



# First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + [www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org)

October 8, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



*Moses and the Fire of Sinai, 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](mailto: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 Pete Thomas.

## 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

“Psalm 19”

Benedetto Marcello

### \*Call to Worship *from Psalm 19*

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
**and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
**the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;**  
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
**the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**  
the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;  
**the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
**sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
**in keeping them there is great reward.**

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

**Let us worship God together!**

### \*Opening Hymn #677

“Glorious Is Thy Name Most Holy”

### \*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. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. God's law does not stand to condemn us, but to welcome us into new and abundant life. Let us then boldly confess our sin before the One who already knows our errors and is gracious to forgive our hidden faults.

**Rescuing God, you brought us out of the land of captivity, out of the house of slavery.**

**Forgive us when we willingly return to slavery, making divine the machine of production, crafting idols from the excess of consumption.**

**Forgive us when we consider ourselves so grand that we do not rest and enjoy your presence, defining ourselves by our ability rather than your love.**

**Forgive us when we esteem ourselves so little that we dare not rest and sit with ourselves, exposed, without the cloak of productivity.**

**Forgive us when we deem our species so central that we do not rest and halt consumption, decimating Earth, denying her Sabbath and integrity.**

**Forgive us through Christ, who redeems us from the brokenness of slavery that we might enjoy your presence, creation, and community.**

*a time of silence is kept*

**Amen.**

Righteousness does not come from our own doing or not doing.

Righteousness comes from God, by faith.

Through the faithfulness of Christ, our Lord, we are 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

“Give Me Music”

arr. Cliff Duren

All things are shadow, You are substance;  
all things quicksand, You are mountain;  
all is shifting, You are anchor;  
all ignorance, You are wisdom.  
Still I fall.

Take away my mourning, give me music.

Once a last one, You have saved me;  
I was wandering, now I am found;  
I have sinned, but now I am cleansed;  
You have blessed me with brokenheartedness.  
Still I fall.

Take away my mourning, give me music.

As one raised up from the dead,  
As one cursed and now redeemed,  
As one searched and fully known,  
As a child who knows your peace,  
Still I fall.

Take away my mourning, give me music.

#### The First Scripture Lesson

**Exodus 20:1-4; 7-9; 12-20 (from The New English Bible ; pub,  
by Oxford University Press 1970)**

God spoke, and these were his words: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other god to set against me. You shall not make a carved image for yourself nor the likeness of anything in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. You shall not make wrong use of the name of the Lord your God; the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who misuses his name. Remember to keep the

Sabbath day holy. You have six days to laborer and do all your work. Honour your father and your mother, that you may live long in the land which the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not commit murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not give false evidence against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, his slave, his slave-girl, his ox, his ass, or anything that belongs to him. When all the people saw how it thundered and the lightning flashed, when they heard the trumpet sound and saw the mountain smoking, they trembled and stood at a distance. 'Speak to us yourself', they said to Moses, 'and we will listen; but if God speaks to us we shall die.' Moses answered 'Do not be afraid. God has come only to test you, so that the fear of him may remain with you and keep you from sin.'

## **The Second Scripture Lesson**

### **Philippians 3:4b-14 (from The New English Bible)**

If anyone thinks to base his claims on externals, I could make a stronger case for myself; circumcised on my eighth day, Israelite by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born and bred; in my attitude to the law, a Pharisee; in pious zeal, a persecutor of the church; in legal rectitude, faultless. But all such assets I have written off because of Christ. I would say more; I count everything sheer loss, because all is far outweighed by the gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I did in fact lose everything. I count it so much garbage, for the sake of gaining Christ and finding myself incorporate in him, with no righteousness of my own, no legal rectitude, but the righteousness which comes from faith in Christ, given by God in response to faith. All I care for is to know Christ, to experience the power of his resurrection, and to share his sufferings, in growing conformity with his death, if only I may finally arrive at the resurrection from the dead. It is not to be thought that I have already achieved all this. I have not yet reached perfection, but I press on, hoping to take hold of that for which Christ once took hold of me. My friends, I do not reckon myself to

have got hold of it yet. All I can say is this: forgetting what is behind me, and reaching out for that which lies ahead, I press towards the goal to win the prize which is God's call to the life above, in Christ Jesus.

### **The Third Scripture Lesson**

#### **Matthew 19:16-26 (from The New English Bible)**

'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard; he put a wall round it, hewed out a winepress, and built a watchtower; then he let it out to vine-growers and went abroad. When the vintage season approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect the produce due to him. But they took his servants and thrashed one, killed another, and stoned a third. Again, he sent other servants, this time a larger number, and they did the same to them. At last he sent to them his son. "They will respect my son", he said. But when they saw the son the tenants said to one another, "This is the heir: come on, let us kill him, and get his inheritance." And they took him, flung him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When the owner of the vineyard comes, how do you think he will deal with those tenants?' "He will bring those bad men to a bad end,' they answered, 'and hand the vineyard over to other tenants, who will let him have his share of the crop when the season comes.' Then Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the main corner-stone. This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes?" Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and given to a nation that yields the proper fruit. When the chief priests and Pharisees heard his parables, they saw that he was referring to them; they wanted to arrest him, but they were afraid of the people, who looked on Jesus as a prophet.

### **The Sermon**

*Flying Geese*

#### **\*Hymn #409**

"Thanks to God Whose Word Was Spoken"

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *from The Shorter Catechism*

Q. 42. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

**A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.**



**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**

“When Thou Art Near”

J. S. Bach

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Holy Protector, you are the Lord our God, who brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Today, we pray for the release of those held captive by cruel governments and human traffickers, by oppressive ideologies and suffocating theologies, that all may know:



**you are the Lord our God,  
who brought us out of the land of Egypt,  
out of the house of slavery.**

We pray for the release of those held captive  
by debilitating disease and mental illness,  
by crippling addiction and chronic fear,  
that all may know:

**you are the Lord our God,  
who brought us out of the land of Egypt,  
out of the house of slavery.**

We pray for the release of those held captive  
by crushing grief and paralyzing memories,  
piercing loneliness and deadening hopelessness,  
that all may know:

**you are the Lord our God,  
who brought us out of the land of Egypt,  
out of the house of slavery.**

Release within us your divine compassion and care  
on behalf of those who suffer,  
that all may know that you are the Lord our God,  
who brought us into the land of promise,  
into the house of salvation.

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 #682**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

## \*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

“The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba”  
2 Chronicles 9:1

G. F. Handel

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  
*James Cornell Wright*  
who was born on September 19, 2023.  
He is the son of John and Rev. Julia Wright  
Phil and Emily Sprague are proud grandparents..

### **Leading in Worship Today:**

Elder Linya Bell, preaching

Marcia Kettrick, Liturgist

Sara Gleason, Director of Music

Carl Bingle, Organist

FPC Chancel Choir

Agnes McCarthy, violin; Perry Morgan, violin;

Christian Hosmer, cello

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

October 8 Kim Collins

October 10 Ashley Pike

October 12 Mildred Linderman

October 12 Jenny Whitenack

## **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.**

### **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

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES.

**Today, 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.

**Tuesday, October 10th** - Staff Meeting, 12 noon

**Wednesday, October 11th** - Facilities Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m.

- Steeple Fundraising Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m.,
- Discipleship & Community Presence Committee (C.E.) Mtg., Rm. 1

**Thursday, October 12th** - Worship & Music Committee Mtg, 5:00 p.m., FH

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

**Saturday, October 14th** - Northern Blend Sing Fling, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

**Sunday, October 15th**, Worship, 10:00 a.m., with installation of Officers

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

## CLIPPER INN DINNER

to benefit *Northern Choral Society*

October 25

ALL PRE-ORDERS!

CHOOSE YOUR WAY TO ENJOY:

Dine at the Clipper Inn - call for a reservation (315) 686-3842

Pick Up dinners at the Clipper Inn - 126 State St. Clayton

Pick Up dinners at First Presbyterian Church - 403 Washington St. Watertown

Choose a dinner served with salad and bread

LASAGNA ♦ SHRIMP ROMANO ♦ BAKED HALF CHICKEN

\$15

See any singer to order!



**CHRISTMAS CONCERT DATES:**

**December 2 & 3 both at 3:00 p.m.**

**at Asbury United Methodist Church**