



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

September 3, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



This undated, modern icon depicts Jesus carrying his cross, followed by an interesting collection of figures. Seven of the figures represent the Ecumenical Councils that settled early Christian doctrine: the First Council of Nicaea (Nicene Creed), the First Council of Constantinople (revised Nicene Creed), the Second Council of Ephesus, the Council of Chalcedon (two natures of Christ), the Third Council of Ephesus (civil religion), the Second Council of Constantinople (Nestorian controversy), and the Third Council of Constantinople (monothelism), and the Second Council of Nicaea (iconography accepted in church).

The remaining figures represent various other councils such as the First Council of the Lateran (Holy Roman Emperor deposed as head of the church), the Second Council of the Lateran (clerical celibacy established), the Third Council of the Lateran (clerical celibacy rescinded, Pope can only be a cardinal), Council of Constance (condemned early signs of Reformation), Fourth Council of the Lateran (clerical celibacy restored, communion reformed), and the First Council of the Vatican (serious overhaul of liturgical practice).

This icon seems to indicate that following Jesus includes a certain measure of doctrinal and theological fidelity to the history of the Church.

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)

There is no Sunday School during July and August. Sunday School will resume Next Sunday, September 10th.

Gathering Music

“Be Thou My Vision”

“Jesus Shall Reign”

“We Come as Guests Invited”

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

Irish tune, arr. Jason Payne

Hatton/ arr. Anna Laura Page

Steuerlein/ arr. Emma Lou Diemer

Malan/ arr. Jeff Perks



Gathering



Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Canon in D”

Pachelbel

*Call to Worship *from Psalm 26*

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

**I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;
I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.**

I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar,
O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

**O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.**

Let us worship God together!

*Opening Hymn #56

“To God Be the Glory”

***Prayer of the Day**

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

Jesus Christ overcame evil with good so that all people might be saved from sin. This means that we come before God in confession not as despised sinners but as prodigal children who will be welcomed home by the father. Let us then confess our need for grace, confident of God's forgiveness.

God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation.

Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray.

a time of silence is kept

Amen.

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation.
In return for our old life of sin.
He promises a new life of grace.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
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

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

J. S. Bach

The First Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 15:15-21

The Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 16:21-28

The Sermon

Follow Me

***Hymn #602**

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

***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



Communion Hymn (see insert)

“We Come as Guests Invited”

*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.**

A Prayer for Washing Hands from Psalm 26

I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O Lord,
**singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.**

The Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord -

we praise you for your love:

bringing order out of chaos, breathing life into dust,

leading captives into freedom, calling wandering children home,

giving bread to the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty,

raising the dead to life.

Holy, holy, holy Lord - we praise you for your love!

Thank you, Lord -
we thank you for Jesus:
Word made flesh,
light of the world,
living water,
shepherd and gate,
way and truth,
bread of heaven,
cup of salvation,
resurrection and life.

Thank you, Lord - we thank you for Jesus!

**Take this bread and cup, O God -
a feast of grace;
take our hearts and lives -
an offering of praise.**

Spirit, come -
come and live in us:
in this bread,
in this cup,
in your people,
one in the body,
one in the blood;
one with Christ,
one in ministry,
in this place,
in every place;
in this world,
in the world to come.

Spirit, come - come and live in us!

Blessing and glory,
wisdom and thanksgiving,
honor and power, forever and ever!
Amen.

And now as Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of The People

“Panis Angelicus”

Franck

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray... **Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we,
who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup,
bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to
the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole
earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

***Closing Hymn #597**

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

***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

“Let Us All Rejoice in the Lord”

From “The Sound of Music”

Richard Rodgers

Today’s broadcast is a gift from the **Radio Ministry.**