

Welcome to Our Celebration of Worship

To all who live joyfully and long to share their excitement ... to all who mourn and need comfort ... to all who are weary and need rest ... to all who are homeless and desire sheltering love ... to all who pray or are in need of prayer ... to all who sin and need a Savior ... to all who recognize Christ in their midst and hunger to share God's love with all the world ... Old First Presbyterian Church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says ... WELCOME!

**Those who are able, please stand in body or spirit.
(The congregation is invited to join in speaking or singing **items in bold.**)*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

Prelude *Improvisation* K. Friese

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Opening Prayer

Sanctuary Choir *Footprints in the Sand* Martin

“Footprints in the Sand: A Journey to the Cross and Beyond”

Lyrics by Joseph M. Martin

Music by Joseph M. Martin and David Angerman

Narrators: Leslie Schult and Charles Worledge

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 51*

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God; according to your steadfast love, forgive our sinful disobedience.

People: For we know our transgressions and our sins are always before us.

Leader: Against God alone have we sinned, so God is justified in God's judgment against us.

People: God desires truth in our souls and wisdom in the secret places of our hearts.

Leader: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

People: Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit away from us.

Leader: Rejoicing in the God of our eternal forgiveness and salvation, let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together.

*Hymn 166 *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

Introduction to Intercession for Lent

Intercession for Lent

Jesus, our Christ, hear our prayers as you prepare yourself to take our sin upon your shoulders:

For your church around the world,
we ask new life and renewed strength.

For all who carry out ministries within your church,
we ask your grace and wisdom.

For people who are engaged in spiritual disciplines,
we ask inspired discipleship.

For Christians of every land,
we ask new unity in your name.

For Jews, Muslims, and people of other faiths,
we ask your divine blessing.

For those who cannot believe,
we ask your faithful and enduring love.

For governors and rulers in every nation,
we ask your vision and guidance.

For people who suffer and sorrow in silence,
we ask your healing peace.

(Please continue in silent prayer of confession and intercession.)

Holy God, your Son, Jesus, our Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought humanity the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured. Teach those who bear his name to follow the example he gave us. May our faith, hope, and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, and death to eternal life. Hear us as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as together God's people say ... **amen.**

Hymn 551 (Kyrie Eleison) *Lord, Have Mercy*

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of the Good News of Jesus Christ

Leader: God acts with justice and mercy.

In everlasting love, God redeems us and sets us free.

All: God forgives us ... frees us ... and gives us peace.

To God, we are ever thankful. Amen.

Sanctuary Choir *Footprints in the Sand*

The Master Has Come

Rise Up! Rejoice!

*Passing of the Peace

The Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 New Testament, p. 166 / P. 202

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Time with Our Young Disciples

Congregational Invitation (*Sung*)

**This, this is where children belong,
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
This is where children belong.**

(Church school is available for children preschool through 6th grade.)

Sanctuary Choir *Footprints in the Sand*

Songs for the Journey

Lift High Your Songs of Praise

Come to the Table of Grace

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

*Affirmation of Faith — *The Confession of 1967*

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men. But his life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all men stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all men.

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *Footprints in the Sand*

The Garden Path

Come Walk with Me

Pathway of Hope

*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

The congregation is invited to share our prayer requests with one another.

If you would like to share a prayer request, please raise your hand and the Pastor will invite you to share your need for prayer.

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.

Offering of Our Time and Talent

*Hymn 157 *I Danced in the Morning*

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Benediction *Sung to the tune of "Edelweiss"*

**Come, O Lord, be with us. Fill us with joy and thanksgiving.
May our hearts, flow with peace. Come with your love and surround us.
Friendship and love, may they bloom and grow, bloom and grow forever.
Bless us now. Bless our friends. Bless all people forever.**

*Postlude

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor

Matt Girimonti, Lector

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

IN OUR PRAYERS:

New to the prayer list this week:

Bob Miller - recovery from shoulder surgery
John Dunder (Friend of Glenn and Priscilla Jahier)

Continue to pray for those who remain on our prayer list:

Holly Baptista, Bob and Gail Esser, William Gray (Father of Dorothy Mandrakos), Dave and Else Haddock, Pat Lobasso (Husband of Joan Lobasso), Virginia Perry, Ken Peterson, Lucille Ravalgi (Mother of Julie Salzano), Angelica Richter, James Schubauer, Laura Jane Tiberia (Daughter of Joan Lobasso), Peter Witkowski, and Grace Youngquist.

Names on our prayer list will remain for a month.

If you would like to add a prayer request, please contact Pastor Means.

OLD FIRST CHURCH SESSION MEMBERS:

<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
Curt Abbott	Jim Colbert	Kerry Degnan
Melissa Balm	Katie Dopico	Judy Gilbert
Peter Fetterolf	Beverly Elliott	Jerry Kessler
Laure McKenna	Gretchen Hargis	Susan Oehrig
Julie Salzano	Amy Girimonti	Gillian Plastaras
Cindy Samuels	Marge Sammis	Melissa Terc

Thomas Bosch, *Clerk of Session*
Rev. Matthew Means, *Moderator*

OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF DEACONS:

<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
Julie Andrade	Holly Baptista,	Leeanne M. Bedell
Victor Andrade,	<i>Secretary</i>	Richard C. Bedell,
<i>Moderator</i>	Sue Degnan	<i>Vice Moderator</i>
Mary Frazier	Cheryl Grossman	Dan Degnan
Asenath Fuchs	Steven Samuels	Robert Ponzetti,
Linda Ketcham	Martha Tibbetts	<i>Treasurer</i>
Pat Miller	Leslie Yovino	Kathy Porter
Heather Tucker		Mary Porter
		Faith Youngquist

OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
Victor Budzitowski	Brian Behrens	Robert Ponzetti
Kathy Porter,	John Collins	James Thatcher
<i>Secretary</i>	Liz Richter	Charles Worledge
Cindy Samuels,		
<i>President</i>		

Old First Presbyterian Church
125 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743
(631) 427-2101

www.oldfirstchurchhuntington.org

Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org

Key elements of today's service of worship include ...

Prelude

The pre-service music is an opportunity for us to be called out of the world and into the presence of God, preparing our hearts, minds, and spirits to worship God together.

Welcome / Opening Prayer / Call to Worship

We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ, in whose name we are called to worship in Spirit and Truth. We pray for an awareness of God's presence in our worship and share a responsive "Call to Worship," based upon the lectionary Psalm of the day.

Confessional Liturgy

Recognizing that all have fallen short of the glory of God by failing to love and serve God perfectly, we are invited to join together in confessing our corporate and individual sin. After sharing the "Prayer of Confession," we sing our desire for God's mercy ("Kyrie Eleison"). We listen for the "Assurance of Our Forgiveness" in Jesus Christ and then proclaim our gratitude both in song ("Gloria Patri") and through the sharing of God's peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ ("Passing of the Peace.")

Prayer for Illumination and Scripture Readings

Given the importance of hearing and heeding God's Word, we pray for God to open our hearts, minds, and spirits to receive and live the Word of God read and proclaimed. We believe that Scripture (the Bible) is the Spirit-inspired Word of God for the people of God. Usually, two Scripture passages are read, each one relating to the Pastor's message as well as the overall spirit, theme, and direction of the service of worship.

Time with Our Young Disciples

Children and their faith growth are very important to our church family. Jesus called God's children to his presence to love and teach them and it is our great joy to do the same! Our children have special time in worship to hear the message in ways that help them consider God's Word for their faith and lives. Those who are between preschool and sixth grade are then given the opportunity to exit worship for a time of church school.

Sermon

The pastor then enters the pulpit to deliver the sermon, which is intended to offer some comment or instruction on the Bible readings in the service and some challenge to the congregation to live the Christian life, understand the Christian faith, or affirm the Christian commitment. The sermon usually lasts between 15 and 20 minutes.

Affirmation of Faith

Following the proclamation of God's Word, we are given the opportunity to respond to God's action in our lives as we affirm the faith we share by reciting the Apostles' Creed.

Offering

The ministry of Old First is supported by members and friends of the congregation responding to God by giving our financial gifts. The offering is the moment in the service when, out of gratitude to God, members of the community of faith **freely choose** to give financial gifts to Christ's ministry in and through Old First as an expression of our faith.

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

One of the great joys of being called to live together as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ is our opportunity to pray for and with one another. We share our prayer requests as a family of faith, gather in a pastor-led prayer, and conclude our prayers by praying the Lord's Prayer **together**, showing our desire to live our lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

Charge and Benediction

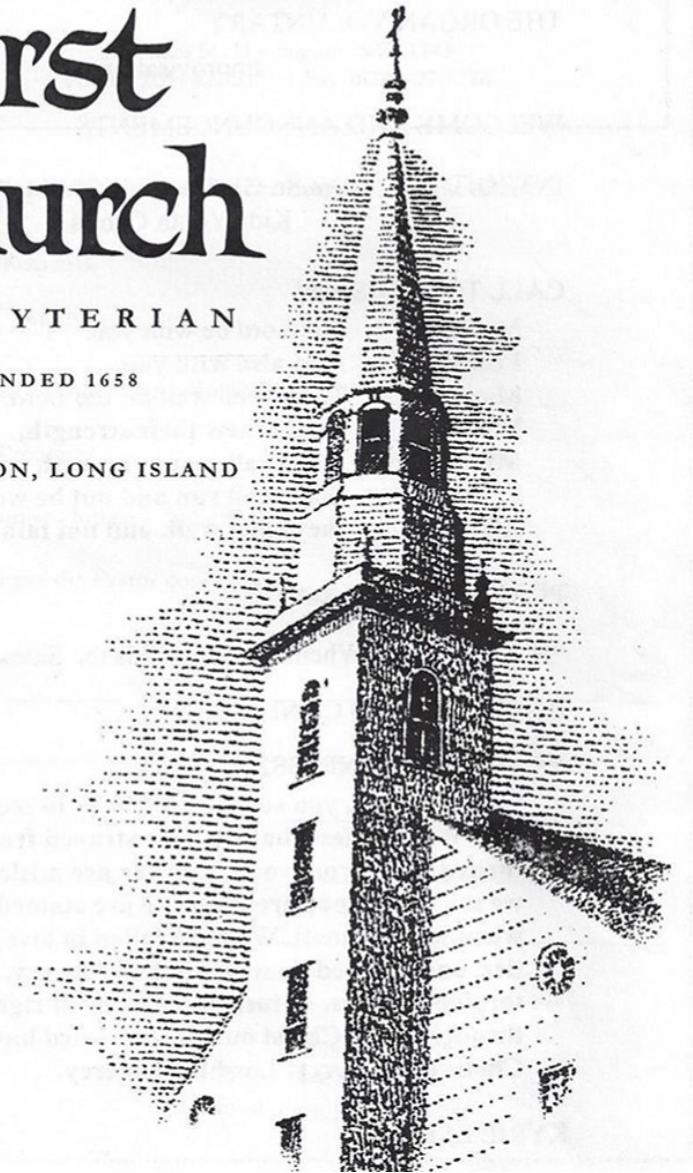
We are sent out into the world with a charge and benediction from the pastor, inviting the spirit of today's worship to go with us as we seek ways to share our faith with others!

Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 18, 2018

10:00 AM

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Old Testament, p. 166 / P. 202

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.