



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

October 22, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



Moses in the Cleft of Rock, Jack Baumgartner, 2010

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 Lucy Hiotis.

Gathering Music

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”
“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”
“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

Paul Manz

James Stevens

Mary McDonald

Van Denman Thompson



Gathering



Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”

Brian Matthias

*Call to Worship *from Psalm 99*

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

**He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.**

O Lord our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

**Extol the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the Lord our God is holy.**

Let us worship God together!

***Opening Hymn (see insert)**

“O God of Every Nation”

***Prayer of the Day**

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

We are a people born of water and the Spirit. We have made promises to be Christ’s faithful disciples, and to show his love to our life’s end. Although we fail to fulfill those baptismal vows, God’s faithful love endures forever. Confident of God’s grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.

In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

a time of silence is kept

Amen.

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
That we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
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

“The God I Serve”

arr. Marty Hamby

I am amazed that the God of the universe loves me
And knows me by name

I'm overwhelmed that the voice of creation speaks to my heart
Just the same He tells the winds when to breathe and be still,
And He calms my heart when nothing else will

The God that I serve is the God of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac
And all who believe He is the Lamb and the Light of Jerusalem,
Bethlehem's Holy One,
Messiah my King Master and Ruler of heaven and earth
That's the God I serve

The God that I serve is the Hope for the broken,
The Lamp for the lost lonely soul
He suffered the weight of our sin on Mt Calvary
And by his stripes we are made whole
Why should I worry when trouble is near,
He's my Deliverer I will not fear

My Healer, my Helper
My Savior who died Redeemer,
Deliverer, He's still alive

The First Scripture Lesson

Exodus 33:12-23

The Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 22:15-22

The Sermon

The Hidden God

***Hymn #342**
“Rock of Ages”

***Affirmation of Faith** *from the Heidelberg Catechism*

Question #86: Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?

Answer: Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.



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

“In Jesus Name

Katy Nichole

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God, you are steadfast, forever enfolding
us in love and grace even when we cannot accept ourselves.

May your Spirit empower us to imitate you:
by receiving those who feel judged and rejected,
by walking alongside those who despair,
by encouraging those who tend to the broken,
by affirming those who labor in love.

a time of silence is kept

We lift into your tender care
those whose bodies, minds, or spirits have been
weakened or crushed.

a time of silence is kept

We lift up to your compassionate grace
those whose burdens, guilt, or fears seem too massive to bear.

a time of silence is kept

We lift before your expansive mercy
those whose hatred, rage, or vengeance cannot be contained.

a time of silence is kept

We praise you that you have brought us this far
and have promised to take us all the way to the Promised Land.

a time of silence is kept

Receive all these cares, loving God,
and fill us with the light of Christ,
through the work of your Spirit.

a time of silence is kept

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 #415**

“We Are Called to Be God’s People”

***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

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
(based on Hymn 575)

Jason Payne

Good morning from the **Radio Ministry** of First Presbyterian Church.

The rosebuds on the lectern this morning are in recognition of the birth of
Willow Jaymes Roth

who was born on October 12, 2023.

She is the daughter of Danielle and Alex Roth.
Bill and Becky Brown are proud grandparents..

AND

Avilynn Hope Desteli

who was born October 17, 2023

She is the daughter of Christopher and Holly Desteli.
Doug and Cherie Danforth are proud grandparents.