

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 *Blow the Trumpet in Zion* J.N. Beck

Call to Worship

Leader: A star burns brightly; the shadows of the world have been dispersed in God's gift of Jesus, our Savior.

People: Arise! Shine! Our light has come; the glory of our God has risen upon us!

Leader: Let us rejoice as we lift up our eyes to see God's light, dwelling in our hearts and lives.

People: Arise! Shine! Our light has come; filling us with faith, hope, joy, peace, and love!

Leader: The glory of the Lord shines upon us in majesty; revealing our Christ to us in this New Year.

People: Arise! Shine! Our light has come; penetrating the darkness that covers the world!

Leader: In the coming of the Christ, hearts are filled with the transforming power of God's love.

People: Arise! Shine! The glory of the Lord is born among us; let us worship God together in Spirit and Truth!

*Hymn 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Invitation to Confession

Litany for Epiphany *from the Book of Common Worship, PC(USA)*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God, Alleluia!

Shout to the Lord, all the earth! Alleluia!

With joy, let us pray ... your salvation may be known through all the earth.

The love, grace, and mercy of God be with us all.

O Christ, Savior and Lord ... for people of every race and tongue.

The love, grace, and mercy of God be with us all.

O Christ, Ruler or rulers, direct the work ... further peace and freedom for all.

The love, grace, and mercy of God be with us all.

O Christ, Master of all ... sustain the faith of the persecuted.

The love, grace, and mercy of God be with us all.

Please take a moment of silence for personal prayer and reflection ...

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 132, *verse 3 only*) *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

*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 Isaiah 60:1-6 Old Testament, p. 690 / P. 844

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Declare Your Praise* M. McDonald
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 Matthew 2:1-12 New Testament, p. 2 / P. 2

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message **"New Year ... New Gifts!"**

*Hymn 145 *What Child Is This*

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 *Do This in Remembrance of Me* J. Purifoy
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 152 *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

*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 *Trumpet Voluntary* J. Stanley

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor
Deacon Martha Tibbetts, 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:

Charles and Susan Worledge - ongoing health concerns

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

Holly Baptista, Richard Bedell, Kevin Behrens, Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Bob Esser, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Joan and Pat Lobasso, Peg Weigers, and Carole Witkowski

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

P R E S B Y T E R I A N

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 5, 2020

10:00 AM

Isaiah 60:1-6

Old Testament, p. 690 / P. 844

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament, p. 2 / P. 2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he

sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.