

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 *For the Beauty of the Earth* arr. by K. Daris
Kids' / Youth Choirs

Call to Worship —*from Psalm 23*

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.

People: He leads me beside still waters, restoring my soul and guiding me in righteous paths.

Leader: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

People: I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a table for me before my enemies;
anointing me with oil, my cup overflows.

People: Goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Leader: Restoring our souls in the presence of the Risen Christ,
let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship God together.

*Hymn 246 *Christ Is Alive!*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you prepare a home for us and show us the way to reach it, but we spend our lives searching for our own way. We hear the promise of your everlasting love for us, but we question whether or not we deserve your grace with all that we have done and left undone. You invite us to share in the life you have freely given, but we cling to broken and misguided values that lead to emptiness, destruction, and death. You provide loving care, but we seek our own paths, afraid of living lives of grace, forgiveness, and love.

Loving God, in your mercy, forgive what we have been, change who we are, and guide what we will be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Fill us with a spirit of new life and forgive our selfish ways as we learn to discern your voice and obey your commands. Give us hearts that overflow with the joy of your love and inspire us to fully embrace your resurrected gift of life eternal. We pray in the name of our Good Shepherd, who restores our souls and leads us in right paths for your name's sake ...

(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 (Hymn 240) *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*
(We will sing the refrain, verse 2, and the refrain once more.)

*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

Anthem *Love One Another* Jane Ellen
Youth Choir / Rebecca Terc, Flute

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson 1 John 3:16-24 New Testament, p. 240 / P. 292

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Time with Our Young Disciples

Congregational Invitation (*Sung Twice*)

**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 10:11-18 New Testament, p. 103 / P. 126

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *"A Shepherd's Love"*

*Hymn 274 (*sung to tune of 360*) *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

*Affirmation of Faith — *The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)*

**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.**

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *Seasons of Life* L. Dengler
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 803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

*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 *Festal Finale* H. Coleman

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor
Deacon Steven Samuels, Lector
Ken Friese, Director of Music
Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

IN OUR PRAYERS:

New to the prayer list this week:

**Friends and Family of John Dunder (Friend of Jahier Family)
Rod Tibbetts (Husband of Martha Tibbetts)**

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, Angelica Richter, James Schubauer, Arthur Whitfield (Cousin of Emil Backstrom), 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>		

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*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

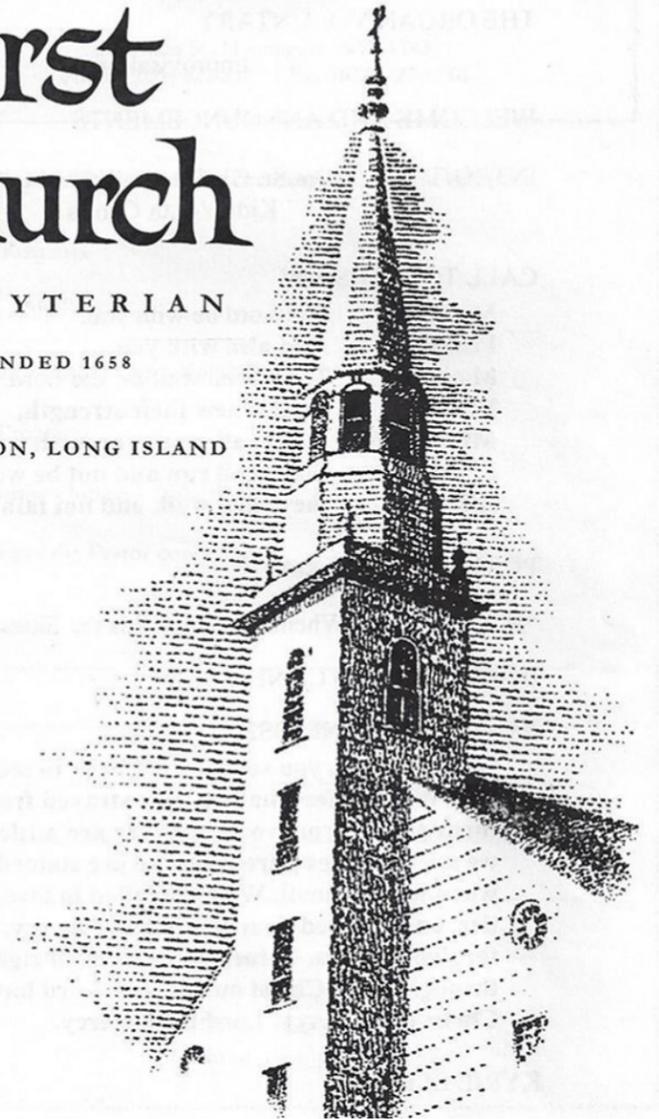
We are sent out into the world with a charge and benediction from the pastor, inviting the spirit of today's worship to go with us as we seek ways to share our faith with others!

Old
First
Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 22, 2018

10:00 AM

1 John 3:16-24

New Testament, p. 240 / P. 292

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us— and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 10:11-18

New Testament, p. 103 / P. 126

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.