



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

October 1, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



Celebration by John August Swanson

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

“The God of Abraham Praise”
“God Our Father, We Adore Thee”
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
“Holy Manna”

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist
D. Hustad (all hymn preludes)



Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Charles Callahan

*Call to Worship

We were created in relationship and for relationship.

We are created for community!

God knew it was not right for us to be alone.

We are created to love and serve one another!

Through Jesus Christ, God entered into human relationship with us.

We sin and fall short, but God's grace abounds!

We rejoice in our unity with all humanity.

**Just as a body has many parts,
and each part serves an important function,
so it is with the church!**

We are one in Christ Jesus!

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #428

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

*Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

Great is the faithfulness of God, and yet our hearts are not so reliable. We wander. We argue. We forget. We divide ourselves with anger and bitterness and falsehood. Let us with boldness come back together again, and let us start with the truth. Let us confess our sins, to God, and also, to each other.

Almighty God, mother of mercy, father of grace: You have called us to one table, but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us the abundance of all creation, but in our greed, and in our envy, the world goes without. You have promised us the bread of life itself, but in our pride, and in our arrogance, the world goes hungry. You have promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in our violence, and in our discord, the world goes thirsty. And now we are famished, too, Lord.

Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again. Transform us: at Christ's table, for Christ's table, and send us from this place as servants of your righteousness, by the power of your Son, our Lord.

a time of silence is kept

Even when our cups run dry. God's grace overflows.

Even when our plates are empty, God's generosity overflows.

And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows.

Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things, and by the abundance of God's grace,

and by the power of God's love,

your sins have been forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***Response** *from "Just As I Am"*

**Just as I am Thou will receive, will welcome,
will pardon, will cleanse, relieve.**

**Because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!**

A Time With Young Disciples

We Listen For God

Prayer for Illumination

Anthem

“Lamb of God”

Twila Paris

The First Scripture Lesson

I Corinthians 13

The Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 19:16-26

The Sermon

Is It Possible?

***Hymn #667**

“Lord, Speak to Me”

***Affirmation of Faith** *adapted from The Confession of Belhar*

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family.
And we believe that this unity of the people of God
must be manifest and active,
in that we love one another;
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another,
that we share one baptism together,
that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together,
that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one
hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth
and the love of Christ, forever and ever. 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.

The Offering



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.

A Prayer for Washing Hands *from Psalm 26*

I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O Lord,
**singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.**

Invitation To The Table

*Communion Hymn

“One Bread, One Body”

arr. Cristine Seeber

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one Body in this one Lord.

*Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more.
(Refrain)*

*Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.
(Refrain)*

*Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.
(Refrain)*

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

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 up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

Even when we were dust, when our story begins in dust, you were there, your word was there, your breath into the lifeless void.

And upon your word all creation sprang into life.

When we were in the wilderness, terrified, timid, you were there, your word was there, with manna just enough for today, with water even from the driest rock, with the abundant grace upon which our story always rests.

And when we fell short, slaves to power and greed, you were there, your word was there, on the lips of prophets, and in the hearts of servants, in stories of revolution and revelation and liberation, calling us even now to acts of courage and witness and peace.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your 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.

Indeed blessed are you, O Christ, our Lord,
for risking yourself among us, vulnerable and rejected;
for teaching among us, teaching the radical hope of God;
teaching grace to a world bent on vengeance,
teaching love to a world bent on destruction,
teaching peace to a world bent on tearing itself apart.

You were there, your word was there, even to the point of
death itself. Even faced with terror and hatred and the
brokenness of the world, you rose again, to new life, to new
creation, to resurrection, that we might know something other
than the dust, that we might expect something other than the
end, that we might work for something other than ourselves.

And so you speak to us again,
with these abundant gifts of bread and wine,
with which we joyfully celebrate your dying and rising,
as we await the table of the Kingdom yet to come,
and as we dedicate ourselves again to you, thankful, and
transformed, as living and holy sacrifices, that our lives
may proclaim the one crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break together,
and the cup we share together,
may retell our common stories together
and reshape our common bonds together,
and remember our common grace together,

in the communion of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ, the one in whose life and death you have torn down our divisions.

And so may we be one with all who share this feast, on this day, of all days, with all your children at every corner of your table. May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your justice. May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for your righteousness. May we be united with every corner of your story, united in hope, united in vision, united in purpose, united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us from this table to be the body of Christ in all the world. Send us with a spirit of courage, a spirit of power and love, that we may be witnesses in all creation \to the unending story of your word breathing life into the dust. Keep us faithful, and fruitful, and hopeful, and peaceful, until we come at last to the one table of your Kingdom, to feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm, with you and with your Word.

Through Christ and in Christ,
the one who came for us, died for us, and rose for us,
the one who prays even for us,
the one who first taught us to pray, saying:

**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.**

Words of Institution

**Communion of The People
Prayer After Communion**

***Closing Hymn (See insert)**

“This Is My Song”

***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

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

Doxology, 1551, arr. James Pethel

This morning’s **Radio Broadcast** is a gift from
the congregation of First Presbyterian Church.

Leading in Worship Today:

Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long, preaching

, Liturgist

Sara Gleason, Director of Music

Carl Bingle, Organist

FPC Chancel Choir

We pray for those undergoing health difficulties:

Barbara, Jennifer, Elise, John, Alice, Dorothy, Pat, Bob, Sue,
Barbara, Sherrie, Amy, Jamie, William, Fred M., Josh L.,
Shirley, Carol, Anne, Allen

We pray for those who are unable to join us in-person:

Linda, Shane, Ed, Millie, Gerda, Annie

We pray for our mission partners:

Tyler, Rochelle, and Mphatso, Grace, Sam, and Ruth, Isaiah,
MELT, The Women of Grace, NNY Presbytery, Synod of
The Northeast, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

We pray for our local and national leaders:

Watertown's Mayor and City Council, The U.S. President and
Congress, The New York Governor & State Legislature.

We pray for those serving our nation:

The Wright Family, those in conflict in Ukraine

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

October 1	Bob Kimball
October 1	Stacey Bristow
October 2	Patti Bailey
October 2	Michele Elmer
October 5	Ann Sudduth
October 7	John B. Johnson, Jr.
October 7	Linda Thompson
October 8	Kim Collins

Connecting to Our Community and the World

First Presbyterian is blessed to provide space for several community-based ministries and programs. All are open to members of the church and community and meet on the following days:

Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall

Religious Education for People With Disabilities,

Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Chapel, Rooms 1 & 6

Alcoholics Anonymous - First Watertown Group,

8:00 p.m., Saturdays, FH

The Spare Closet, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Tuesdays &

Thursdays and the 1st Saturday of each month, Basement.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES.

Today, October 1st, 10:00 a.m. - Worship,

- Fellowship after Worship in Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor's Study 11:30 a.m.
- Northern Choral Society Rehearsals, 2:00-4:15 p.m.
- Blessing of the Animals, 4:00 p.m. on the labyrinth

Tuesday, October 3rd– Staff Meeting, 12 noon

Thursday, October 5th - NO Deacons' meeting this month

- Music Rehearsals, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday, October 8th, Worship, 10:00 a.m.

- Fellowship after Worship in Fellowship Hall.
- Outreach Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Room 6
- Northern Choral Society Rehearsals, 2:00-4:15 p.m.