

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 *Rondo* Beethoven
Jared Ponzetti, violin

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Opening Prayer

Gathering Song *Lord, Prepare Me* Hymn 701

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 105*

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make his deeds known among all people.

**People: We will sing to the Lord and shout praises!
We will tell others of all God's wonderful works!**

Leader: Let us glory in God's holy name; let the hearts
of those who seek the Lord rejoice always!

**People: We remember the wonderful works of our God;
all of God's great miracles and merciful judgments.**

Leader: Seek the Lord and his everlasting strength always;
seek his presence continually, for the Lord is our God.

**People: The Lord fills his people with eternal joy
and lifts his chosen ones with praise and singing.**

Leader: Rejoicing in the unconditional love of the Lord, our God,
let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship God together.

*Hymn 504 *We Come as Guests Invited*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you prepare a table of loving welcome for us, but we close ourselves off from your humble invitation, choosing instead to live life on our own terms. You invite all who trust and believe to gather at your table of grace, but we make excuses for why we cannot join the feast. You set a table for us, overflowing with abundance, but we ignore your eternal blessings, in exchange for fleeting moments of joy. You call us to follow with the humility of the one who gave his life for all, but we respond with the ego of those who want to give little of ourselves in return.

Loving God, as we are nourished by your bread and cup, may we remember the joy of your unconditional love that unleashes humility and grace in our lives. Gather us together as a family of faith, joined by the love of Christ and united by your presence in the fellowship we share. Help us remember that you are our Lord and Savior, and open our eyes to your unconditional love, amazing grace, and everlasting mercy; made known to us at the table of humility you call us to share. 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 Philippians 2:3-11 New Testament, p. 197 / P. 240

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Special Music *Benedictus* B. Lewis
Ken Duncan and Gail Glister

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 students preschool through 8th grade.

Second Lesson Luke 14:1, 7-14 New Testament, p. 77 / P. 94

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message **"The Gift ... of Humility"**

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

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 *For the Beauty of the Earth* S. Biggs /
Ken Duncan and Gail Glister arr. J. Althouse

*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 515 *I Come with Joy*

*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 *Fanfare* F. Jackson

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Elder Amy 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:

Jack Strandfelt (Brother of Kris Strandfelt) - health concerns

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

Amaya (Granddaughter of Christine Rimmer), Holly Baptista, Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Feltman Family, Dave and Else Haddock, Brian Joy (Friend of Beauchamp family), David and Sandy Lange, Joan and Pat Lobasso, Brett Raynor and his parents (Robert and Cynthia), 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



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

10:00 AM

Philippians 2:3-11

New Testament, p. 197 / P. 240

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the

earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 14:1, 7-14

New Testament, p. 77 / P. 94

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend,

move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.