

## 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

Gathering Song *Lord, Prepare Me (Sung Twice)* Hymn 701

Call to Worship — *Psalm 46*

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble and distress.

**People: Therefore, though the earth should change and the mountains shake, we will not fear.**

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of our God.

**People: God is among the people; we shall not be moved! God will deliver us with the morning.**

Leader: Be still and know that the Lord is God! Exalt God among the nations and throughout the earth.

**People: The Lord of Hosts is forever with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. We will not be afraid!**

Leader: Finding hope, peace, and comfort in the eternal presence of God, let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together.

\*Hymn 14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we are painfully aware of the places in our lives where we have fallen short of your expectations. You call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but instead we harbor jealousies and resentments. You ask us to turn the other cheek when we are hurt, but instead we hold grudges and wait for revenge. When we see others in need, you ask us to give all we have, but instead we hold on tightly, afraid to lose what is ours. You call us to the highest standards of love, grace, and mercy, but we settle for lives of unfulfilled desires.**

**Loving God, forgive our short-sighted visions for what our lives may be when filled with your love. Raise our expectations of one another, that we may commit ourselves to fully embracing your charge to go out into the world, living as your children and sharing the love of Christ each day of our lives. Inspired by your Spirit, may we give generously of ourselves and be strengthened to serve as your hands and feet to a world in need. We pray together 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 of Praise (Hymn 581) *Glory Be to the Father*

\*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 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 New Testament, p. 42 / P. 51

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music *Hymn of Promise* Sleeth / Larson  
Gail Glister, Soprano / Ken Duncan, Tenor

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.**

*(Children will return to their families to share together in Communion.)*

Second Lesson James 1:19-27 New Testament, p. 229 / P. 278

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon **"Doers of the Word"**

\*Hymn 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

### 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 *Daystar (Shine Down on Me)* Richardson / Fettke  
Gail Glister, Soprano / Ken Duncan, Tenor

\*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

\*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

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.**

The Words of Institution

Communion

*All are invited to hold the bread and cup so that we may commune together.*

Prayer after Communion

Offering of Our Time and Talent

\*Hymn 767 *Together We Serve*

\*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 *Trumpet Tune* M.A. Charpentier

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THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Elder Jerry Kessler, Lector

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

*Thank you for choosing to worship with us and welcome to our family of faith!*

*Please join us in the Parish Hall for conversation and light refreshments.*

IN OUR PRAYERS:

**New to the prayer list:**

**Bernice Miller (Mother of Bob Miller)**  
**Heather & Tom Tucker (Death of Heather's Sister, Gay)**  
**Holly Baptista (recovery from recent back surgery)**  
**Lisa Hanrahan & Family (Birth of Declan Luke on 8/22/18)**

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

Pastor Paul Brug (Gloria Burgess), Bob and Gail Esser, Dave and Else Haddock, Pat Lobasso (Husband of Joan Lobasso), Mark Mandrakos, Nancy Paloian, Lynn Petrick (Daughter of Asenath Fuchs), 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	Nathaniel Corwin
John Collins	James Thatcher,	Bruce Elliott
Liz Richter,	<i>President</i>	Gerry Schult
<i>Secretary</i>	Charles Worledge,	
	<i>Vice President</i>	

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*Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor*  
[pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org](mailto: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.*

**Communion / The Lord's Supper**

*We are blessed to be nourished - physically and spiritually - at the Lord's Table by bread and grape juice. These are visible reminders of the invisible grace of God, reminding us of the love of God, shown to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Our invitation to the Lord's Table is for **all who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.***

**Charge and Benediction**

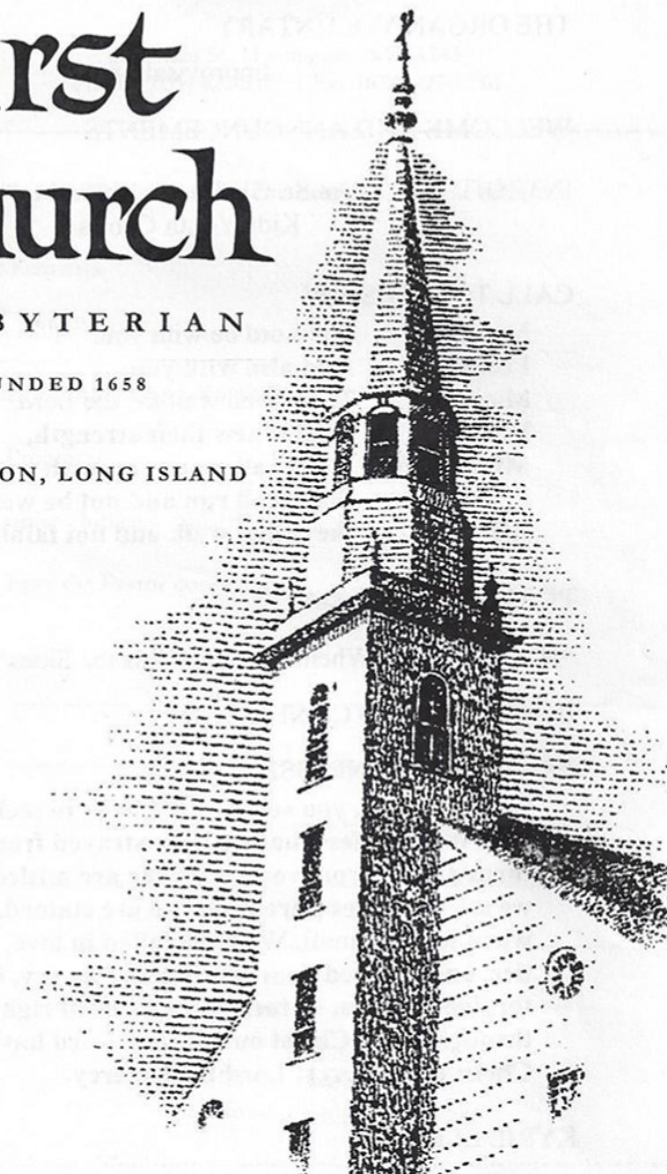
*We are sent out into the world with a charge and benediction from the pastor, inviting the spirit of today's worship to go with us as we seek ways to share our faith with others!*

# Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018**

**10:00 AM**

**Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**  
**New Testament, p. 42 / P. 51**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

<sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup> You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup> Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

<sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **James 1:19-27**

**New Testament, p. 229 / P. 278**

<sup>19</sup> You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup> Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup> But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup> If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

<sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**