

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 *O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord* C. Callahan
Sanctuary Choir

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 32*

Leader: Blessed are those whose sins are covered,
those who know the forgiveness of the Lord.

**People: In God's everlasting mercy, our sins are forgiven;
in our joyful spirits, there is no deceit.**

Leader: Let the hearts and voices of the faithful
pray to the Lord while he may be found.

**People: You are our hiding place, protecting us
from trouble and surrounding us with mercy.**

Leader: Our God will teach us the way we should go;
our Lord will counsel and watch over us.

**People: Let all God's children rejoice and be glad!
Let all whose hearts are forgiven sing out in joy!**

Leader: In gracious thanksgiving for the unconditional love of our God,
let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together!

*Hymn 625 *O Lord My God*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and everlasting God, you have created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. Yet we resist your calling upon our lives, and in turn, prevent others from finding their place within the family of faith. We seek out communities that look, feel, and act like us; failing to trust and welcome those who may be different in a variety of ways. We reach out in hospitality to those we choose to love; often failing to love the stranger who comes into our presence seeking your love, grace, and mercy.

Great God of compassion and love, give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will and no weakness prevent us from doing it. Through your guidance and inspiration, may we clearly discern opportunities to reach out to others; welcoming them in your name and in serving them, discover your perfect freedom. Hear us as we pray together in the name of Jesus, our Christ, whose outstretched arms show us the perfect example of love in 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

Near the Cross
Sanctuary Choir

J.M. Martin

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 Romans 12:9-21

New Testament, p. 162 / P. 197

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Hospitality"

*Hymn 301 (*verses 1, 4, and 5 only*)

Let Us Build a House

Second Lesson 1 John 4:1-6

New Testament, p. 240 / P. 292

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Discernment"

*Hymn 287 (*verses 1, 3, and 4 only*)

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

* Affirmation of Faith — *The Second Helvetic Confession (1566)*

**We believe and teach that the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ,
was predestined from eternity by the Father to be the Savior of the world.**

**We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ truly suffered and died for us
in the flesh. We believe and teach that the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
rose again from the dead, and ascended above all visible heavens into
the highest heaven, the dwelling-place of God and the blessed ones,**

**at the right hand of God the Father. By his passion, death, and
everything he endured for our sake, our Lord reconciled all the faithful
to the heavenly Father and is our righteousness, life, and resurrection.**

**Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the world,
and the true awaited Messiah! Amen!**

Offering of Our Time and Talent

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace
Sanctuary Choir

M. McDonald

*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 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

*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

Festival Finale

M. Archer

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Jennifer Heinz, 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:

Family and Friends of Betty Hasteadt (recent death)

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:

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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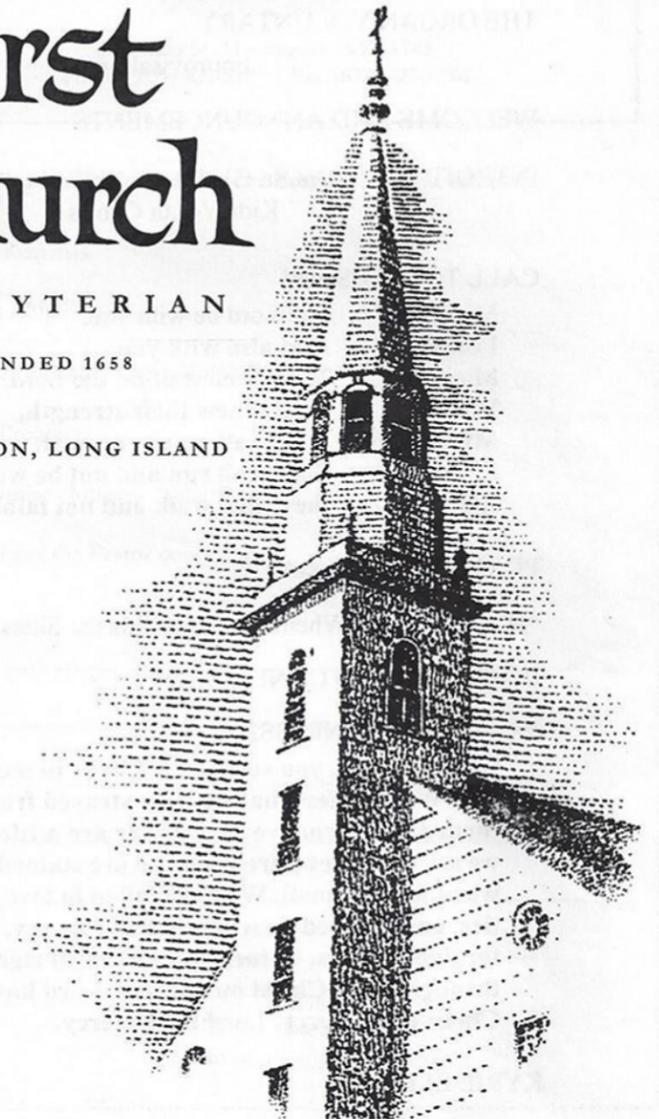
Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org

Old
First
Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 31, 2019

10:00 AM

Romans 12:9-21

New Testament, p. 162 / P. 197

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

²⁰ No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 John 4:1-6

New Testament, p. 240 / P. 292

⁴ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world.

⁴ Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them.

⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.