

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 *Ask, Seek, Knock* N. Raabe
Kids 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 presence.

People: We 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 help!

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 162 *(sung to the tune of 500)* *O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, in your merciful presence, we confess our sin and the sin of our world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasure we selfishly pursue lay waste to the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies we harbor set brother against brother, sister against sister, and neighbor against neighbor. We abuse your freely given gifts of time and voice by losing both in the chaotic demands of life, rather than allowing them to be used for your glory by sharing our testimonies and keeping the sabbath.

Loving God, have mercy upon us and send your grace to more fully open our hearts to your love. Set us free from a past that we cannot change and lead us boldly into a future in which we may be changed. Fill our Lenten journeys with humble thanksgiving for the gracious sacrifice of your Son. Whether we spend our lives close to your side or wandering far away from your presence, help us to remember that there is always a place for us in your eternal home. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Christ, the Lord and Savior of our lives ...

(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 (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

Anthem *Jesus Is the Answer / Seek Ye first* arr. B. Harlan
Youth 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.**

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

First Lesson Jeremiah 1:4-10 Old Testament, p. 698 / P. 854

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message **"Testimony"**

*Hymn 462 *(verses 1 and 3 only)* *I Love to Tell the Story*

Second Lesson Deuteronomy 5:12-15 Old Testament, p. 162 / P. 203

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message **"Keeping the Sabbath"**

*Hymn 393 *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

* Affirmation of Faith — *The Scots Confession (1560)*

**By grace alone, God chose us in his Son, Christ Jesus,
before the foundation of the world was laid, and appointed him to
be our head, our brother, our pastor, and the great bishop of our souls.**

**We believe our Lord Jesus offered himself a voluntary sacrifice unto his
Father for us, suffered contradiction of sinners, was wounded and plagued
for our transgressions, and was condemned in the presence of an earthly
judge, that we should be absolved before the judgment seat of our God.**

**We believe our Lord Jesus did rise again for our justification and
brought life again to us who were subject to death and bondage. Amen.**

Offering of Our Time and Talent

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *Always by Our Side* M. McDonald
Faith Youngquist, Flute / 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 735 *I Need Thee Every Hour*

*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 *Exultate* S. Vann

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Rebecca Terc, 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:

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

Tom and JoAnn Bosch, 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, Diane Walker, 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 Plastaras	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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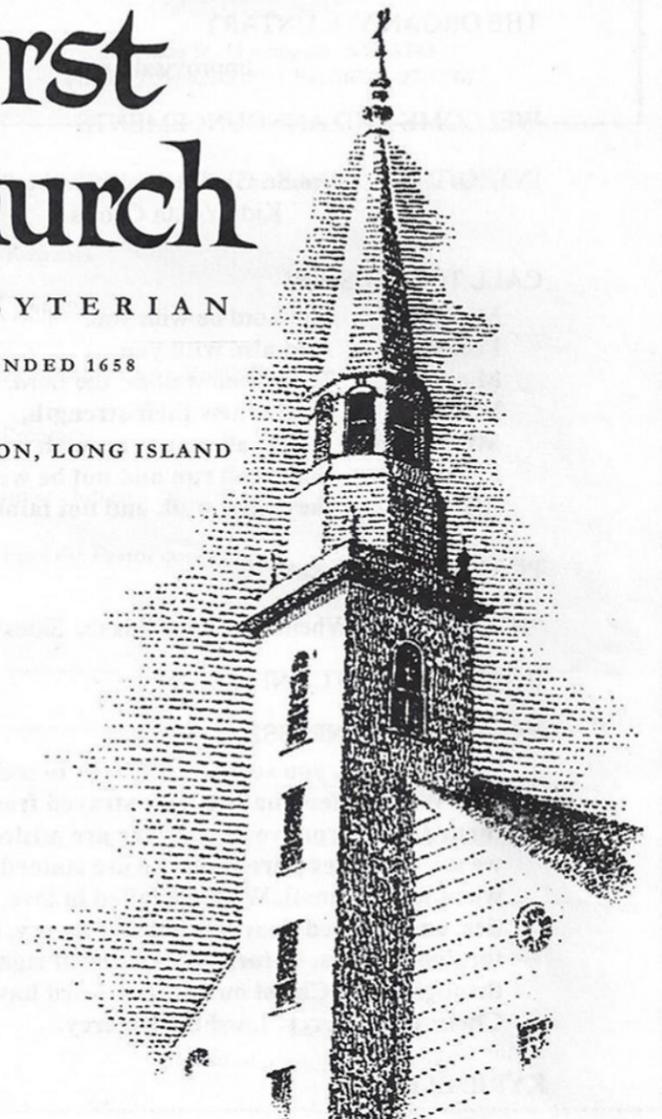
Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org

Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 24, 2019

10:00 AM

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Old Testament, p. 698 / P. 854

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Old Testament, p. 162 / P. 203

¹² Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you.

¹⁵ Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore, the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.