

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 *Be Filled with the Spirit* L. Lenel

Call to Worship —from “*Breads Around the World,*” Caribbean

Leader: This is the place and this is the time!
Here and now, God waits to break into our lives!

**People: To change our minds! To change our lives!
To change our ways! To change our hearts!**

Leader: To make us see the world and the whole of life in a new light.

**People: To fill us with hope ... with joy ...
and with certainty for the future.**

Leader: This is the place ... as are all places! This is the time ...
as are all times! Here and now, let us praise God
and give thanks by praying together ...

**People: We rejoice, O God, in the assurance of your presence with
us. You have spoken. Give us ears to hear. You have
brought comfort to the broken-hearted and health to the
suffering. You have brought courage to the dispirited,
freedom to the enslaved, and hope to those who despair.
We wait, O God, for you to speak to us ... today ...
tomorrow ... and always. Amen.**

*Hymn 505 *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*from the PC(USA) Office of Peace and Global Witness*)

Almighty God, mother of mercy, father of grace; you have called us to one table, but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us the abundance of all creation, but in our greed and our envy, the world goes without. You have promised us the bread of life itself, but in our pride and arrogance, the world goes hungry. You have promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in our violence and discord, the world goes thirsty.

Gracious God, we are famished. Have mercy on us. Forgive us. Transform us at this table, free us for this table, and send us from this table as servants of your righteousness and forgiveness. For even when our cups run dry, your grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, your generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, your love overflows. Help us claim these truths as we pray together in the unity 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 Matthew 28:16-20 New Testament, p. 34 / P. 41

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Carol to Beauty* arr. by J. Mulholland
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.**

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

Second Lesson Romans 14:1-12 New Testament, p. 163 / P. 198

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message **“What's the Point?”**

*Hymn 530 *One Bread, One Body*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

* Affirmation of Faith — *adapted from the Belhar Confession (1986)*

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity
of the communion of saints of the entire human family.**

**And we believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifest
and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly
and joyfully to one another, that we share one baptism together, that we
eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name,
one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the
breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.**

Offering of Our Time and Talent

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *An Offering* D. Forrest
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.

In celebration of World Communion Sunday, today's "Great Prayer of Thanksgiving" is adapted from communion liturgies of various Christian churches across the world. May we be mindful of our unity in Jesus Christ, a unity that crosses the boundaries of language, culture, race, and ethnicity.

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

*In recognition of our worldwide unity in Jesus Christ, each tray includes
bread baked from the recipes of Africa, China, Chile, and the Caribbean.*

All are invited to hold the bread and cup so that we may commune together.

Prayer after Communion (*adapted from "Breads Around the World," India*)

**O Bread of Life, as this bread was once scattered seed, sown in the earth
to die and rise to new life, so gather all your people together as one human
family. Restore the broken life of your creation; heal the disfigured body of
your world; draw all creatures into yourself through the cross; and unite
your people in the power of your risen life. Welcome us into your kingdom
through your inexhaustible grace and guide us by your Spirit, amen.**

*Hymn 832 *Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand*

*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 *Festive Finale* C. Mawby

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:

**The Feltman Family - recent death of Eric Feltman
Richard Bedell - health concerns**

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

Holly Baptista, Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Bob Esser, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Joan and Pat Lobasso, 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 Plataras
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

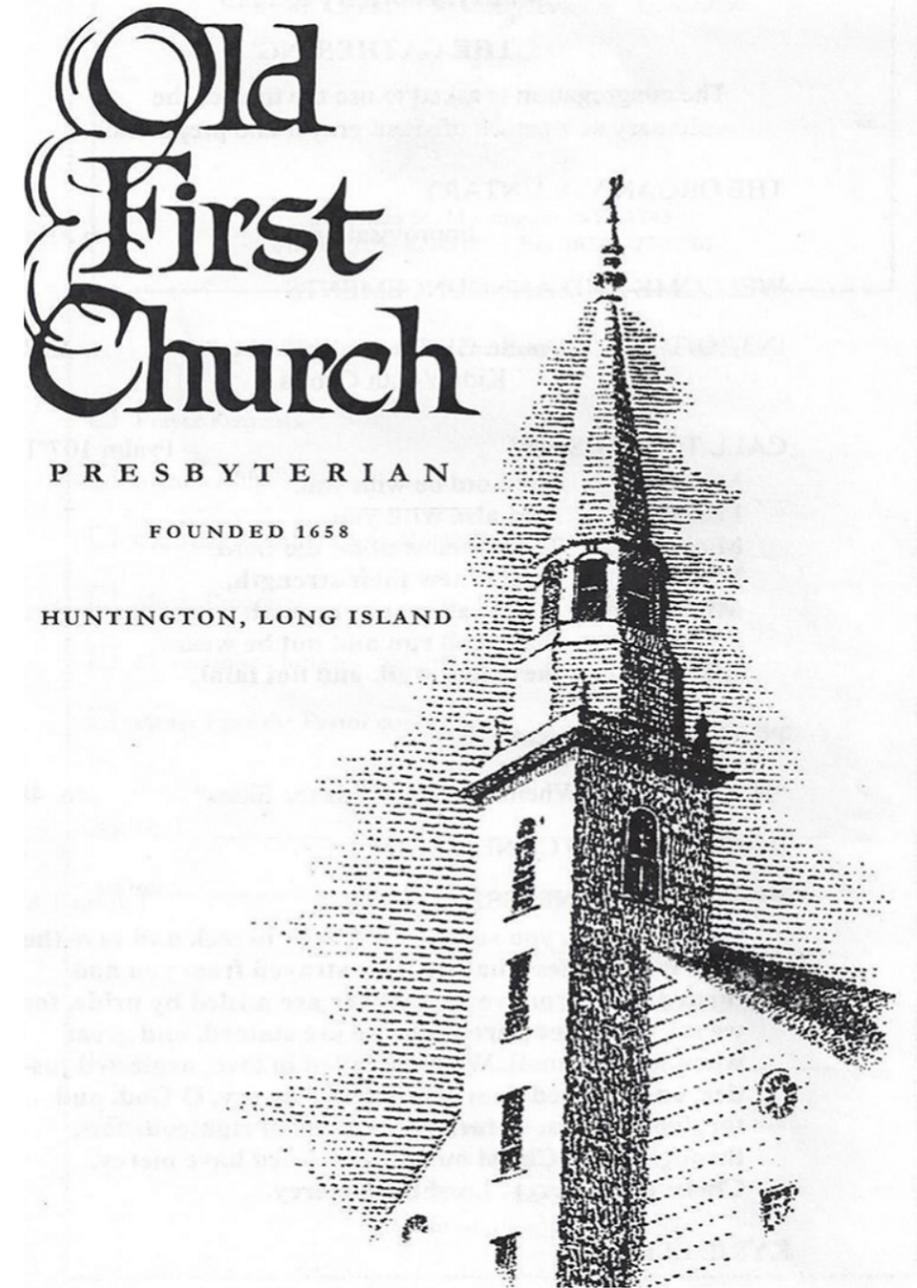
Nathaniel Corwin
Bruce Elliott
Gerry Schult

Class of 2022

Curt Abbott
Dan Degnan
Virginia Greene

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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 6, 2019

10:00 AM

Matthew 28:16-20

New Testament, p. 34 / P. 41

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Romans 14:1-12

New Testament, p. 163 / P. 198

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.