

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

Introit *In My Father's House* J.N. Beck
Sanctuary Choir

Call to Worship —*from Psalm 107*

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever and ever.

**People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he has redeemed and gathered to his side.**

Leader: Cry out to the Lord, your God, in times of trouble
and God will deliver you from distress.

**People: Let us thank the Lord, our God,
for his steadfast love and wonderful works for all.**

Leader: For the Lord has satisfied the thirsty
with living water and the hungry with eternal food.

**People: Let the wise pay attention to these things
and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.**

Leader: Rejoicing in the unconditional love of the Lord, our God;
let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship God together.

*Hymn 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, as we continue our Lenten journeys, we confess that we long to follow Jesus, but we are reluctant to face any challenges the journey may hold for us. We admire the difficult road walked by our Lord, but confess that when it comes to our own faith, we long for the journey to be holy, but not too daring; comfortable, but not too threatening; fruitful, but without much effort on our part. We cherish the example of our Christ, but confess our fear of fully living by his faithful example of complete obedience to the will of God.

Loving God, strengthen us to hear your call to obedience as we live our faith each day of our lives, longing to draw deeper into personal relationship with you. Empower us to discern the path you call us to follow; not standing on the sidelines letting opportunities to bear fruit pass us by, but actively serving others in word and deed. Open our eyes to your grace and awaken our spirits at the touch of your love. We pray together in the name of Jesus, our Christ, the hope of our hearts, Lord of our lives, and author of our salvation ...

(Please continue in silent prayer of confession.)

Together, let all of 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.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

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.**

*Response of Praise (verses 1 and 3, Hymn 518) *Your Only Son*

*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 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Old Testament, p. 735 / P. 899

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J.S. Bach
Sanctuary Choir

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.)

Second Lesson John 12:20-33 New Testament, p. 106 / P. 130

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon **"Something Is About To Happen"**

*Hymn 187 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

*Affirmation of Faith — *The Second Helvetic Confession (1566)*

**We believe and teach that the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ,
was predestined from eternity by the Father to be the Savior of the world.**

**We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ truly suffered and died for us
in the flesh. We believe and teach that the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
rose again from the dead, and ascended above all visible heavens into
the highest heaven, the dwelling-place of God and the blessed ones,
at the right hand of God the Father. By his passion, death, and
everything he endured for our sake, our Lord reconciled all the faithful
to the heavenly Father and is our righteousness, life, and resurrection.**

Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the world, and the true awaited Messiah!

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

*If you would like to contribute to today's special offering in support
of the Hot Lunch ministry at our sister church in Cuba, please use the
special envelopes located in the pew, marked with "Cuba Hot Lunch."*

Offertory *When You Believe* S. Schwartz
Diane Starost, Ken Duncan, Linda Fallica
Sanctuary Choir

*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

*Prayer of Dedication

*Choral Response (Hymn 647, no repeats)

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 451 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

*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 *Now Let All Loudly* H. William

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor

Doug Terc, Lector

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

IN OUR PRAYERS:

New to the prayer list this week:

Lucille Ravalgi (Mother of Julie Salzano)

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, 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,	Lecanne 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>		

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Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
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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

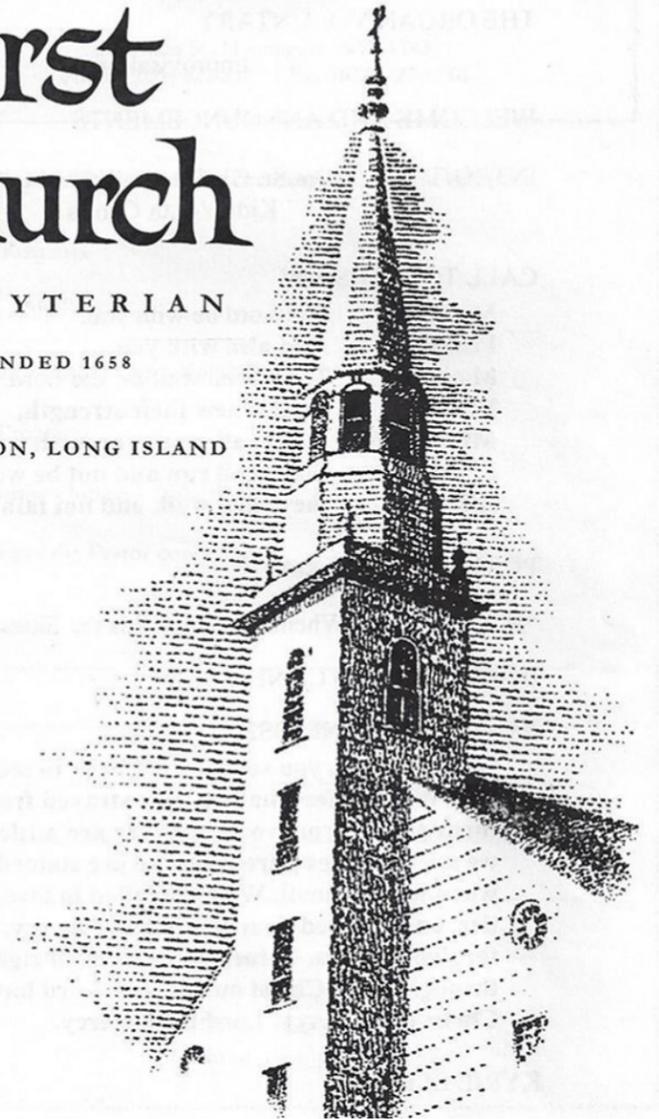
We are sent out into the world with a charge and benediction from the pastor, inviting the spirit of today's worship to go with us as we seek ways to share our faith with others!

Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 11, 2018

10:00 AM

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Old Testament, p. 735 / P. 899

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 12:20-33

New Testament, p. 106 / P. 130

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—
‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I
have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a
voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it
again.”

²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was
thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus
answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.
³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world
will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the
kind of death he was to die.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.