

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**403 WASHINGTON STREET
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601
315-782-1750**

**March 6, 2022
10:00 a.m.**



Today we begin a five-week series on one of the most beloved parables: *The Prodigal Son*. As a parable about God's grace and love, it invites us to contemplate the way we live our lives, how we encounter the living God, and what sort of transformation can happen when we fully receive God's grace. Today we consider the parable from the perspective of the younger brother who 'squandered' away his inheritance.

Today's bulletin cover is probably the most famous depiction of *The Prodigal Son*, painted in 1669 by Rembrandt. Much has been written about this work, some calling it the very height of Baroque artistry and form. It is interesting to note the composition of the piece, with the light drawing the eye to the disheveled son who has returned, and not to the father who offers forgiveness. And yet the father is by no means a 'background' character! The father's hands are clearly seen, one larger and more masculine, and the other softer and more feminine, perhaps representing the dual nature of God as mother and father. The older brother, whose face seems to be illuminated by the young brother's clothes, stands to the side with arms crossed in judgment.

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Three Lenten Spirituals

Balm in Gilead, What Wondrous Love Is This?

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist
Anna Laura Page

arr. Hughes

Pastor's Greeting and Words of Welcome

Prelude

Largo Espressivo

Agnes McCarthy, violin; Carl Bingle, organ

G. Pugnani

The large white candle on the communion table was lit on Ash Wednesday to honor the people of Ukraine and Russia during this time of conflict.

During the prelude, you are invited to offer personal prayers to God or you may use the prayer printed here:

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 23)

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;

People: He leads me beside still waters;

He restores my soul.

**He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

**For you are with me; your rod and your staff -
they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,**

**and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #324

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin from *The United Reformed Church in the UK*

Confident in the mercy of God, let us confess our sins and ask for God's forgiveness.

Lord God most merciful, we confess that we have sinned through our own fault, and in common with others, in thought, word and deed, and through what we have left undone.

We ask to be forgiven. By the power of your Spirit turn us from evil to good, help us to forgive others, and keep us in your ways of righteousness and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Musical Meditation (see insert)

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Keith & Melody Green

Assurance of Pardon

In repentance and in faith receive the promise of grace and the assurance of pardon:

Here are words you may trust, words that merit full acceptance:

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Your sins are forgiven for his sake.

Thanks be to God!

A Time With Young Disciples

Hymn: *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.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer For Illumination

Anthem

Arise My Soul, Arise

Dan Forrest

FPC Treble Choir, Sara Gleason, director; Carl Bingle, organ

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears;

The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:

Before the throne my surety stands,

Before the throne my surety stands,

My name is written on His hands.
He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
His all-redeeming love, His precious blood to plead:
His blood atoned for all our race,
His blood atoned for all our race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.
Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary;
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:
“Forgive him, oh, forgive,” they cry,
“Forgive him, oh, forgive,” they cry,
“Nor let that ransomed sinner die!”
The Father hears Him pray, His dear anointed One;
He cannot turn away the presence of His Son;
His Spirit answers to the blood,
His Spirit answers to the blood,
And tells me I am born of God.
My God is reconciled; His pard’ning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear:
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 15:11-32 *The Message* (New Testament, pages 78-79 in pew Bibles)

Sermon

“Welcome Home, Part 1: Squandered”
Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long

*HYMN (see insert)

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

*Affirmation of Faith - from *The Shorter Catechism*

With these questions and answers from *The Shorter Catechism*, let us say what we believe:

Q. 19. What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

A. All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

Q. 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A. God, having out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

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

Adagio in F

Agnes McCarthy, violin

Johannes Brahms

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to The Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We love you, Lord, for you have heard our cry.

When we were captives, enslaved to sin,

you led us safely through the sea

so that we might worship you in freedom.

Therefore we offer this sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon your holy name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might ,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty,

and blessed is Jesus Christ our Lord.

He came from you, he returned to you;

you put all things in his hands.

He came to show your great love for the world,

and he loved us to the end.

With thanksgiving,
we remember that the Lord Jesus
on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,
This is my body that is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup after
supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

According to his commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ and one another,
that we may serve one another with humility and grace, following Christ's
example, washing one another's feet,
clothing the naked, and feeding the hungry.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours,
almighty God, now and forever. Amen .

Communion of The People
Prayer After Communion

***Closing Hymn #344**

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

***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.

During this time of public concern over health and wellness, please be respectful of those who may want to avoid physical contact while sharing The Peace; flashing the 'peace sign' is a perfectly appropriate way to share Christ's peace. 'Fist bumps,' 'elbow bumps,' or slick dance moves can also extend Christ's peace to your neighbors.

Postlude

Adagio

Carl Bingle

Samuel Barber

Today's postlude is dedicated to the people of Ukraine and Russia in this time of conflict. During the postlude, you are invited to offer personal prayers to God or you may use the prayer printed here:

As the wind is your symbol, so forward our goings.

As the dove, so launch us heavenwards.

As water, so purify our spirits.

As a cloud, so abate our temptations.

As dew, so revive our languor.

As fire, so purge out our dross. Amen.

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.

The deceased members of First Pres. listed below passed away in 2021. They were inadvertently left out of the Annual Report Booklet. The names listed in the Annual Report Booklet were those who had passed away in 2020. Please join with us in remembering those who passed in 2021.

The flowers today are given in their honor:

Judith George

Howard Kelly

Bernice Taylor

Evelyn Kanik

JoAnne Stirling

Blanche Miles

Happy Birthday to:

March 6 JoAnn Tousant

March 6 Carol Murray

March 7 Shirley Parker

March 8 Cassandra Elmer

March 9 Jean Bach

March 11 Martha Adams

We Pray for...

Betsy, Linda, Dacia, Nora, Tyler, The Elmer & Lake Families, Grace, Sam & Ruth, Mary Lynn, Midwest Tornado Victims, Josh L., Deanne, Mary, Gini, Tom, Linda & Ken, Shane, Millie, Gerda, Jamie, Annie, Ogdensburg Presbyterian Church, NNY Presbytery, Synod of The Northeast, the sick, all essential workers, students & teachers, medical professionals, all serving in the military, peace & justice, all people in positions of power & leadership

THIS WEEK

Outreach Committee Meeting - TODAY, after worship, Room 6

“The Chosen” - Episode 3 - TODAY, 11:45 a.m., Room 1

Staff Meeting - Tuesday, March 8th, 12 noon

Bible Study Discussion on “The Chosen” - Wednesday, March 9th, 6:00 p.m., FH

No Adult Handbell Rehearsals this week

Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Thursday, March 10th, 7:30 p.m.

“The Chosen” - Episode 4 - Next Sunday, March 13th, 11:45 a.m., Room 6



Welcome Home

LENT AT FIRST PRES. WATERTOWN

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Next Sunday, March 13th

**10:00 a.m. - Welcome Home, Part 2: What Greater Love?
Sunday School and Childcare during worship**

Anyone wishing to learn how to crochet **PRAYER SQUARES**, is welcome to join us for a class, sponsored by PW. This will be held on March 10th at Stone Presbyterian Church at 10:00 a.m. You may bring your own yarn and crochet hook (E, F, or G) if you have them, but plenty will be available. These are perfect to hand out for many occasions, for instance at the Farmers' Market.

This service is being broadcast over radio station **WATN 1240**,
Facebook: www.facebook.com/watertownfpc, and
Livestreamed from our website: www.watertownfirstpres.org