

## 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 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 634 *To God Be the Glory*

Intercession for Lent

Jesus, our Christ, hear our prayers as you prepare yourself to take our sin upon your shoulders:

For your church around the world,  
**we ask new life and renewed strength.**

For all who carry out ministries within your church,  
**we ask your grace and wisdom.**

For people who are engaged in spiritual disciplines,  
**we ask inspired discipleship.**

For Christians of every land,  
**we ask new unity in your name.**

For Jews, Muslims, and people of other faiths,  
**we ask your divine blessing.**

For those who cannot believe,  
**we ask your faithful and enduring love.**

For governors and rulers in every nation,  
**we ask your vision and guidance.**

For people who suffer and sorrow in silence,  
**we ask your healing peace.**

*(Please continue in silent prayer of confession and intercession.)*

Holy God, your Son, Jesus, our Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought humanity the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured. Teach those who bear his name to follow the example he gave us. May our faith, hope, and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace, and death to eternal life. Hear us as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior ... **amen.**

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 *Praise to the Lord* A. Whitehead  
Sanctuary Choir

Time with Our Young Disciples

*Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade.*

First Lesson Psalm 149:1-9 Old Testament, p. 583 / P. 717  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Message **"Singing Our Lives"**

\*Hymn 276 (**verses 1 and 2 only**) *Sing a New Song unto the Lord*

Second Lesson Romans 8:31-39 New Testament, p. 158 / P. 192  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Message **"Dying Well"**

\*Hymn 326 (**verses 1, 3, and 5 only**) *For All the Saints*

### WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

\* Affirmation of Faith — *The Confession of 1967*

**In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.  
Jesus lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations,  
joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and  
became a brother to all kinds of sinful men. But his life and teaching  
judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes.**

**Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself  
freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which  
all of humanity stands convicted. God raised him from the dead,  
vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor,  
and won the victory over sin and death for all humanity. Amen.**

Offering of Our Time and Talent

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *Come Share the Lord* Leech / arr. Tabell  
Sanctuary Choir

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 821 *My Life Flows On*

\*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 *Pavilioned in Splendour* R. Lloyd

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THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Elder Leslie Schult, Lector

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

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:**

**Family and Friends of Vera Murphy (recent death)  
Family and Friends of Betty Hasteadt (recent death)**

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

Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Pat Lobasso (Husband of Joan Lobasso), 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  
Susan Oehrig  
Gillian Plastaras  
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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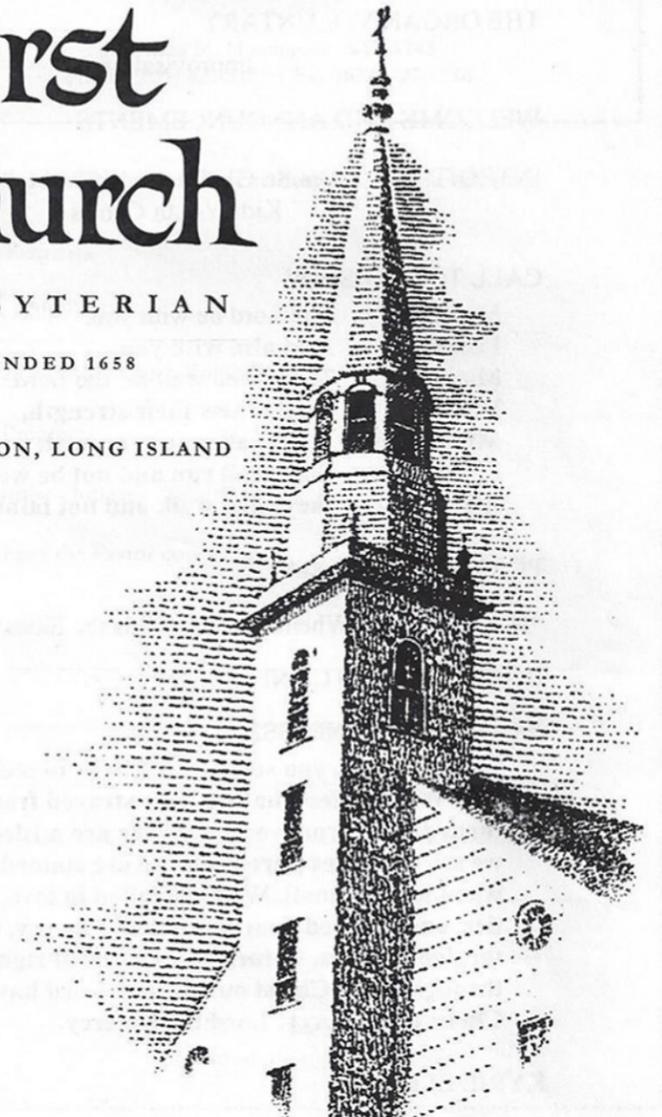
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Old  
First  
Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**APRIL 7, 2019**

**10:00 AM**

## **Psalm 149:1-19**

**Old Testament, p. 583 / P. 717**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, sing his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

<sup>3</sup> Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.

<sup>5</sup> Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.

<sup>6</sup> Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, <sup>7</sup> to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, <sup>8</sup> to bind their kings with

fetters and their nobles with chains of iron, <sup>9</sup> to execute on them  
the judgment decreed.

This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Romans 8:31-39**

**New Testament, p. 158 / P. 192**

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

<sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

<sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

<sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**