



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

September 17, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



The Jews by the Parting of the Sea, Yoram Ranaan, 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." The teacher today is Bunny Gorman.

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

“Méditation”
Perry Morgan, violin

Jules Massenet

*Call to Worship *from Psalm 114*

When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.
The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.
The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

Why is it, O sea, that you flee?
O Jordan, that you turn back?
O mountains, that you skip like rams?
O hills, like lambs?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #23

“The God of Abraham Praise”

*Prayer of the Day

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

The saving presence of the Lord has been with us since the very beginning. God desires not to punish us but to release us from the bondage of sin and welcome us into newness of life. Confident in God's promises and grace, let us confess our sins together.

Gracious and loving God, you have lived for us: through fire and water, persecution and captivity, sin and death. You have forgiven through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. You have loved us with a love that will never let us go. Yet we have not lived for you, forgiven others, or loved as you love.

Forgive us, God. Help us to forgive. Help us to live for you. Help us to love through Christ our Lord.

a time of silence is kept

Amen.

People of God, our sins are forgiven.

God is merciful and gracious and is
Lord of us all.

Reconciled to the God who loves us,
let us live and love through Christ our Lord.

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

“Go Down Moses”

arr. John Leavitt

When Israel was in Egypt’s land, let my people go.
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land,
Tell old Pharaoh: let my people go.

The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go.
To lead the children of Israel through, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land,
Tell old Pharaoh: let my people go.

The pillar of cloud shall clear the way
A fire by night, shade by day,
As Israel stood by the waterside,
God did command it divide;
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land,
Tell old Pharaoh: let my people go.

When they had reached the other shore, let my people go.
They sang the song of triumph o’er, let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land,
Tell old Pharaoh: let my people go.

The First Scripture Lesson

Exodus 14:19-31

The Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

The Sermon

Forgiven and Forgiving

***Hymn (see insert)**

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed*

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.



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**.

The Offertory

“I Then Shall Live”

Clancy Cox, soloist

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven.
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child and I am not afraid.
So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.

Gloria Gaither

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion.
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your Kingdom come around and through and in me;
Your power and glory, let them shine through me.
Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor,
And may Your living Kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor,
And may You feed a hungry world through me.

***The Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

O God, your unfailing love has been the source of our strength. It has led us through troubled waters and away from our enemies. In your infinite love, you have had pity on us and heard our cries. Because of your faithful love and mercy, we bring our concerns to you, O God.

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

For the universal church - that it would be an instrument of your love, forgiveness, and grace.

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

For the global community - that we would learn to live for each other in peace and cooperation, and share collective responsibility.

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

For our local community, the Mayor of Watertown and City Council;
for our state leaders, the Governor of New York and State Legislature;
for national leaders, the President of the United States and US
Congress; that all might govern with mercy and justice.

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

For those who suffer in their minds, bodies, or souls - wrap your
arms around them in love and help us, the church, be what they need.

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

For the silent intentions we hold in our hearts...

God 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 #355**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

***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

“Fanfare and Chorale from Symphony 3”

Camille Saint-Saëns

Today’s **Radio Broadcast** is given in loving memory of
Judge & Mrs. Donald E. Sanford, parents of Doug Sanford,
and Joseph and Blanche Peyton, parents of Mary Sanford.