

Kyrie Eleison, No. 551

“Lord, Have Mercy”

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen.

*Gloria Patri, No. 581

*The Peace

Minister: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, we also ought to forgive one another. The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Anthem

“Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho” *African American Spiritual*
Kids’/Youth Choir *arr. By C. Curry*

Children’s Moments

Jared Ponzetti

WORD

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

O.T. p.186/P.233

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson Psalm 119: 1-8 (Responsively)

Minister: Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

People: **Happy are they who observe your decrees,
and seek you with all their hearts!**

Minister: Who never do any wrong,
but always walk in your ways.

People: **You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them.**

Minister: O that my ways were made so direct,

that I might keep your statutes!

People: **Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

Minister: I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

People: **I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

Third Lesson: Matthew 5: 21-37 N.T. p.4-5/P.5-6

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Choose Life!" *Rev. Anne Stewart Miller*

*Hymn No. 688 "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" MORECAMBE

*Affirmation of Faith *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.

Pastoral Prayers & 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

Call to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing" *P.M. Young*
The Sanctuary Choir

*Doxology No. 606

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Choral Response

Sending

*Hymn No. 265

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

DUKE STREET

*Benediction

*Choral Response, No. 601

-Amen, Amen, Amen

*Organ Postlude

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation and
The Annual Meeting of the Corporation

**Please stand, as you are able.*

THIS MORNING’S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Anne Stewart Miller, Interim Pastor

Melissa Balm, Lector

Jared Ponzetti, Children’s Moments

Charles Worledge, Usher Captain

Roger Ketcham, Bill Roe

*—This flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and presented by
Ruth Corwin in celebration of Ruth & Bob Corwin’s 59th wedding anniversary.*

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one, please
sign the flower calendar in the central foyer or call the church office.

The Semi Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Old First Presbyterian Church, Huntington, New York, will be held on today Sunday, February 12, 2017 immediately following the worship service (at approximately) 11 AM, for the following purposes;

1. To receive program reports from church officers and program leaders.
2. To receive financial statements for 2016 and the budget for 2017.
3. To transact any other business which rightly may be raised.

By Order of the Session
Thomas Bosch, Clerk

IN OUR PRAYERS:

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

Family of Edward Burgess (Paul's father), Caitlin Colbert (granddaughter of Jim and Kris Colbert), Bob Esser (member), William Gray (Dorothy Mandrakos' father), Dave and Else Haddock (members), Kristin Keydel (Pam Fosella's sister), Joan Lobasso (member), Bill Murphy (Vera Murphy's son), the family of Les Park (former member), Our Pastor Nominating Committee and your next pastor, Cynde and Robert Raynor (Brett's parents), Rebecca Raynor (Brett's sister), Gerry Schult (member), Marian Vozza (Holly Baptista's sister), Ed Williams (member), and Grace Youngquist (member).

Removed from our prayer list this week: Diane Zamow (member) and her father.

Names on our prayer list will remain for a month.

If you wish to have a name remain on the list, kindly contact the Church Office

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEDGE ENVELOPES FOR 2017 ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CENTRAL FOYER. HELP US SAVE POSTAGE AND DROP BY SOON TO PICK UP YOUR BOX!

WEATHERVANE-MARCH 2017: Articles for the March issue are due February 13.

YOUTH ACTIVITY WITH TINA: TODAY after worship at 11:15 am in the Youth Room for a Sing-a-long!

YOUTH CLUB AND KIDS' AND YOUTH CHOIRS: The Youth club will meet this Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

- Youth Club grades 1-8 from 5-7 pm in Youth Room
- Kids' Choir (grades 1-3) 5-5:30
- Youth Choir (grades 4-8) 5:30-6

New singers are welcome in 2017 as rehearsals start again in the choir room - Come give us a try!

CONFIRMATION CLASS: The next meeting will be Thursday, February 16 from 7-8 pm in the Fiske Room for Lesson 3.

FOOD 4 THE SOUL will not meet in February but will resume Sunday, March 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Youth Room.

CHURCH SCHOOL: "Soaper Bowl Sunday!" Collection of items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. ends TODAY. All donations will be given to the Community Food Council. Please help us by placing your items in the specially marked box by the Parish Hall entrance. Our collection will Thanks for helping us help those in need.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

- **CIRCLE-1/EVENING:** The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21st. Chiropractor Scott Boege from Huntington will speak about pain management. He will be discussing the benefits of laser therapy among other therapies.
- **CIRCLE-3/Bible Study** Our next Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, February 15th at 12:30 pm in room 101. We continue our study, "Who is Jesus?" looking through the lens of the Gospel of Paul. We ask you to read lesson five in preparation.
- **CIRCLE-4/QUILTING** meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 am in Room 101. All are welcome. No experience necessary.
- **CIRCLE-6/CRAFTS** meets on Friday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the craft room -212. All are welcome.
- **LAYETTE:** The layette is in need of girls baby blankets.

THRIFT STORE: Volunteers are needed for Thursdays and Fridays from 11am to 1:30pm. Please let Cynthia know if you can work occasionally or every week.

COMMUNITY FOOD COUNCIL: Items needed for the month of February are: dry milk and rice. Thank you for your generous donations.

WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, February 12 - 2017

- 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Worship w/Kids' & Youth Choirs
- 10:20-11:00 a.m. Church School (*Room 102*)
- 11:00-11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
- 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Sing-a-Long Youth Activity with Tina (*Youth Room-204*)
- 6:15-8:45 p.m. AA (*Downstairs Room 10*)
- 6:30-8:00 p.m. TUXIS (*Youth Room-204*)

Monday, February 13 - 2017

- 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Basement*)
- 9:15-10:15 a.m. Gentle Bends (*Room 102*)
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. N.A. (*Downstairs AA Room 10*)
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. B.S. Comm. Meets (*Youth Room*)

Tuesday, February 14 - 2017

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Basement*)
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thrift Store (*Basement/Room 11*)
1:00-2:00 p.m. AA (*Basement, Room 10*)
2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, February 15 - 2017

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Basement*)
9:15 -10:15 a.m. Gentle Bends (*Room 102*)
12:30-2:00 p.m. PW-C3/Bible Study (*Room 101*)
5:00 -7:00 p.m. Youth Club (*Youth Room-204*)
5:00-5:30 p.m. Kids' Choir Rehearsal (*Room 211*)
5:30-6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal (*Room 211*)
7:00-9:00 p.m. Session (*Room 101*)
7:00-9:15 p.m. AA (*Basement, Room 10*)
7:30-9:00 p.m. B.S. Troop 32 (*Gym*)

Thursday, February 16 - 2017

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Basement*)
9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. PW-4/Quilting (*Room 101*)
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thrift Store (*Basement/Room 11*)
5:00-9:30 p.m. Giant Steps (*Room 102*)
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (*Fiske Room*)
8:00-9:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (*Room 211*)

Friday, February 17 - 2017

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Basement*)
9:30-11:30 a.m. Al Anon (*Room 101*)
9:45 a.m.-12 p.m. PW-Crafts (*Craft Room-212*)
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thrift Store (*Basement/Room 11*)

Sunday, February 19 - 2017

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Family Worship Service
6:15-8:45 p.m. AA (*Downstairs Room 10*)

WORSHIP NOTES FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

How are Christians to understand and be related to the Jewish law? It is an ancient question, debated through the history of the church's life and not always agreed on. Theological traditions that have given birth to particular denominations have been and remain divided on the answer. But the question cannot be relegated to the church's past as if it were one of those issues which has no significance for contemporary Christians, like how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. Modern-day Marcionism* is unfortunately alive and well, at least at the point of saying that the ethical codes of Hebrew scriptures are dated and of no value in shaping moral decisions today. The readings for this Sunday address the question.

In the text from Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 30: 15-20) Israel, standing at the gateway to the Land of Promise, is confronted with a sharp choice. It is a choice between following the commandments of Yahweh (a Hebrew name for God) or bowing to the gods worshiped by the Canaanites. Choosing the law, however, means something more than legalism. It means choosing a way of life, an understanding of society ordered according to the covenantal commitments, a means of existence different than the surrounding culture.

In Psalm 119 (vs. 1-8) Israel praises the Torah. It is God's gift especially bestowed on Israel to be the authentic guide as to how life should be lived. As such, the Torah distinguishes Israel from other nations, because it is rooted in God's election and saving activity.

Jesus does not come to repeal the Torah, but precisely to fulfill it (Matthew 5: 21-37). The antipathy between Jesus and the Jewish authorities in the Matthew text is not to be read as antipathy between Jesus and the Torah. Instead, Jesus becomes the authoritative interpreter of the Torah, the one who pushes beyond external behavior to a consistency between disposition and deed. Christians are invited by the text to be different, to obey and teach the covenantal commitments, to be directed in their moral decisions by Jesus' interpretation of the law.

-Texts for Preaching A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV-Year A

*Marcion, a 2nd century Roman Christian believed that Jesus was the Savior sent by God, but rejected the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and the God of Israel.

Old First Presbyterian Church

125 Main Street, Huntington, NY

Phone: 631.427.2101 Fax: 631.427.2116

www.OldFirstChurchHuntington.org



Cherie Cornell, Church Secretary

Ellen Correll, Financial Secretary

Bob Grill, Church Sexton

FIRST LESSON
Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 119: 1-8 (Responsively)

Minister: Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

**People: Happy are they who observe your decrees,
and seek you with all their hearts!**

Minister: Who never do any wrong,
but always walk in your ways.

**People: You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them.**

Minister: O that my ways were made so direct,
that I might keep your statutes!

**People: Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

Minister: I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

**People: I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

THIRD LESSON
Matthew 5: 21-37

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court[k] with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.[

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.