

## 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 47*

Leader: Clap your hands all people;  
shout to God with cries of joy!  
**People: Sing praises to God!  
Sing praises to our King! Sing praises!**  
Leader: How awesome is the Lord Most High,  
the great King over all the earth.  
**People: Sing praises to God!  
Sing praises to our King! Sing praises!**  
Leader: God is exalted over all the nations;  
let us sing to God our psalms of praise.  
**People: Sing praises to God!  
Sing praises to our King! Sing praises!**  
Leader: Confident in our salvation and filled with the joy of the Lord,  
let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together!

\*Hymn 260 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus Christ, perfect in every way; kind and compassionate, faithful and loving, welcoming and hospitable. You call us to follow in his way and live as examples of the kindness and mercy that marked his life and ministry. We confess that we often stumble and fall in our feeble attempts to walk in his footsteps. We are filled with hope by our Christ's ascension to your eternal kingdom, but there is a part of us that stays behind, staring blankly into the sky, wondering what comes next for us, rather than boldly being sent out to continue Christ's ministry in our lives.**

**Loving God, forgive our failings and raise us from sin to life, that we may serve you as a faithful and humble people. Encourage us to continue our faith journeys with renewed confidence, trusting that what we have seen and experienced in the Risen Christ is lasting and true. Fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may obey the commandments of our Lord and Savior, living by his example each day of our lives. Strengthen us to follow our Christ, wherever God's will may lead. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior ...**

*(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 267) *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

\*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 Ephesians 1:15-23 New Testament, p. 192 / P. 234  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Break Forth, O Joyful Heart* D. Forrest, Jr.  
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.  
All young disciples will return to their families to share in Communion together.*

Second Lesson Acts 1:1-11 New Testament, p. 118 / P. 143  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Message **"Passing the Baton"**

\*Hymn 263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

### 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 *God Has Gone Up With A Merry Shout* E. Butler  
Sanctuary Choir

\*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

\*Prayer of Dedication

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 268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

\*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 *All Glory Be To God On High* J. Pachelbel

\*\*\*\*\*

*The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and honor of God  
by Asenath Fuchs in loving memory of her husband, Roy Fuchs.*

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor  
Deacon Matthew Girimonti, 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:**

**Daniel Cajigas - recent death of his wife, Anne**

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

Holly Baptista, Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Bert Camarata (Family of Chris and Kayte Camarata), Dave and Else Haddock, Priscilla Jahier, David and Sandy Lange, Joan and Pat Lobasso, 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 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

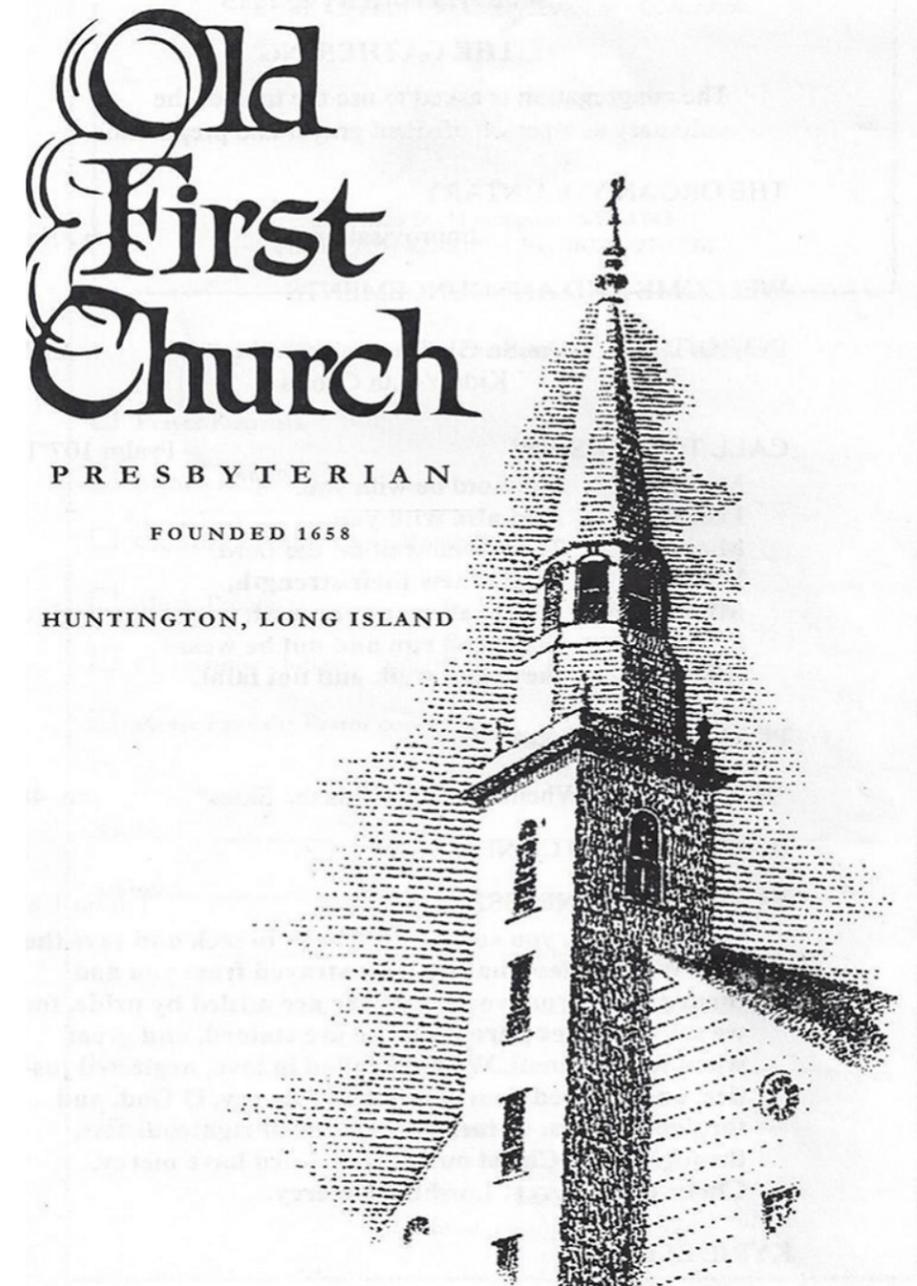
Robert Ponzetti  
James Thatcher  
Charles Worledge

Class of 2021

Nathaniel Corwin  
Bruce Elliott  
Gerry Schult

Old First Presbyterian Church  
125 Main Street  
Huntington, NY 11743  
(631) 427-2101  
[www.oldfirstchurchhuntington.org](http://www.oldfirstchurchhuntington.org)

Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor  
[pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org](mailto:pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org)



**ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**JUNE 2, 2019**

**10:00 AM**

## **Ephesians 1:15-23**

**New Testament, p. 192 / P. 234**

<sup>15</sup> I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

<sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

<sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

<sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly

places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

<sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Acts 1:1-11**

**New Testament, p. 118 / P. 143**

**1** In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning **2** until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

**3** After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

“This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

**6** So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He

replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**