



ORDER OF WORSHIP
July 23, 2017
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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 *Spirit of the Living God* Hymn 288

(Sung twice, second time replacing "me" with "us.")

Call to Worship —Based on Psalm 18

Minister: The Lord is my rock, my fortress and deliverer;
I take refuge in God's loving foundation.

**People: Our God is a shield and stronghold;
the everlasting foundation of our salvation.**

Minister: I lift my voice to the Lord, who is worthy of praise;
I am saved from all my enemies.

**People: We call upon the Lord in times of distress;
he hears our cries and comes to our aid.**

Minister: God reaches down from on high, takes hold of us,
and saves us from the deep waters.

**People: God rescues us from disaster;
bringing us out of distress and into secure comfort.**

Minister: Rejoicing in God's loving care,
let us lift our voices as we worship our God together.

*Hymn 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you assure us of your presence in our hearts and lives through the promises of Scripture, but we quickly forget the need to seek you and be known. We experience moments that fill us with the Holy Spirit, but we encounter a world with many other priorities and we allow the joy of your salvation to fade quietly into the blur of competing demands in our lives. We become distracted by these pulls on our time and attention and we fail to notice reminders of your unfailing love that surround us daily.

Loving God, embrace us in our shortcomings and restore our vision, so that we may recognize your presence in our lives. Give us pure hearts that we may see you, humble hearts that we may hear you, loving hearts that we may serve you, faithful hearts that we may live in you, and reverent hearts that we may worship you. Hear our prayers as we lift our hearts and voices to you in the name of Jesus, our Christ, the Lord and Savior of our lives ...

(Continue in silent prayer of confession.)

Together, let all 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 Pardon

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.**

*Congregational Response (Hymn 581)

Glory Be to the Father

*Passing of the Peace

Minister: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
we also ought to forgive one another.
The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Invitation to Receive our Tithes and Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *The Gospel of Grace* M. Hayes
Julie Salzano, Soprano

*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

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.

Offering of Our Time and Talent

*Hymn 822 *When We Are Living*

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Benediction, Hymn 543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*
(Verses 1 and 5 only)

*Postlude *Gaudeamus* S.S. Campbell

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor
Ken Friese, Director of Music
Charles Worledge, Lector
Dan Degnan, Usher Captain
Roger Ketcham and Bill Roe

—*This morning's flowers are given to the glory of God.*

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one, please sign the flower calendar in the central foyer or call the church office.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

New to the prayer list this week:

Albert (Brother-in-Law of Glenn and Priscilla Jahier)

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

Cornell Family (Cherie/Staff), Kadi Cuneo (Worledge family friend), DJ Davis (son of close friend of Gloria and Paul Burgess), Stephanie Folk and her unborn baby (Leslie & Ralph Yovino's daughter), William Gray (Dorothy Mandrakos' father), Dave and Else Haddock, Kristin Keydel (Pam Fosella's sister), Pat Lobasso (Joan Lobasso's husband), Ken Peterson, Cynde and Robert Raynor (Brett Raynor's parents), Rebecca Raynor (Brett Raynor's sister), James Schubauer, Gerry Schult, Pat Slater (former colleague of Emil Backstrom), Marian Vozza (Holly Baptista's sister) and family, and Grace Youngquist.

Names on our prayer list will remain for a month.

*If you wish to have a name remain on the list,
kindly contact the Church Office by noon on Wednesdays.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH CLUB: Youth Club will not be meeting over the summer, but will resume Wednesday, September 13th!

TUXIS: Summer events: Kayaking, bowling, lock-in, and beach party! Check your emails for specific dates!

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL: Fun lessons throughout the summer with Katie and Kerry will be TODAY and August 6 in Room 102.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: AUGUST 21-25/9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

MAKER FUN FACTORY - CREATED BY GOD, BUILT FOR A PURPOSE. Join us for a fun-filled week of discovery, games, stories and more! Registration forms available in the Church Office. Hope to see you there!

THRIFT STORE:

- ♦ Volunteers are needed for Thursdays and Fridays from 11am to 1:30 pm. Please let Cynthia know if you can work occasionally or every week. Clothing donations are accepted during hours of operation. Please place any donations of bins and bags in the AA Room—10 when the Thrift store is closed. Thank you.
- ♦ Does your child need Community Service? Come in to the Thrift Shop and help. We can provide signed documentation for the time they served.

COMMUNITY FOOD COUNCIL: Items needed for the month of July are:

Pasta Sauce and Rice. Thank you for your generous donations.

LOST AND FOUND:

- **DENIM JACKET - SIZE 6** from Talbots was found in the Sanctuary recently. If you are missing this item, please contact the church office.
- **READING GLASSES:** If you are missing a pair of reading glasses, please stop by the church office. We have several pairs found recently.

WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, July 23 - 2017

10:00 -11:00 a.m. Worship
10:20-11:00 a.m. Summer Church School (*Room 102*)
6:15-8:45 p.m. AA (*Lower Level Room 10*)

Monday, July 24 - 2017

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Lower Level*)
9:15-10:15 a.m. Gentle Bends (*Room 102*)
9:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Institute of Reading Development
(*Room 101*)
7:30-9:00 p.m. NA (*Lower Level*)

Tuesday, July 25 - 2017

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Lower Level*)
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thrift Store (*Lower Level Room 11*)
1:00-2:00 p.m. AA (*Lower Level – Room 10*)

Wednesday, July 26 - 2017

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Lower Level*)
9:15-10:15 a.m. Gentle Bends (*Room 102*)
12:00-9:00 p.m. Institute of Reading Development (*Room 101*)
7:00-9:15 p.m. AA (*Lower Level Room 10*)

Thursday, July 27 - 2017

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Lower Level*)
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thrift Store (*Lower Level Room 11*)
5:00-9:30 p.m. Giant Steps (*Room 102*)

Friday, July 28 - 2017

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Learning Center (*Lower Level*)
8:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Institute of Reading Development (*Room 101*)
9:30-11:30 a.m. Al Anon (*Lower Level Room 10*)
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thrift Store (*Lower Level Room 11*)

Sunday, July 30 - 2017

10:00 -11:00 a.m. Worship
6:15-8:45 p.m. AA (*Lower Level Room 10*)

OLD FIRST CHURCH SESSION MEMBERS:

Guiding the church as we seek to serve Christ and our community

Class of 2018

Curt Abbott
Melissa Balm
Peter Fetterolf
Laure McKenna
Julie Salzano
Cindy Samuels
Thomas Bosch, *Clerk of Session*
Rev. Matthew Means, *Moderator*

Class of 2019

Jim Colbert
Katie Dopico
Beverly Elliott
Gretchen Hargis
Amy Girimonti
Marge Sammis

Class of 2020

Kerry Degnan
Judy Gilbert
Jerry Kessler
Susan Oehrig
Gillian Plastaras
Melissa Terc

OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF DEACONS:

Caring for the congregation and beyond

Class of 2018

Julie Andrade
Victor Andrade,
Moderator
Mary Frazier
Asenath Fuchs
Linda Ketcham
Pat Miller
Heather Tucker

Class of 2019

Holly Baptista,
Secretary
Sue Degnan
Cheryl Grossman
Steven Samuels
Martha Tibbetts
Leslie Yovino

Class of 2020

Leeanne M. Bedell
Richard C. Bedell,
Vice Moderator
Dan Degnan
Robert Ponzetti,
Treasurer
Kathy Porter
Mary Porter
Faith Youngquist

OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Overseeing the church's resources to undergird mission and ministry

Class of 2018

Victor Budzitowski
Kathy Porter,
Secretary
Cynthia Samuels,
President

Class of 2019

Brian Behrens
John Collins
Liz Richter

Class of 2020

Robert Ponzetti
James Thatcher
Charles Worledge

July 23rd Sermon Notes — *“The Hound of Heaven”*

Key Scriptures:

Psalm 139:1 “O Lord, you have searched me and known me.”

*Psalm 139:7 “Where can I go from your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?”*

*Psalm 139:14 “I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.”*

What main point(s) did I discern from today’s message?

Where is God calling my attention through today’s message?

How may I put today’s message into practice in my life?

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Matthew Means, Pastor
Kenneth Friese, Director of Music
Diane Starost, Director of Youth Music
Tina Cody, Director of Children and Youth Ministries
Cherie Cornell, Administrative Assistant
Ellen Correll, Financial Secretary
Bob Grill, Church Sexton

FIRST LESSON
Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel;

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

7/23/17

Rev. Matthew Means

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God