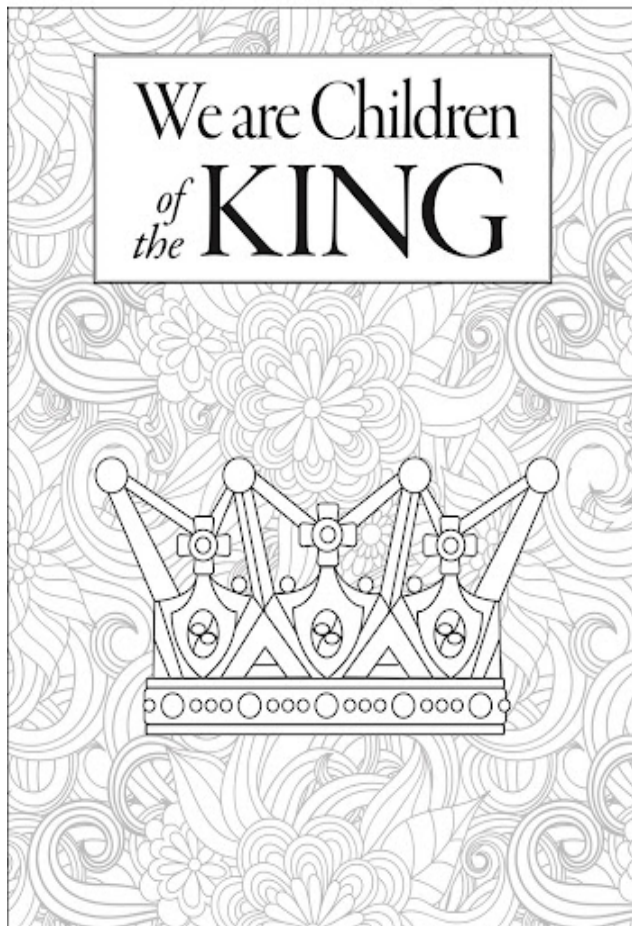




First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

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



Christ the King Sunday focuses our worship on the cosmic character of Christ's reign over the world. The day is celebrated widely in some traditions and is normally scheduled on the last Sunday before Advent, with rich biblical imagery from Daniel to Revelation. It therefore serves as a transitional Sunday leading directly into Advent, the Christmas cycle, and the new Christian year. The day fits well with the eschatological emphasis and anticipation of Christ's second coming highlighted during Advent. It also helps worshipers, who are already thinking about Christmas, to remember that Christmas is about much more than a baby in a manger - it is about a sovereign Christ who came to be the "Prince of Peace."

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." **NO Sunday School today.**

Gathering Music

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

“All Beautiful the March of Days”

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

“Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him”

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Anna Laura Page



Gathering



Pastor's Greeting and Words of Welcome

Prelude

Psalm 146: “I'll Praise My Maker”

Greiter, arr. A. L. Page

*Call to Worship from *Psalm 95*

Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord!

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

We are his people, and the sheep of his hand.

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #16

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

*Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Yet we know that many other powers demand and claim our allegiance. In faith and trust, let us return to God with all of our hearts.

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We worship the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love.

In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

a time of silence is kept

Amen.

Do not weep!

With the blood of Christ, God has purchased people for the Lord from every tribe and language and people and nation.

He has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth forever.

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

“Yes, My Jesus Loves Me”

Mary McDonald

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!

Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.

Jesus loves me, loves me still,
Though I'm very weak and ill.
From his shining throne on high,
Comes to watch me where I lie.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
If I love him when I die,
He will take me home on high.

Yes, my Jesus loves me.

The First Scripture Lesson

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

The Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 25:31-46

The Sermon

A Different Sort of King

***Hymn**

“Our Shepherd Reigns” to the tune of “How Great Thou Art”

Our Shepherd reigns! We hear him gently call us;

We know his voice; he loves us each the same.

Our Shepherd reigns! No evil can befall us.

For he is here - he calls us each by name.

Our Shepherd reigns! In pastures green he feeds;

Within his flock his sheep are blest.

Our Shepherd reigns! To waters still he leads;

Within his flock we safely rest.

Our Shepherd reigns! With his own blood he bought us;

For his dear sheep his life he gladly gave.

Our Shepherd reigns! When we had strayed, he sought us,

From ev'ry foe his precious lambs to save.

**Our Shepherd reigns! He wondrously provides:
His righteous paths are safely trod.
Our Shepherd reigns! Through valleys dark he guides,
Comfort we find - his staff and rod.**

**Our Shepherd reigns! A table he prepares us
Where fearsome enemies can do no harm.
Our Shepherd reigns, upon his shoulders bears us;
We are protected by his mighty arm.
Our Shepherd reigns, the King of kings alone!
Let ev'ry creature bend the knee.
Our Shepherd reigns! Come, gather 'round his throne
To sing his praise eternally!**

**Our Shepherd reigns! His bounteous gifts bestowing,
He is beside us all our journey through.
Our Shepherd reigns! Our cup is overflowing;
Goodness and mercy shall our paths pursue.
Our Shepherd reigns! His wondrous mercy tell;
His praise proclaim, his name adore.
Our Shepherd reigns! Secure, we thus shall dwell
Within his house forevermore.**

***Affirmation of Faith** *from The Heidelberg Catechism*

Jesus Christ has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.

He ascended to heaven to show there that he is head of his church, the one through whom the Father rules all things. In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, we confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in our place and removed the whole curse from us.

Christ will cast all his enemies and ours into everlasting condemnation, but will take all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.



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.

Song of Offering #186

“Lord, Be Glorified”

The Song of Offering recognizes God as the creator and giver of all that we have and all that we are. This song is a prayer for God to use us and our gifts for God’s glory.



Donations can be made by either scanning the QR code from the Venmo app or by searching for _of_ Watertown.

Musical Offering

“The Twenty-Third Psalm”

Albert Hay Malotte

The Prayers of The People and The Lord’s Prayer

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Holy God, we come before you in gratitude for who you are to us and for all of creation. Hear us now as we offer to you these prayers of our hearts:

That each of us will understand that our ordinary lives are pleasing to Christ, our King...

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

That all leaders in government will realize that the ordinary people in the world are important...

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

For all those people who are very ordinary but also are extraordinary because of the way they care for God's people...

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

For people who are sick and unable to do the ordinary things they used to do, that they will be patient with themselves and with those who care for them...

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

For people whose lives are recorded in our newspapers and magazines...

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

Father, hear our prayers and the prayers of all your people. Help us to be faithful in ordinary ways, loving and caring for your people whom we meet every day...

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 #370**

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

***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

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Jason Payne