

## 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 *Blow the Trumpet in Zion* J.N. Beck

Call to Worship — *Psalm 1*

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or sit in the seat of scoffers.

**People: Their delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law they meditate day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield fruit and do not wither.

**People: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away in an instant.**

Leader: Therefore, the wicked will not stand on the day of judgment in the midst of the righteous.

**People: The Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will lead to peril.**

Leader: Giving thanks for the joy of worshipping the Lord of our lives, let us lift our hearts and voices as we praise our God together.

\*Hymn 320 *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we are painfully aware of the many places in our lives we have fallen short of your expectations. You call us to love and serve others more than ourselves, but instead, we put our own desires at the top of our list. You invite us to connect intimately with you and one another, but instead, we keep our relationships at a safe distance. You ask us to give freely in mission and service, but instead, we cling tightly to what we believe is as ours. You call us to the highest standards of love and grace, but we often settle for far less.**

**Loving God, forgive our short-sighted visions of what our lives may be when filled with your love. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Help us put the needs of others first, as we cheerfully, humbly, and generously serve as living examples of Christ in the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior ...**

*(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 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a New Testament, p. 230 / P. 279

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *A Thousand Voices* D. Rasbach  
Sanctuary Choir

Time with Our Young Disciples

*Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade children are invited to come to the front pews.*

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 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

Second Lesson Mark 9:30-37 New Testament, p. 45 / P. 55

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon **"Line Up!"**

\*Hymn 727 *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

### 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;  
and 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 *Here I Am, Lord* D. Schutte / J. Schrader  
Sanctuary Choir

\*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

\*Prayer of Dedication

Response of Thanksgiving (Hymn 469) *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

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 203 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

\*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 *Festival Finale* M. Archer

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#### THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Lilly Polak, Lector

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

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

*If you are a first-time guest or returning visitor, please allow us to extend a  
special welcome and invitation to join us in the Parish Hall following worship  
for light refreshments and a chance to learn more about Old First.*

*Please use this opportunity to be greeted by our members and introduced to  
our Pastor, Matthew Means, as we share the joys of being together.*

**IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**New to the prayer list:**

**Miles Lerner & Family (Family Friend of Dana Richter)**

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

Holly Baptista, Bob and Gail Esser, Dave and Else Haddock, Pat Lobasso (Husband of Joan Lobasso), James Schubauer, and Grace Youngquist.

*Names on our prayer list will remain for one 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
Beverly Elliott	Jerry Kessler	Tom Bosch
Gretchen Hargis	Susan Oehrig	Gloria Burgess
Amy Girimonti	Gillian Plataras	Philip Heinz
Marge Sammis	Melissa Terc	Mark Rapko

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**

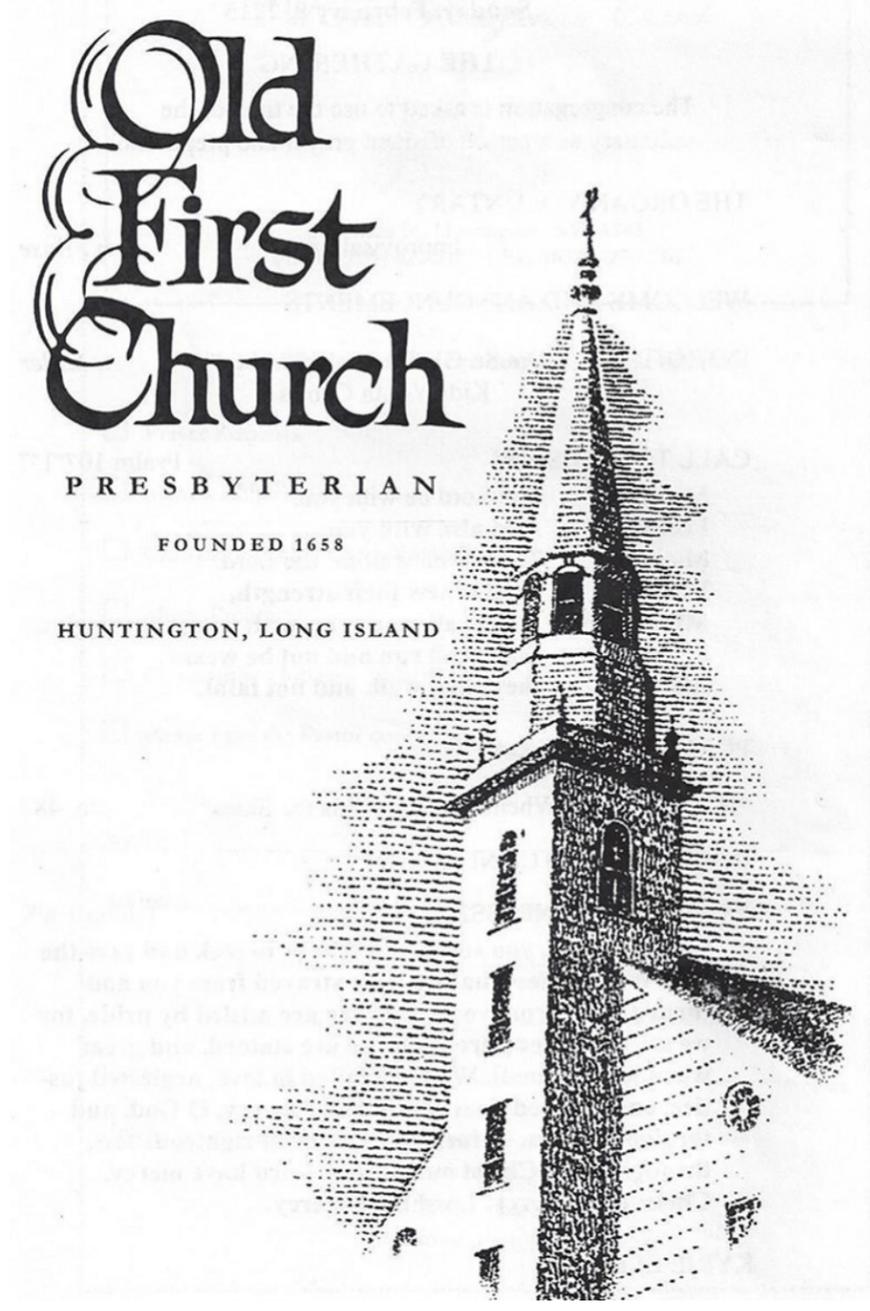
*The ministry of Old First is supported by members and friends of the congregation responding to God by giving our financial gifts. The offering is the moment in the service when, out of gratitude to God, members of the community of faith **freely choose** to give financial gifts to Christ's ministry in and through Old First as an expression of our faith.*

**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!*



**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018**

**10:00 AM**

**James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**  
**New Testament, p. 230 / P. 279**

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.

<sup>16</sup> For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

<sup>4</sup> Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Mark 9:30-37**

**New Testament, p. 45 / P. 55**

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”

<sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,  
“Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of  
all.”

<sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and  
taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one  
such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes  
me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**