

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 *(adapted from West Street Christian Church, Tipton, IN)*

Leader: Come, saints of God, to a new heaven and new earth;
the holy city, God's new Jerusalem.

**People: The dwelling place of God is with humanity;
God wipes away the tears from our eyes.**

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and belongs to God;
all of creation and those who dwell within it.

**People: Who shall ascend the mountain of God?
And who shall stand in God's holy place?**

Leader: All with clean hands and pure hearts will
know God's eternal love, grace, and forgiveness.

**People: We give thanks to God, who has invited us
to share in the inheritance of all the saints.**

Leader: Living our lives surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together!

*Hymn 172 *Blest Are They*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession *(adapted from Thom M. Shuman, 2014)*

Gracious God, when our Lord and Savior taught us by word and example, we failed to fully listen. Rich in pride and arrogance, our spirits see no need for your kingdom. Taught to not let anyone see us as weak, we refuse your comforting arms. Seeing the greedy and self-indulgent get their way, we long to inherit their hardened hearts, so that we may have the same. Noticing the hungry on the side of the road, we make sure we receive more than our share of the world's resources. Taking note of how the merciful are pushed aside and taken advantage of, we turn a blind eye, developing calluses on our hearts.

Loving God, forgive us when we follow the wrong examples and listen to false teachings. It is the peacemakers who are blessed to live into your hope, peace, and love. It is those with hearts shaped by your loving sacrifice, who are able to see you in the poor and broken. It is those who give themselves in service to others who are your faithful saints, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray ...

(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 Hebrews 12:1-13 New Testament, p. 226 / P. 275

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

Anthem *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* H.W. Friedell
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 Ephesians 1:11-23 New Testament, p. 192 / P. 234

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

Message **"So Great a Cloud of Witnesses"**

*Hymn 326 *For All the Saints*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

* Affirmation of Faith - *Our World Belongs to God (Christian Reformed Church)*

**We long for the day Jesus returns as triumphant king,
the dead are raised, and all people stand before His judgment.
We face that day without fear, for the Judge is our Savior, and our lives
aim for the moment when the Son will present his people to the Father.**

**Then we will see our Lord face-to-face. He will heal our hurts,
end our wars, and make our crooked paths straight. We will join in
the new song to the Lamb, without fault or blemish. Righteousness and
peace will flourish, everything will be made new, and every eye will see
that our world belongs to God. Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Offering of Our Time and Talent

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *Every Valley* J.N. Beck
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 730 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

*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* N. Warren

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor

Elder Leslie Schult, Lector

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

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.

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," usually based on the lectionary Psalm.

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:

Lucy Fetterolf - health concerns
Valery Goetchiuz (Friend of Elizabeth Libert) - health concerns

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

Holly Baptista, Richard Bedell, Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Paul and Gloria Burgess, 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 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

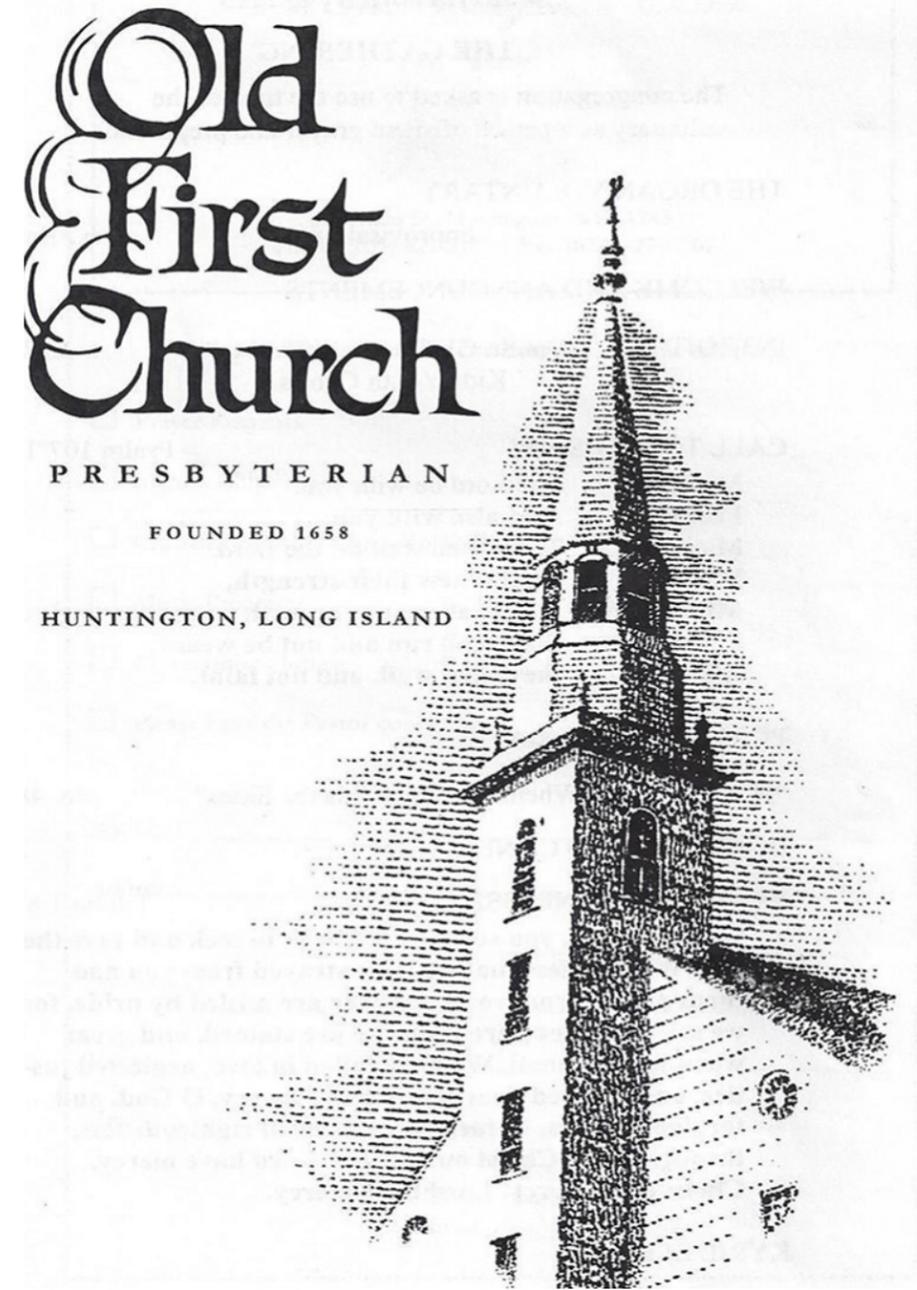
Nathaniel Corwin
Bruce Elliott
Gerry Schult

Class of 2022

Curt Abbott
Dan Degnan
Virginia Greene

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

Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CELEBRATING "ALL SAINTS DAY"

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

10:00 AM

Hebrews 12:1-13

New Testament, p. 226 / P. 275

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you:

“My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; ⁶ for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.”

⁷ Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸ If

you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children.

⁹ Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness.

¹¹ Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 1:11-23

New Testament, p. 192 / P. 234

¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ 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, ²¹ 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. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.