



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

May 14, 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." **Lucy Hiotis is the teacher today.**

 **Gathering** 

Gathering Music

“Easter Joy”

Eugene Butler

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

David Lasky

Pastor’s Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Psalm 19/Power of Jesus’ Name”

Marcello, arr. Caudill

***Call to Worship (from *Psalm 66*)**

Bless our God, O peoples,

let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.

**For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.**

You brought us into the net;

**you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;**

**we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.**

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.

I cried aloud to him,

and he was extolled with my tongue.

**If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.**

But truly God has listened;

he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God,

**because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.**

Let us worship God together!

***Opening Hymn #360**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

*Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin

The saying is sure and worthy of our acceptance, that Christ came to save sinners. Christ lived, died, and rose among us to bring us closer to the compassionate heart of God. Though we have sinned and fallen short of God's glory, God's grace beckons us to confess our sins and once again receive God's healing. Let us confess our sins together.

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

Sung Meditation

Confitemini Domino / Come and Fill

Ostinato Refrain

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo-nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone. O Lord, are ho-ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins,
Strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the
Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

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



Scripture Introduction *and* Prayer for Illumination

The First Scripture Lesson

I Peter 3:13-22

Anthem

“The Invitation”

Bruce Greer

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

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve
Because Thy promise I believe
Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him

In His presence daily live
I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee My blessed Savior
I surrender all
Have Thine own way Lord
Have Thine own way
Thou art the potter I am the clay
Mold me and make me after Thy will
While I am waiting yielded and still

The Second Scripture Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

The Sermon

Reimagining Evangelism

***Hymn #446**

“We’ve A Story to Tell to the Nations”

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

Let us say something about what we believe:

The church gathers to praise God, to hear his word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord’s Supper, to pray for and present the world to him in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world’s affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.

The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church’s worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church’s evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church’s fidelity. 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

“Adore and Be Still”

Charles Gounod

Clancy Cox, Soloist

“High Heav’n has come down to earth; my beloved dwells in me!
Of this Holy Love it is the mystery, O my soul, adore and be still...”

*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.

Holy God, our hearts are filled with gratitude today for the safety and freedom in which we have been able to worship you. We thank you for all the hearts and hands that have made worship today possible, and that we have been able to gather in your presence to be fed by your Word. Help us to never take for granted this freedom and may our witness to Christ in the world promote the free worship of your holy name in all places.

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

Gracious God, in the midst of our praise today we also carry heavy lament in our hearts. We lament the every-day presence of gun violence in this nation and the apathy that has settled in our hearts toward it. We lament the discrimination and biases that wreck havoc

on the fabric of your human family. We lament the systems and structures we have put in place that prop up the status quo and often work against your will. Teach us, once again, your ways of peace. Lead us, once again, in your ways of reconciliation. Give us hearts for compassion and change.

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

God of all, show us what it means to share the good news of your love with a world in so much pain. Where there is darkness, help us to bring light. Where there is pain, show us how to be healers. When we have been wrong, help us seek forgiveness. And when we have been hurt, teach us to forgive.

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

God of cross and empty tomb, conform us daily to the cross of Jesus Christ. Teach us how to daily sacrifice our lives for the good of others and help us to know, beyond any doubt or misunderstanding, that Easter Sunday always comes after Good Friday.

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 #237**

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

***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 Fantasia on “Now the Green Spring Rises” Norman Warren