

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

Introit *Joseph's Lullaby* J. Kavanaugh
Ken Duncan, Tenor

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us rejoice in our God!

Let us marvel in all that our God has done!

**People: Our eyes have seen the glory of God,
made known to us in a manger.**

Leader: We rejoice in our God; the creator of all that has life!

**People: Our eyes have seen the love of God,
come to us in the cries of an infant.**

Leader: We rejoice in our God; the giver of redemption and grace!

**People: Our eyes have seen the mercy of God,
alive and at work in Jesus, our Christ.**

Leader: We rejoice in our God; the spirit of peace and grace among us!

**People: Our eyes have seen the power of God,
at work in changing our world forever.**

Leader: Rejoicing in the eternal presence of Jesus Christ in our lives,
let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together!

*Hymn 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, full of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as eternal light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not always fully welcomed your light or trusted your good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst; expecting little and hoping for even less. As the pages of the calendar turn and the festive sights and sounds of the Christmas season fade from our lives, we confess that the message of eternal love that is ours in the birth of your Son too often fades just as easily.

Loving God, remind us through our worship, prayers, and songs that Jesus is indeed our promised Messiah and the full revelation of your eternal glory. Forgive us, O Lord. Place your Son in our arms once more and show us again our eternal salvation. Unite our hearts and voices as we sing your praises in our lives, living as examples of your good news at work in our world. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Christ, the Lord and Savior of our lives ...

(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 (Hymn 113, verse 3 and chorus) *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*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.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Prayer for Illumination

The Birth of the Messiah Foretold by Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-7, Old Testament, p. 638 / P. 780

Hymn 88 (verses 1-4) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

The Glory of Bethlehem Foretold by Micah

Micah 5:2-5, 7-9, Old Testament, p. 865 / P. 1,059

Hymn 121 (verses 1 & 3) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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.**

The Angel Gabriel Visits the Virgin Mary

Luke 1:26-38, New Testament, p. 56 / P. 69

Hymn 123 (verses 1, 3, & 5) *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

The Birth of Jesus, Our Christ, Is Proclaimed

Luke 2:1-7, New Testament, p. 58 / P. 71

Hymn 115 *Away in a Manger*

The Shepherds Come to Worship the Christ Child

Luke 2:8-20, New Testament, p. 58 / P. 71

Hymn 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

The Wise Men Are Led by the Star to Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12, New Testament, p. 2 / P. 2

Hymn 145 *What Child Is This*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *Pie Jesu* A.L. Webber
Gail Glistler, Soprano / Ken Duncan, Tenor

*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

*Prayer of Dedication

*Response of Thanksgiving (Hymn 147, verse 1 only) *The First Nowell*

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 134 *Joy to the World*

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Benediction *Silent Night, Holy Night!* Hymn 122

*Postlude *I Saw Three Ships* R. Elliot

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor
Doug 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:

Adults and Students travelling to the Great Escape (Middle School Youth Camp) in Johnstown, Pennsylvania this week

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

Holly Baptista, Bob and Gail Esser, Gabby (14 year-old) and her Parents (Audra and Dave), Dave and Else Haddock, Beth Lange (Sister of Susan Oehrig), Pat Lobasso (Husband of Joan Lobasso), Mark Mandrakos, Ken Miller (Husband of Rev. Anne Stewart Miller), Nancy Paloian, Angelica Richter, James Schubauer, 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 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Jim Colbert	Kerry Degnan	Curt Abbott
Katie Dopico	Jerry Kessler	Tom Bosch
Beverly Elliott	Susan Oehrig	Gloria Burgess
Gretchen Hargis	Gillian Plastaras	Philip Heinz
Amy Girimonti	Melissa Terc	Mark Rapko
Marge Sammis		

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

OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF DEACONS:

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Sue Degnan	Leeanne M. Bedell	Victor Andrade
Cheryl Grossman	Richard C. Bedell	Asenath Fuchs
Steven Samuels	Dan Degnan	Carol Breckner
Martha Tibbetts	Robert Ponzetti	Judy Gilbert
Leslie Yovino	Kathy Porter	Matthew Girimonti
	Mary Porter	Virginia Greene
	Faith Youngquist	

OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Brian Behrens	Robert Ponzetti	Nat Corwin
John Collins	James Thatcher,	Bruce Elliott
Liz Richter,	<i>President</i>	Gerry Schult
<i>Secretary</i>	Charles Worledge,	
	<i>Vice 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!



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018

10:00 AM

The Birth of the Messiah Foretold by Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

Old Testament, p. 638 / P. 780

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Glory of Bethlehem Foretold by Micah

MICAH 5:2-5, 7-9

Old Testament, p. 865 / P. 1,059

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

⁷ Then the remnant of Jacob, surrounded by many peoples, shall be like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not depend upon people or wait for any mortal. ⁸ And among the nations the remnant of Jacob, surrounded by many peoples, shall be like a lion among the animals of the forest, like a young lion among the flocks of sheep, which, when it goes through, treads down and tears in pieces, with no one to deliver. ⁹ Your hand shall be lifted up over your adversaries, and all your enemies shall be cut off.

The Angel Gabriel Visits the Virgin Mary

Luke 1:26-38

New Testament, p. 56 / P. 69

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The Birth of Jesus, Our Christ, Is Proclaimed

Luke 2:1-7

New Testament, p. 58 / P. 71

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds Come to Worship the Christ Child

Luke 2:8-20

New Testament, p. 58 / P. 71

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Wise Men Are Led by the Star to Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament, p. 2 / P. 2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.