

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 *How Awesome Is This Place* J.N. Beck
Sanctuary Choir

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 63*

Leader: O God, you are my God; my soul thirsts for you and my flesh cries out for your holy presence.

People: We humbly gather before you in your sanctuary to witness your power, glory, and majesty.

Leader: Your steadfast love is better than life; my heart and voice join to praise your name.

People: We will bless you as long as we live; we will lift our hands and call upon your name.

Leader: In you my soul is satisfied and in your holy presence my mouth opens with joyful praise.

People: We gather in the shadow of your wings to sing for joy, for you have been our rock and our refuge!

Leader: Upheld by the eternal love and everlasting grace of our God, let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship God together!

*Hymn 465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, as we grow in relationship with our Christ, we long to follow Jesus, but we confess our hesitation to face the many challenges our faith journeys hold for us. We admire the difficult road walked by our Lord, but we confess that when it comes to our own faith, we long for the journey to be holy, but not too daring; comfortable, but not too threatening; fruitful, but without much effort. We cherish the faithful obedience of Jesus, but confess our fear of living by his example of complete submission to the will of God.

Loving God, help us hear Christ's call to faithfulness as we seek to live our faith by word and deed, drawing deeper into personal relationship with you. Empower us to discern the path you have established for us, stepping out of the chaos and settling into moments of prayerful reflection. Inspire us to ground our lives in prayer, for we long to be a people whose spirits awoken at the touch of your love. We pray together in the name of Jesus, our Christ, the Lord and Savior of our lives, who taught us how to pray in faithful obedience ...

(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 Matthew 6:5-15 New Testament, p. 5 / P. 6

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *For the Beauty of the Earth* J. Rotter
Sanctuary Choir

Time with Our Young Disciples

Preschool through 6th 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.**

Second Lesson James 5:13-18 New Testament, p. 231 / P. 281

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon **"Let Us Pray!"**

*Hymn 794 *O Savior, in This Quiet Place*

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.**

Offering of Our Time and Talent

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *And Can It Be?* D. Forrest
Sanctuary Choir

*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

*Prayer of Dedication

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.**

*Hymn 661 *Why Should I Feel Discouraged?*

*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 *Toccata in the Style of Scarlatti* G. Young

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor
Deacon Matthew Girimonti, 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.*

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!

IN OUR PRAYERS:

New to the prayer list:

**Budzitowski Family (recent death of Victor's mother, Edith)
Gordon Harris (Barbara Macchiaroli) - recovery from broken hip**

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

Judy Andresen, Julie Feltman, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Pat Lobasso (Husband of Joan Lobasso), Vera Murphy, 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:

Class of 2019

Jim Colbert
Beverly Elliott
Gretchen Hargis
Amy Girimonti
Marge Sammis

Class of 2020

Kerry Degnan
Jerry Kessler
Susan Oehrig
Gillian Plataras
Melissa Terc

Class of 2021

Curt Abbott
Tom Bosch
Gloria Burgess
Philip Heinz
Mark Rapko

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

OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF DEACONS:

Class of 2019

Sue Degnan
Cheryl Grossman
Steven Samuels
Martha Tibbetts
Leslie Yovino

Class of 2020

Leeanne M. Bedell
Richard C. Bedell
Dan Degnan
Robert Ponzetti
Kathy Porter
Mary Porter

Class of 2021

Asenath Fuchs
Carol Breckner
Judy Gilbert
Matthew Girimonti
Virginia Greene

OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Class of 2019

Brian Behrens
John Collins
Liz Richter

Class of 2020

Robert Ponzetti
James Thatcher,
Charles Worledge

Class of 2021

Nathaniel Corwin
Bruce Elliott
Gerry Schult

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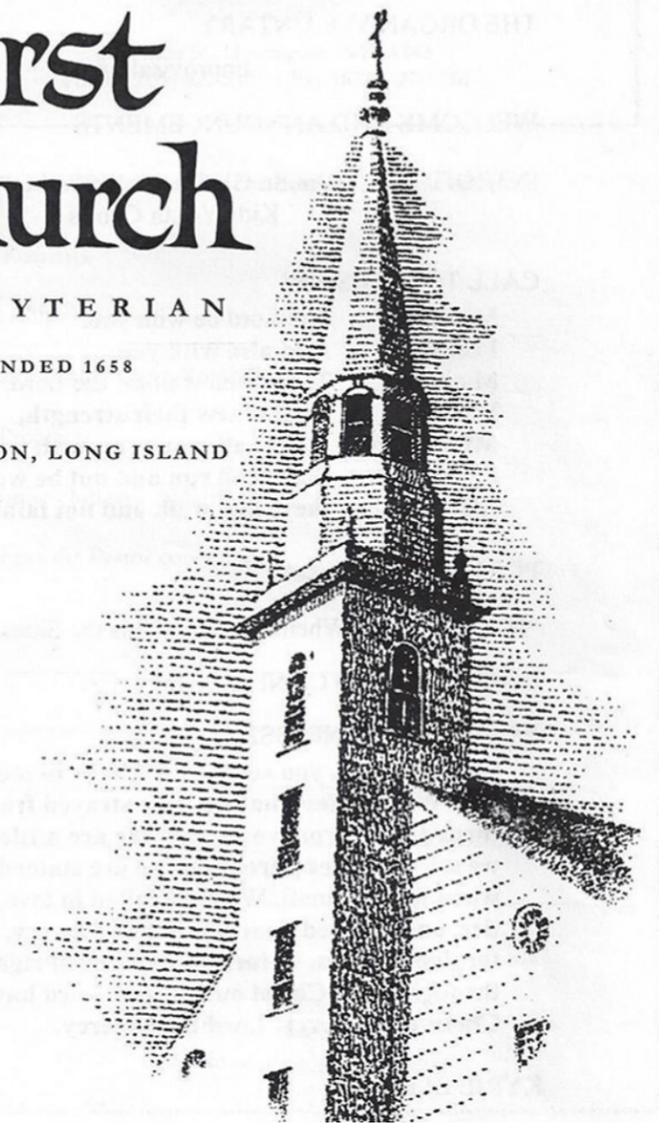
*Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org*

Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
UNIVERSAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR STUDENTS!**

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

10:00 AM

Matthew 6:5-15

New Testament, p. 5 / P. 6

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

James 5:13-18

New Testament, p. 231 / P. 281

¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.