

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 — *from Psalm 119*

Leader: Oh Lord, our God; how we love your Word!
It is our prayerful meditation all day long.

**People: Your commandments are with us always,
making us wiser than those who oppose us.**

Leader: Through your Word and law I receive understanding;
therefore, I turn from all other false ways.

**People: We have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your holy and righteous ordinances.**

Leader: Accept my offering of praise, O Lord,
and strengthen me to never forget your holy laws.

**People: Your decrees are our heritage forever;
they are the everlasting joy of our hearts.**

Leader: Praising the Lord, our God, for the gift of God's holy Word,
let us lift our hearts and voices as we praise our God together.

*Hymn 410 *God Is Calling through the Whisper*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ you shattered the power of sin; freeing us for the gift of eternal life. When given ways to fully experience and share our faith, we choose instead to lose ourselves in things that are temporary and fleeting. When provided opportunities to learn from the example of our servant Lord, we choose instead to fill our lives with the pursuit of selfish desires. When presented with the chance to choose life and lead others to faith through our example, we choose instead to invest our God-given gifts in ways of adversity that lead to destruction and despair.

Loving God, show us the power of your forgiveness to change our lives and make us new creations in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Give us the confidence to stand firmly in your promise of everlasting life, drawing our strength from your love and grace. Empower us to embrace our position in the life of faith as those who choose life, obeying your commandments and following your example. We pray together in the name of Jesus, our Christ, who sends us out into the world to love and serve you faithfully ...

(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 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 New Testament, p. 167 / P. 203

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

Anthem *A Thousand Voices* D. Rasbach
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.**

Church school is available for children preschool through 8th grade.

Second Lesson Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Old Testament, p. 186 / P. 233

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

Sermon **"Choose Life!"**

*Hymn 688 *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

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 *Once to Every Man and Nation* D.S. York
Sanctuary Choir

*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

*Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

The congregation is invited to share our prayer requests with one another.

*If you would like to share a prayer request, please raise your hand
and the Pastor will invite you to share your need for prayer.*

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.**

*Hymn 438 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

*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 *Fugue in G* J.S. Bach

*The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and honor of God by the
Presbyterian Women in joyful celebration of the ministry of our church family.*

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew Means, Pastor
Elder Susan Oehrig, Lector
Ken Friese, Director of Music
Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

Thank you for choosing to worship with us and be part of our family of faith!

*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.*

*Please use this opportunity to be greeted by our members and introduced to
our Pastor, Matthew Means, as we share the joys of being together.*

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.

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

One of the great joys of being called to live together as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ is our opportunity to pray for and with one another. We share our prayer requests as a family of faith, gather in a pastor-led prayer, and conclude our prayers by praying the Lord's Prayer **together**, showing our desire to live our lives as followers of 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:

Please continue to be in prayer for:

Judy Gilbert - health concerns
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
Gerry Schult

Class of 2022

Curt Abbott
Dan Degnan
Virginia Greene

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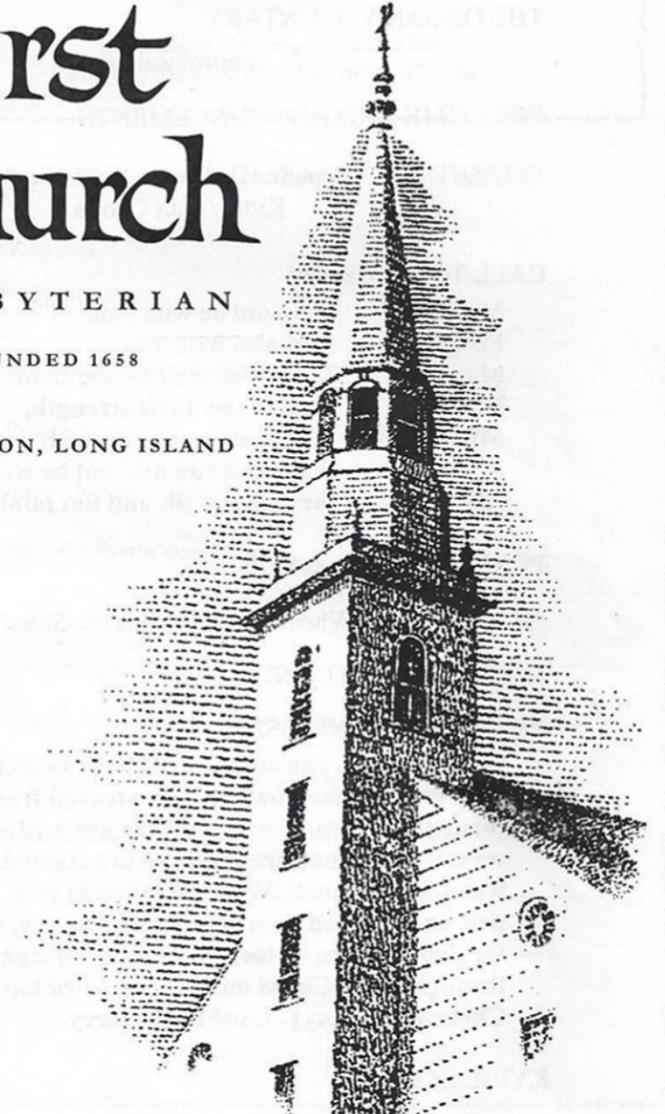
Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org

Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

10:00 AM

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

New Testament, p. 167 / P. 203

3 And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?

⁴ For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each.

⁹ For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Old Testament, p. 186 / P. 233

¹⁵ See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose

life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving
the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for
that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in
the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to
Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.