

## 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

Gathering Song *Lord, Prepare Me (Sung Twice)* Hymn 701

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 33*

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, all the righteous;  
it is good for God's children to sing God's praises!

**People: We rejoice and give thanks, for the words  
of God are right and God's works are just.**

Leader: By your word, O Lord, the heavens were made  
and by your Spirit, O Lord, all things are created.

**People: Let all the earth rejoice in the Lord;  
let the world bow in reverence of our God.**

Leader: Happy are those who trust in the Lord,  
those whom God has called to be children of God.

**People: Our souls wait upon you, O Lord;  
you are our help, our shield and defender.**

Leader: Indeed, our hearts rejoice in you,  
for in your name alone have we placed our trust!

**People: Let your love and grace be upon us, O God,  
as we lift our hearts and voices to worship our Lord!**

\*Hymn 394 (*sung to tune of 143*) *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we hear your voice calling out to us, questioning, "Who is Jesus?" and we are quick to share the answers of our world. It is often easier for us to express the beliefs of others than to examine our own relationships with you for ourselves. We hesitate to answer, for to confess you as the Christ is to expect more from ourselves than we are sometimes prepared to give. It frightens us to give our lives completely to your service and to trust solely in your love, grace, and mercy to sustain us.**

**Loving God, have mercy on us in your gracious kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Hear us as we pray together in the name of Jesus, our Christ, the Lord and Savior of our lives ...**

*(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 581) *Glory Be to the Father*

\*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 Genesis 15:1-6 Old Testament, p. 12 / P. 14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music *Alleluia, Sing to Jesus* M. Hayes  
Catherine Collins, Soprano

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 students preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

Second Lesson Luke 12:32-40 New Testament, p. 75 / P. 91

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Message

**"Who Is Jesus?"**

\*Hymn 81 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

### 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 *My Lord, What A Morning* M. Hayes  
Catherine Collins, Soprano

\*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 610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

\*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 *Voluntary* D. Guest

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#### THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Joan Finck, Guest Pastor  
Elder Kerry Degnan, Lector  
Ken Friese, Director of Music  
Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

*Thank you for worshiping with us and being 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 be introduced  
to our Pastor, Matthew Means, as we celebrate the joys of life shared 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:**

**Brett Raynor and his parents, Robert and Cynthia Raynor  
Amaya (Granddaughter of Christine Rimmer) - recent surgery  
Family of Alan and Diane Starost - recent death of Evelyn Starost  
Brian Joy (Friend of Beauchamp family) - recovery from burn injury**

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

Holly Baptista, Tom and JoAnn Bosch, the Feltman Family, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Joan and Pat Lobasso, Don Thompson, and Peg Weigers

*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:

Class of 2020

Meghan Alexander  
Kerry Degnan  
Susan Oehrig  
Gillian Plastaras  
Melissa Terc

Class of 2021

Curt Abbott  
Tom Bosch  
Gloria Burgess  
Philip Heinz  
Mark Rapko

Class of 2022

John Collins  
Amy Girimonti  
Laure McKenna  
Mary Porter  
Leslie Schult

Thomas Bosch, *Clerk of Session*  
Rev. Matthew Means, *Moderator*

OLD FIRST CHURCH DEACONS:

Class of 2020

Leeanne M. Bedell  
Richard C. Bedell  
Dan Degnan  
Robert Ponzetti  
Kathy Porter  
Mary Porter

Class of 2021

Vera Dole  
Asenath Fuchs  
Carol Breckner  
Judy Gilbert  
Matthew Girimonti  
Virginia Greene

Class of 2022

Arden Benvenuti  
Bruce Benvenuti  
Cheryl Grossman  
Jennifer Heinz  
Kate Starr Newell  
Martha Tibbetts

OLD FIRST CHURCH TRUSTEES:

Class of 2020

Robert Ponzetti  
James Thatcher  
Charles Worledge

Class of 2021

Nathaniel Corwin  
Bruce Elliott  
Gerry Schult

Class of 2022

Curt Abbott  
Dan Degnan  
Virginia Greene

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# Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



***NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

***AUGUST 11, 2019***

***10:00 AM***

## **Genesis 15:1-6**

### **Old Testament, p. 12 / P. 14**

**15** After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.”

Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Luke 12:32-40**

### **New Testament, p. 75 / P. 91**

<sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

<sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he

comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**