

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 *Come Follow Me* J. Hilton
Bells: Kevin Gordon, Sierra Healy, Amalia Heinz, Alexa Schirripa

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 99*

Leader: The Lord is King; let the earth tremble!
He sits upon his throne; let the earth quake!

**People: The Lord is exalted over all the people;
let them praise God's great and awesome name!**

Leader: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity and executed righteousness.

**People: Let us worship the Lord, our God;
bowing in praise at his feet, for holy is our God.**

Leader: O Lord, our God, you have answered our prayers and welcomed us in loving forgiveness.

**People: Let us praise the Lord, our God,
and worship in his presence; for the Lord is holy!**

Leader: Rejoicing in the majestic holiness of the Lord, our God,
let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship God together!

*Hymn 1 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*adapted from Bruce Prewer*)

Gracious God, in your presence we see the face of holiness, righteousness, and glory; but too many of our days are spent hovering between darkness and light. Because of our sinful choices, we often find ourselves living in darkness. On other preciously rare occasions, we become fully caught up in your light and love. More often, we live somewhere in between; keeping busy in the half-light and making the best of our compromising existence; stumbling and falling, rising and achieving. With your help, we make progress; but still, we fall short of your glorious light, radiantly reflected in the face of our Christ.

Loving God, do not abandon your mission of loving, forgiving, and saving us all. By your mercy and grace, banish our darkness and illuminate our lives. Do not allow us to linger in the gloom of guilt, doubt, and self-pity. Give us courage to move faithfully to where the shadows are fewer, even though we know the brighter light will expose our flaws. Fill us with the dazzling beauty and overshadowing majesty of your Son, so that our lives may declare your praise in thought, word, and deed. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Christ ...

(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 Exodus 34:29-35 Old Testament, p. 81 / P. 101

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Carry Me Home* J. Shafferman
Youth Choir

Time with Our Young Disciples

Preschool through 6th grade children are invited to come to the front pews.

Congregational Invitation

**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.**

*All children are invited to return to their families for worship
as we prepare together for our celebration of Communion.*

Second Lesson Matthew 17:1-9 New Testament, p. 18 / P. 22

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon ***"When the Dust Settles"***

*Hymn 193 *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*

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 *One Bread, One Body* arr. M. Hayes
Sanctuary Choir

*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

While this commissioning service reminds us that the caring ministry of Jesus Christ is part of the life of every Christian, it specifically recognizes those who have offered themselves to serve as Stephen Ministers, trained caregivers who will minister to hurting people in our congregation and community.

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

*Hymn 192 *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining*

*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 *Fugue in G* J.S. Bach

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Elder Gillian Plastaras, Lector

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Diane Starost, Director of Youth Music

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!

IN OUR PRAYERS:

New to the prayer list:

Paul Burgess Jr. (Son of Gloria and Paul Burgess)

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

Judy Andresen, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Pat Lobasso (Husband of Joan Lobasso), Vera Murphy, James Schubauer, Don Thompson, 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	Asenath Fuchs
Cheryl Grossman	Richard C. Bedell	Carol Breckner
Steven Samuels	Dan Degnan	Judy Gilbert
Martha Tibbetts	Robert Ponzetti	Matthew Girimonti
Leslie Yovino	Kathy Porter	Virginia Greene
	Mary Porter	

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	Charles Worledge	Gerry Schult

Old First Presbyterian Church
125 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743
(631) 427-2101
www.oldfirstchurchhuntington.org

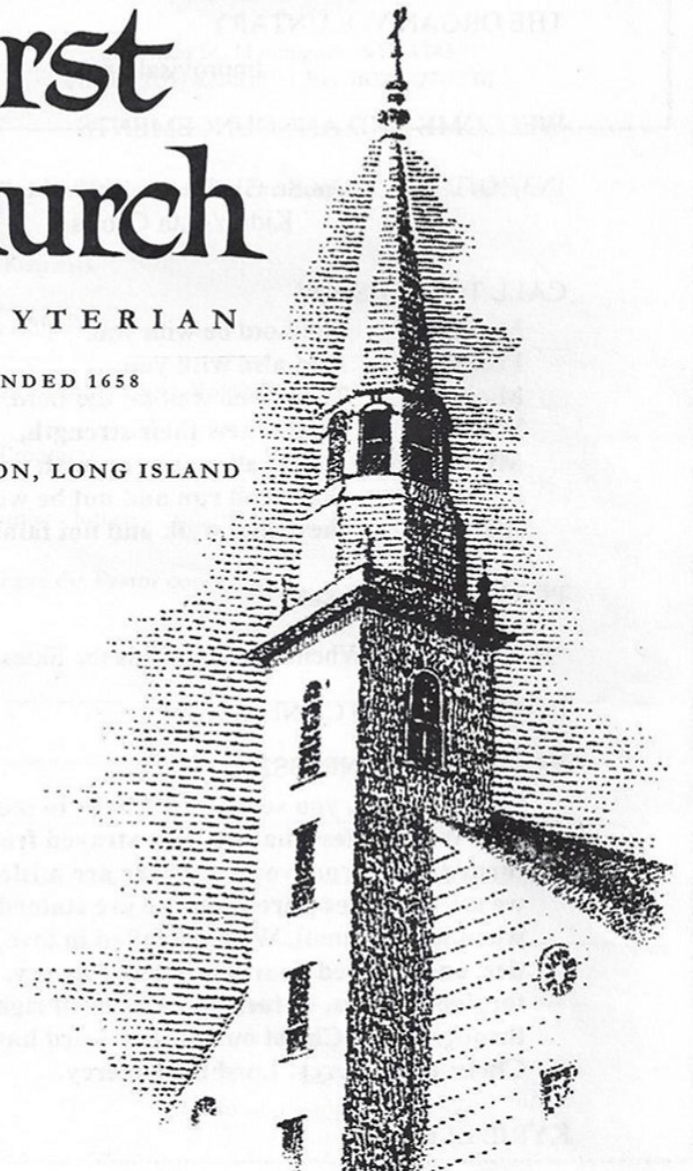
Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org

Old
First
Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

MARCH 3, 2019

10:00 AM

Exodus 34:29-35

Old Testament, p. 81 / P. 101

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.

³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them.

³² Afterward, all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he

came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 17:1-9

New Testament, p. 18 / P. 22

17 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.”

⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.