

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 *Grant, O God, Your Blessing* M. Bedford
Kids Choir

Call to Worship — *from Psalm 51*

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God; according to your steadfast love, forgive our sinful disobedience.

People: For we know our transgressions and our sins are always before us.

Leader: Against God alone have we sinned, so that God is justified in God's judgment against us.

People: God desires truth in our souls and wisdom in the secret places of our hearts.

Leader: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

People: Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit away from us.

Leader: Rejoicing in the God of our eternal forgiveness and salvation, let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship our God together.

*Hymn 167 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Litany for Lent

O Christ, out of your fullness, we have received grace upon grace.
You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy;
you are generous to all who call upon you:

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins.
On the cross, you were wounded for our transgressions
and bruised for our iniquities:

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort,
our life and resurrection; our peace and reconciliation:

Save us, Lord.

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you,
and joy of all the saints:

Save us, Lord.

Jesus, Lamb of God.

Have mercy upon us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

Have mercy upon us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace.

(Please continue in silent prayer of confession.)

We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose love
and grace give us the power to call ourselves children of God ... **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 518, verses 1 and 3) *Your Only Son*

*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

Anthem *On Eagle's Wings* arr. by M. Hayes
Youth Choir

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Joel 2:12-17 Old Testament, p. 847 / P. 1038

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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 Luke 18:9-14 New Testament, p. 81 / P. 99

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon **"A Picture Perfect Lent"**

*Hymn 794 *O Savior, in This Quiet Place*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

* Affirmation of Faith — *A Brief Statement of Faith (1983)*

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God,
the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the
reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the
captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy, Jesus was crucified, suffering the
depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking
the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.**

Offering of Our Time and Talent

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *Behold the Shepherd* N. Sleeth
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 187 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

*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 *Voluntary in A Major* W. Selby

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:

Please continue to be in prayer for:

**Judy Gilbert - health concerns / ongoing recovery
Diane Walker - health concerns / ongoing recovery
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

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

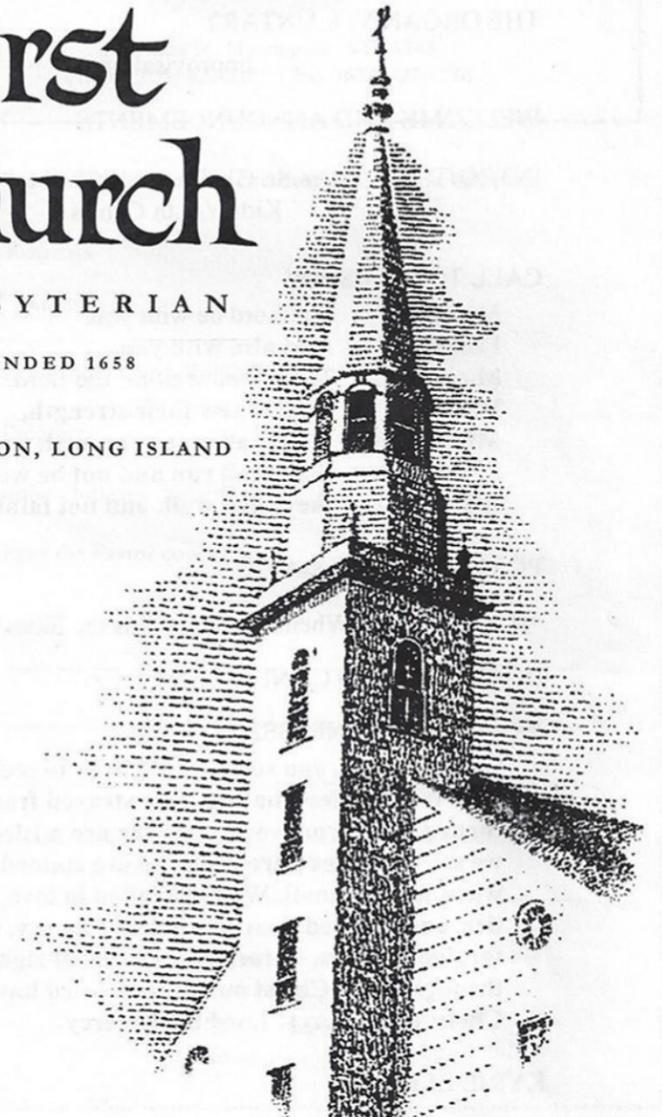
*Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor
pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org*

Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 1, 2020

10:00 AM

Joel 2:12-17

Old Testament, p. 847 / P. 1038

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 18:9-14

New Testament, p. 81 / P. 99

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’

¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.