

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 148*

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the highest heavens and throughout all the earth!

People: Let us praise the name of the Lord, the creator and sustainer of the whole world!

Leader: Mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars, wild animals, creeping things, and flying birds;

People: All rulers and leaders of the earth, men and women alike, old and young together;

Leader: With one voice, let them exult the name of the Lord, praising God from all corners of the world.

People: Let us praise the name of the Lord and exalt God's glory above heaven and earth.

Leader: Joining our voices in the eternal chorus of praise for the Lord, let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together!

*Hymn 203 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, in your everlasting mercy you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your ways. We are misled by our pride, for we see ourselves pure, when we are stained by sin, and great, when we are small. In our rush to savor the freedom you have given us, we have failed to love others, neglected justice, and ignored your call to practice our faith in word and deed. We confuse the empty promises offered to us by others, with your great promise of love, failing to live with gratitude for the one who died and rose again for the gift of eternal life.

Loving God, full of compassion, mercy, and grace, slow our pace and open our eyes to opportunities to live our faith in rhythm with your Holy Spirit. As we are filled with the joy of your resurrected love, unseal within us the wellspring of your grace and cleanse us of all that is not from you. Make your gifts of everlasting life and eternal praise flow from within our hearts and lives once more. We pray together in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ, our Lord and Messiah, who frees us to love God and one another ...

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

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 240) *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*
(We will sing the refrain, verse 2, and the refrain once more.)

*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 Revelation 21:1-6 New Testament, p. 259 / P. 315

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Awake, Awake!* C. Courtney
Sanctuary 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.

Second Lesson John 13:31-35 New Testament, p. 108 / P. 132

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message **"Grace In Action"**

*Hymn 300 *We Are One in the Spirit*

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 *Lord, Lead Me, Lord* G.M. Martin
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 754 *Help Us Accept Each Other*

*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 *La Rejouissance* G.F. Handel

*The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and
honor of God by the Presbyterian Women of Old First in
loving memory of their sister in faith, Vera Murphy.*

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor
Elder Mark Rapko, 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:

Holly Baptista - health concerns
Family and Friends of Robert Roelle - recent death

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

Bob (Uncle of Kayte Camarata), Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Joan and Pat Lobasso, Priscilla Jahier, 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	Susan Oehrig	Tom Bosch
Gretchen Hargis	Gillian Plataras	Gloria Burgess
Amy Girimonti	Melissa Terc	Philip Heinz
Marge Sammis		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
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Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 19, 2019

10:00 AM

Revelation 21:1-6

New Testament, p. 259 / P. 315

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 13:31-35

New Testament, p. 108 / P. 132

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

³⁶ Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.