



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

September 18, 2022 + 10:00 a.m.



“The Moneychangers,” Marinus van Reymerswaele, 1540

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 measure our lives according to God's Word. 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 will resume today. Teaching will be Pete Thomas.

A Word About Today's Service

The Parable of The Shrewd Manager, which is at the heart of our worship service today, is wonderfully depicted on the bulletin cover by Dutch artist Reymerswaele. In this scene, the scheming and conniving is thick in the air, yet we do not know which figure is the manager and which is the debtor. In the background we can see the rest of the parable unfold as the shrewd, or dishonest, manager continues the scheme. This parable opens up many questions about what Jesus is trying to say about God, about honesty in business, and about building the kingdom of God. Does Jesus expect us to be as shrewd or dishonest as the manager? Is he trivializing the importance of honest financial practices as an extension of our faith?

Perhaps the point of this parable is in the questions and not in the answers. Maybe Jesus' point in telling this strange story is to discomfort us on the way to gaining wisdom.

Welcome to worship on this Lord's day!

 Gathering 

Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Singing In

Prelude

“I Vow to Thee, My Country”

Holst

***Call to Worship** (*adapted from Psalm 113*)

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.

**Blessed be the name of the Lord from
this time on and forevermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.**

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,
who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

**He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

Let us worship God together!

***Opening Hymn #122**

“Glorious Is Thy Name”

st. 1: choir

sts. 2-4: all

***Prayer of The Day**

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

When we turn away from God, the Lord is eager to forgive. When we wander from the path laid before us that leads to life, and instead walk a path toward destruction, the Lord like a shepherd leads us back. Trusting in the promise of God's amazing grace, let us confess our sin.

Gracious God, you know our sins even before we have the courage to confess them out loud. We have squandered the gifts you have given us. We have failed to forgive our debtors as you have forgiven us. We have been unfaithful and dishonest in small things and great things alike. We are shrewd in seeking wealth and foolish in following your way.

Forgive our sins, O Lord, for your name's sake. Make us faithful stewards of the grace you have given and generous in forgiving others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

a time of silence is kept

Our loving God desires everyone to be saved
and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Hear the good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***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

“Bless These Children, Lord, We Pray”

(to the tune of “Seek Ye First”, words by Andrew Long)

Bless these children, Lord, we pray;

And walk with them every day.

Teach us to hear them and cherish what they say:

Children will show us the way.



We Listen for God



Scripture Introduction and Prayer for Illumination

The First Scripture Lesson - Amos 8:4-12

The Second Scripture Lesson - Luke 16:1-13

Anthem

“Possessions”

Hannibal, arr. Nix

The Sermon

“Turning Understanding On Its Head”

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.

Offering



Donations can be made by either scanning the QR code from the Venmo app or by searching for [@First_Pres_of_Watertown](#).

Offertory (see insert)

“Jerusalem”

William Blake/C.H. Parry

Choir and Congregation

***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

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 #540**

“My Hope Is in the Lord”

***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 neighbor.

Postlude

Psalm 122: I was glad when they said unto me,

“Let us go into the House of the Lord!” C. H. Parry

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES.

Sunday, Sept. 18 - "Going Deeper" Study - Session 1,
large-group discussion, 12 noon, FH

Monday, Sept. 19 thru Wednesday, Sept. 21 - Pastor Andrew away

Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Staff Meeting, 12 noon, Room 6

Wednesday, Sept. 21 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.,
Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Sept. 22 - Handbell Rehearsals, 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 24 - Home Communion Training, 11-1,
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Sept. 25 - Puppet Ministry Rehearsal, After Worship
- Northern Choral Rehearsal, 2:00-4:00
- Open Table Meal - Eat in, Take out, delivery
5:00-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:
Friday, September 30th**

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY SERVICE PROJECT



World Communion Sunday is October 2 and it is a day when we celebrate and recognize Christ's presence throughout the world. It is also a day when you are invited to take part in a service project to benefit your community!

Katie Kimball, FPC member and Knickerbocker Elementary School counselor, has started a Caring Closet at Knickerbocker. The Caring Closet is stocked with items students might need such as toothbrushes, hair brushes, clean clothes, and other hygiene items. Katie has asked if FPC would like to participate in stocking the closet and we said 'yes!'

On **World Communion Sunday, October 2**, when you come forward to receive your communion elements, there will be baskets on the chancel to drop items that you bring to support this project.

ITEMS NEEDED:
flossers, hairbrushes
full-size body wash, loofahs

This is a simple and impactful way for FPC to share the love of Christ with our community!