



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

October 15, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



The Golden Calf, Darius Gilmont, undated

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." Teacher today is Sarah Wright.

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)



Gathering



Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

“The Master Hath Come”

Welsh tune, arr. Mary McDonald

*Call to Worship *from Psalm 106*

Praise the Lord!

**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,
or declare all his praise?

**Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.**

Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you deliver them;

**that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.**

Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations,
**that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your
praise.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

And let all the people say,

“Amen.”

Praise the Lord!

***Opening Hymn #207**

“We Have Come to Join in Worship”

***Prayer of the Day**

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

We and our ancestors have sinned. Our ancestors exchanged the glory of God for the image of a golden calf. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt. While our means are different, our compulsions are the same. Let us confess our brokenness, for God is merciful and just and will forgive us our sin.

Holy God, you are the Lord our God, who brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. And yet our trust in you is fragile, easily crushed by our bent toward indifference - the dismissal of your faithfulness as a result of our forgetfulness. Our trust is fragile, easily broken by the slightest pause - an answer to prayer not instantly given, a request for peace not immediately felt. Our trust is fragile, easily displaced by gods of our own making - the god of self-sufficiency, chased at any cost, the god of illusion, pursued in any form.

Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us and heal us. Remind us of who we are: the people you have called out of darkness and into glorious light.

a time of silence is kept

Amen.

Beloved, hear the good news:

Jesus Christ came to stand in the breach
to reconcile us to God.

We are forgiven and freed!

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

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:

arr. Schrader

Refrain

Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:

Refrain

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

The First Scripture Lesson

Exodus 32:1-14

The Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 22:1-14

The Sermon

The Power of Choice

***Hymn #737**

“Like a River Glorious”

***Installation of Church Officers**

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Presentation

Reaffirmation of The Baptismal Covenant

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.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Constitutional Questions

Prayer

Charge and Welcome



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



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

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.

Musical Offering

“How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings”
Clancy Cox, Soloist

Samuel Liddle

The Prayers of The People *and* The Lord’s Prayer

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, like a mother hen, you never abandon your children; like a father welcoming a prodigal home, your steadfast love endures forever.

We pray for those in our world whose trust has been broken through exploitation by people in power or abuse by those in intimate circles.

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

We pray for those whose trust has been broken through abandonment by those who promised to stay or manipulation by those who refuse to let go.

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

We pray for those whose trust has been broken through cold comfort in times of affliction or callous rebukes of those on the margins.

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

We pray for those whose trust has been broken
through the trauma of war or the chaos of assault.
Send a new wing of your healing Spirit, to bind
up the wounds and soothe the brokenness of the world.
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.**

A Call to Prayer and Reflection

Musical Reflection

Psalm 18

Benedetto Marcello

***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.

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

The rosebud on the lectern this morning is in recognition of the birth of
Cole William Driscoll

who was born on October 9, 2023.

He is the son of Kristen and Rob Driscoll

Bill and Chris Kamalsky are proud grandparents..