

## 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 — *“Who You Say I Am” by Hillsong Worship*

Leader: Who am I, that the highest King would welcome me.  
I was lost, but He brought me in.  
Oh His love for me.

**People: Who the Son sets free. Oh is free indeed.  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am.**

Leader: Free at last. He has ransomed me. His grace runs deep.  
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me.  
Yes, he died for me.

**People: Who the Son sets free. Oh is free indeed.  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am.  
In my Father's house, there's a place for me.  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am.**

Leader: I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.  
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.

**People: Who the Son sets free. Oh is free indeed.  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am.  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am.**

\*Hymn 345 (*sung to tune of 82*) *In an Age of Twisted Values*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you forgive all who truly repent and return to you. We gather in your presence, humbly confessing our sin and graciously seeking your loving kindness. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as we love ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. We refuse to see reminders of your eternal presence in our lives and fail to allow our faith to direct our thoughts, words, and deeds, so that others may see your masterpiece within us.**

**Loving God, have mercy upon us. Cleanse us from our sins and renew the gift of faith within us, so that we may recognize we are under construction, allowing others to see Christ at work in our lives. 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 eternal Spirit, we pray in the name of Jesus, our Christ ...**

*(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 Numbers 21:4-9 Old Testament, p. 139 / P. 174

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

Special Music *He's Still Working on Me* J. Hemphill  
Caleigh and Liva Camarata

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.**

*All students are invited to return to their families to prepare for Communion.*

Second Lesson Ephesians 2:1-10 New Testament, p. 192 / P. 235

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

Message **“Under Construction”**

\*Hymn 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

## 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 *One Bread, One Body* J.B. Foley /  
Kayte Camarata arr. M. Hayes

\*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

*Communion will be served today by intinction.*

*Ushers will invite you to come forward via the center aisle to  
take a large piece of bread from the loaf, dip it into the cup, and partake.*

*You are then invited to return to your pew via the side aisles.*

*If you are unable to come forward, the servers will bring the elements to you.*

Prayer after Communion

\*Hymn 634 *To God Be the Glory*

\*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 *God of Grace* P. Manz

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### THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Elder Melissa Terc, 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:**

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

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

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



**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**AUGUST 4, 2019**

**10:00 AM**

## **Numbers 21:4-9**

**Old Testament, p. 139 / P. 174**

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.”

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.”

So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Ephesians 2:1-10**

**New Testament, p. 192 / P. 235**

<sup>2</sup> You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.

<sup>3</sup> All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the

ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**