

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 *The Earth Adorned* W. Ahlen

Call to Worship — *from the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship*

Leader: Font of Blessing, Living Water, Flowing River;
Sun, Light, and Burning Ray.

**People: Consuming Fire, Dividing Sword, Overpowering Storm;
Speaker, Word, and Breath of Life.**

Leader: God in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

**ALL: God who was, God who is, God who is to come;
Glory to you forever! Amen!**

Leader: Compassionate Mother, Beloved Child, Life-Giving Womb;
Lover, Beloved, and Love itself.

**People: Rainbow of Promise, Ark of Salvation, Dove of Peace;
Giver, Gift, and Giving.**

Leader: God in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

**ALL: God who was, God who is, God who is to come;
Glory to you forever! Amen!**

*Hymn 303 *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, as we celebrate your perfect unity in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we are painfully aware of how often the beauty of your three persons is lost in our failures. We value your transcendent life as Creator of all things, but keep at a distance the challenges of living in intimate relationship with you. We bow before the eternal glory of our Christ, but separate his humanity from the reality of our own lives. We find strength in the Holy Spirit, but resist allowing the same Spirit to fully inspire us. We are awed by the mystery of our Triune God, but our failure to live fully by your example leaves us ashamed.

Loving God, forgive us for believing we know everything about who you are in our lives; and in doing so, closing ourselves off from new inspiration. Creating God, continue to mold and shape us with each new day. Redeeming Christ, continue to forgive us and set us free for life eternal. Sustaining Spirit, continue to breathe new life into us as you guard, guide, and inspire us. We pray together in the name of our Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ...

(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 300) *We Are One in the Spirit*

(Please join in singing verse 4 with the refrain.)

*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 Romans 8:12-17 New Testament, p. 158 / P. 191

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *I Will Not Leave You Comfortless* E. Titcomb
Sanctuary Choir

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 3:1-17 New Testament, p. 93 / P. 114

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon **"Making Sense of the Trinity"**

*Hymn 1 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

*Affirmation of Faith — from *A Brief Statement of Faith - PC(USA)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *My Good Lord's Done Been Here* A.J. Thomas
Ken Duncan, Tenor / Sanctuary Choir

*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

*Prayer of Dedication

*Response of Thanksgiving (Hymn 647, no repeats) *Give Thanks*

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.

Memorial Day Litany (*See Insert*) 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 338 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

*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 *Psalms XVIII* B. Marcello

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor

Elder Melissa Terc, Lector

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

If you are a first-time guest or returning visitor to our church family, please allow us to extend a special welcome to you. We invite you to join us in the Parish Hall after worship for coffee, tea, cookies, and a chance to learn more about Old First.

Please take this opportunity to be greeted by our members and be introduced to our Pastor, Matthew Means. Thank you for joining us and welcome to our family of faith!

IN OUR PRAYERS:

New to the prayer list:

**Cameron Machtel (Son of Kerri and Keith Machtel)
Family and Friends of George West (Deborah, Alex, and Gus Panagacos)**

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, Ilse Perwass (Grandmother of Erik Heidenfelder), Angelica Richter, James Schubauer, Rod Tibbetts (Husband of Martha Tibbetts), 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

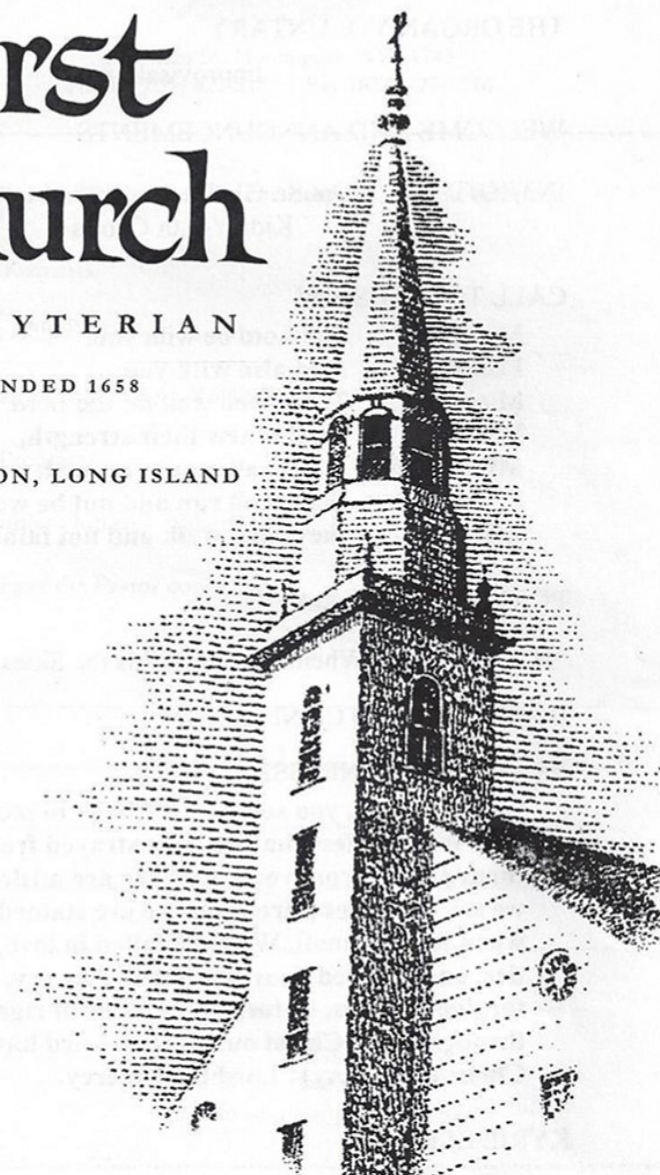
We are sent out into the world with a charge and benediction from the pastor, inviting the spirit of today's worship to go with us as we seek ways to share our faith with others!

Old
First
Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



TRINITY SUNDAY

MAY 27, 2018

10:00 AM

Memorial Day Litany and the Lord's Prayer

With a spirit of peace and remembrance, let us bow together in prayer:

For those who have given their lives for their country and whose sacrifice we remember each Memorial Day; that they may rest in God's eternal peace and that their sacrifice may inspire in each of us a commitment to the ideals for which they fought, we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have been sent to far-away places on our behalf and who have often endured fear, trauma, and loss that no person should have to face; that they may receive healing in their hearts and a warm welcome from their families, communities, and churches, we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our women and men serving under orders today, especially those in situations of danger or captivity; that they may be inspired by duty, conduct themselves with honor and integrity, love their God and country, and receive strength equal to every challenge they are asked to face, we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the families of men and women now serving on active duty, families of veterans, families who have suffered in times of war, and families whose tables will always have an empty chair, we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our leaders, who have the power to promote peace and justice or to extinguish life; that decisions regarding war and peace may be preceded by thoughtful prayer and accompanied by concern for all God's people, we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves, our congregation, and our communities; that we may be relationship builders who seek justice for our world and fairness to others, so that we may live faithfully as God's people, bringing peace and reconciliation into our world, we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear us as we pray together, "Our Father, who art ..."

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Romans 8:12-17

Old Testament, p. 158 / P. 191

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 3:1-17

New Testament, p. 93 / P. 114

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”

³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these

things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.