda Barbour.