

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 *The Hour Cometh* J.N. Beck
Sanctuary Choir

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 51*

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God; according to your steadfast love, forgive our sinful disobedience.

People: For we know our transgressions and our sins are always before us.

Leader: Against God alone have we sinned, so that God is justified in God's judgment against us.

People: God desires truth in our souls and wisdom in the secret places of our hearts.

Leader: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

People: Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit away from us.

Leader: Rejoicing in the God of our eternal forgiveness and salvation, let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together!

*Hymn 167 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Litany for Lent

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy;

You are generous to all who call upon you:

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins.

On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities:

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort,

our life and resurrection; our peace and reconciliation:

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you, and joy of all the saints:

Save us, Lord.

Jesus, Lamb of God.

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

Grant us peace.

(Please continue in silent prayer of confession.)

We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose love and grace give us the power to call ourselves children of God ... **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 (verses 1 and 3, Hymn 518) *Your Only Son*

*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 Philippians 4:1, 4-9 New Testament, p. 198 / P. 242

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Lift Up Your Voice* S. Pethel
Sanctuary 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.**

Church school is available for children preschool through 8th grade.

Second Lesson Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 Old Testament, p. 616 / P. 756

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon **"Practicing Our Faith"**

*Hymn 757 *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

* Affirmation of Faith — *A Brief Statement of Faith (1983)*

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God,
the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

Offering of Our Time and Talent

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *Come Home* C. Courtney
Sanctuary Choir / Ken Duncan, Tenor

*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 187 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

*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 in C* D.N. Johnson

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Jared Ponzetti, 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.

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:

Tom and JoAnn Bosch

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

Judy Andresen, Paul Burgess Jr. (Son of Paul and Gloria Burgess), 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 |

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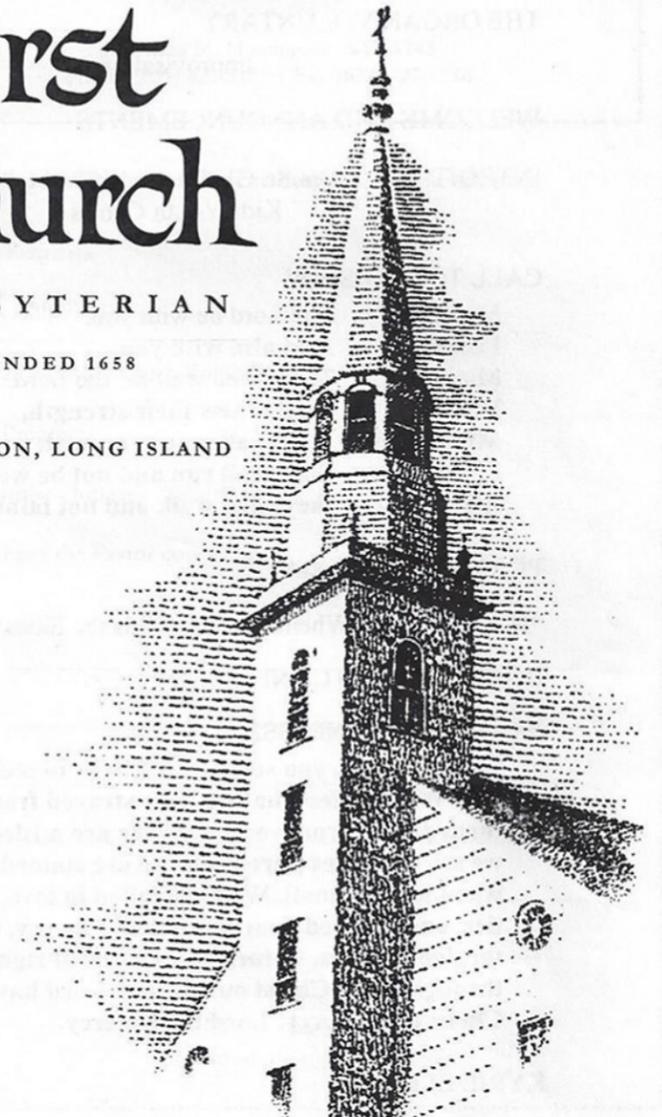
Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org

Old
First
Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 10, 2019

10:00 AM

Philippians 4:1, 4-9

New Testament, p. 198 / P. 242

4 So then, my brothers and sisters, dear friends whom I long to see, my joy and crown, stand in the Lord in this way, my dear friends!

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice!

5 Let everyone see your gentleness. The Lord is near!

6 Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of respect, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is

lovely, whatever is commendable, if something is excellent or praiseworthy, think about these things.

⁹ And what you learned and received and heard and saw in me, do these things. And the God of peace will be with you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

Old Testament, p. 616 / P. 756

- 3** There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2** a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3** a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4** a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5** a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6** a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7** a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,

⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the
burden God has laid on the human race.

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also
set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God
has done from beginning to end.

¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be
happy and to do good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may
eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the
gift of God.

¹⁴ I know that everything God does will endure forever;
nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.