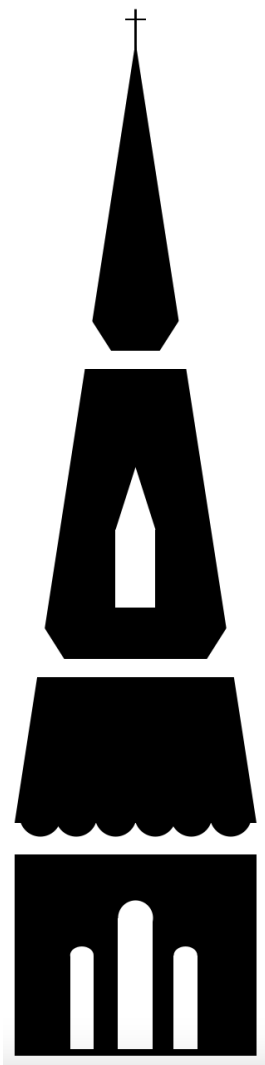




First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

October 29, 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." Teacher today is Kelly Thomas.

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



Proclamation

Beadle: The Word of God for us!

All: Thanks be to God!

***Opening Hymn**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe —
His craft and pow'r are great, And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He —
Lord Sabaoth His Name, From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.**

**And tho' this world with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph thro' us.
The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for him —
His rage we can endure, For lo, his doom is sure:
One little word shall fell him.**

**That word above all earthly pow'rs, No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Thro' Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also —
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:
His kingdom is forever.**

***Prayer of the Day**

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

We have come to this time and place not only by the love and grace of God but by the witness and worship of those who came before us. Today we give thanks for our heritage as Presbyterians and the legacy of faith that is passed on to us and then through us to coming generations.

In gratitude for what we have received, and confident in God's mercy, let us confess our sins so that we might once again walk in newness of life.

Lord Jesus, you have revealed yourself to us as the way, the truth, and the life. We give you thanks today for the legacy of men and women who boldly lived and died for your truth. We ask for the help of the Holy Spirit that we might follow their example.

We confess that we are often confused about truth because of the many voices in our world that claim to be true. We confess that we are often timid about truth, lest we offend others with our own claims. Like the prophets, apostles, and reformers of every age, make us bold in your truth, and grant to us humility that reflects your grace.

a time of silence is kept

God of our refuge and strength,
A very present help in times of trouble.

Do not be afraid!

In Jesus Christ, we 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.*

Blessing of The Tartans

On behalf of all families represented here, we raise these tartans before Almighty God in gratitude for our heritage and pray for God's blessing on God's servant people in all lands.

Eternal God, bless these symbols of heritage, and grant that those who wear them, and the families they represent, may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

We proclaim that we are all united in Jesus Christ for there is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.

Amen!

A Time With Young Disciples



We Listen For God



Prayer for Illumination

The First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 112

**Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.**

Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures for ever.**

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

**It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.**

For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered for ever.

**They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.**

Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
**their righteousness endures for ever;
their horn is exalted in honour.**

The wicked see it and are angry;
**they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

The Second Scripture Lesson

I Peter 2:1-10

A Time of Thanksgiving *and* Remembrance

“The Church’s One Foundation”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

The Sermon

A Complicated Past, A Glorious Future

***Affirmation of Faith** *from the Scots Confession of 1560*

As we believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, so we firmly believe that from the beginning there has been, now is, and to the end of the world shall be, one Kirk, that is to say, one company and multitude of men and women chosen by God, who rightly worship and embrace him by true faith in Jesus Christ, who is the only Head of the Kirk, even as it is the body and spouse of Christ Jesus.

This Kirk is catholic, that is, universal, because it contains the chosen of all ages, of all realms, nations, and tongues, be they of the Jews or be they of the Gentiles, who have communion and society with God the Father, and with his Son, Christ Jesus, through the sanctification of his Holy Spirit. 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.

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 [@First_Pres_of_Watertown](#).

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Confident in the gracious and ever-widening mercy of God, let us pray for the world, the body of Christ, and all who yearn for wholeness of life.

God of freedom, liberate us from our bondage to sin, that your church would continually be reshaped and reformed by the fire of the Holy Spirit.

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

God of justice, show your righteousness, that all who are oppressed and marginalized, forgotten, and cast aside would be given voice in the halls of power, in the church, and in the world.

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

God of peace, make wars to cease in all the world, that all strife, violence, and bloodshed give way to reconciliation, compassion, and new life.

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

God of companionship, take us by our hand when we are paralyzed by our fears and unable to step out in boldness.

Give us courage to walk confidently with you.

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

God of calm, give your stillness
to all who are facing illness, surgery,
or any uncertainty of health, mind, or body.
May they know that their times are in your ever-healing hands.

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

God of all, write your law of love on our hearts,
that we, like our forebears in faith,
would be unswerving in our witness to your grace
that is ours through the gift of faith.

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 #343**

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound”

***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

“Highland Cathedral”

Korb and Roewer

This morning’s Radio Broadcast is a gift from Mary Sanford in
memory of Dr. Douglas M. Sanford, his brother, Donald E. Sanford,
and his sister, Jane Sanford McCurdy..