

## 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 *As the Deer* Hymn 626

Call to Worship

Leader: Like a woman who lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches for her one lost coin.

**People: God searches for us ... relentlessly seeking us and joyfully rejoicing in our salvation!**

Leader: Like a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep in the wilderness to find the one that is lost.

**People: God searches for us ... pursuing us when we wander and returning us to the flock!**

Leader: Like a father who stands waiting for the return of his son and the restoration of his family.

**People: God searches for us ... welcoming us home with arms open in loving forgiveness and welcoming mercy.**

Leader: Rejoicing in the Lord, our God, who searches and finds; let us lift our hearts and voices as we worship God together.

\*Hymn 442 *Just as I Am, without One Plea*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, forgive us for being so focused on our own experiences in life, that we do not even try to understand the depth of the struggle that others have known in theirs. Open our eyes to see something of what they have seen, our ears to hear something of what they have heard, and our hearts to feel something of what they have felt. By the miracle of your freely-given, amazing grace, help us understand the way of your redemptive love in such a world as this and draw us once more into the eternal embrace of your everlasting love.**

**Loving God, yours is the love that calls power to account, the grace that calls sinners to repent, and the mercy that forgives us and freely offers us life eternal. Lead us in the truth of your Son, Jesus, our Christ; freeing us to rejoice with all our heart, mind, body, and spirit over the mystery of faith you have revealed. Take us once more to the cross of our Christ; that we may open our hearts to your embrace, receiving the transforming power of your freedom, forgiveness, and renewal. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior ...**

*(Please continue in silent prayer of confession.)*

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 Timothy 1:12-17 New Testament, p. 208 / P. 253

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho* Arr. M. Hayes  
Julie Salzano, Soprano

Time with Our Young Disciples

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 6<sup>th</sup> grade.*

Second Lesson Luke 15:1-10 New Testament, p. 78 / P. 95

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

**"I Once Was Lost?"**

\*Hymn 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

## 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.**

Invitation to Receive our Tithes & Offerings

Receiving of our Tithes & Offerings

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

\*Congregational Response (Hymn 606) *Doxology*

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Response of Thanksgiving (Hymn 695) *Change My Heart, O God*

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.**

Offering of Our Time and Talent

\*Hymn 418 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

\*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 *We All Believe In One God* J.S. Bach

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THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor  
Elder Mark Rapko, Lector  
Ken Friese, Director of Music  
Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

*If you are a first-time guest or returning visitor to our church family, please  
allow us to extend a special welcome to you. We invite you to join us in the  
Parish Hall after worship for coffee, tea, cookies, and a chance to learn more  
about Old First.*

*Please take this opportunity to be greeted by our members and be introduced  
to our Pastor, Matthew Means. Thank you for joining us and welcome to our  
family of faith!*

## IN OUR PRAYERS:

### New to the prayer list:

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

Holly Baptista, Bob and Gail Esser, Gabby (14 year-old) and her Parents (Audra and Dave), Dave and Else Haddock, Beth Lange (Sister of Susan Oehrig), Pat Lobasso (Husband of Joan Lobasso), Mark Mandrakos, Ken Miller (Husband of Rev. Anne Stewart Miller), Nancy Paloian, Angelica Richter, James Schubauer, and Grace Youngquist.

Names on our prayer list will remain for a month.

If you would like to add a prayer request, please contact Pastor Means.

#### OLD FIRST CHURCH SESSION MEMBERS:

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Jim Colbert	Kerry Degnan	Curt Abbott
Katie Dopico	Jerry Kessler	Tom Bosch
Beverly Elliott	Susan Oehrig	Gloria Burgess
Gretchen Hargis	Gillian Plastaras	Philip Heinz
Amy Girimonti	Melissa Terc	Mark Rapko
Marge Sammis		

Thomas Bosch, *Clerk of Session*  
Rev. Matthew Means, *Moderator*

#### OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF DEACONS:

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Sue Degnan	Leeanne M. Bedell	Victor Andrade
Cheryl Grossman	Richard C. Bedell	Asenath Fuchs
Steven Samuels	Dan Degnan	Carol Breckner
Martha Tibbetts	Robert Ponzetti	Judy Gilbert
Leslie Yovino	Kathy Porter	Matthew Girimonti
	Mary Porter	Virginia Greene
	Faith Youngquist	

#### OLD FIRST CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>
Brian Behrens	Robert Ponzetti	Nat Corwin
John Collins	James Thatcher,	Bruce Elliott
Liz Richter,	<i>President</i>	Gerry Schult
<i>Secretary</i>	Charles Worledge,	
	<i>Vice President</i>	

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Reverend Matthew Means, Pastor  
[pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org](mailto:pastor@oldfirstchurchhuntington.org)

### 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**

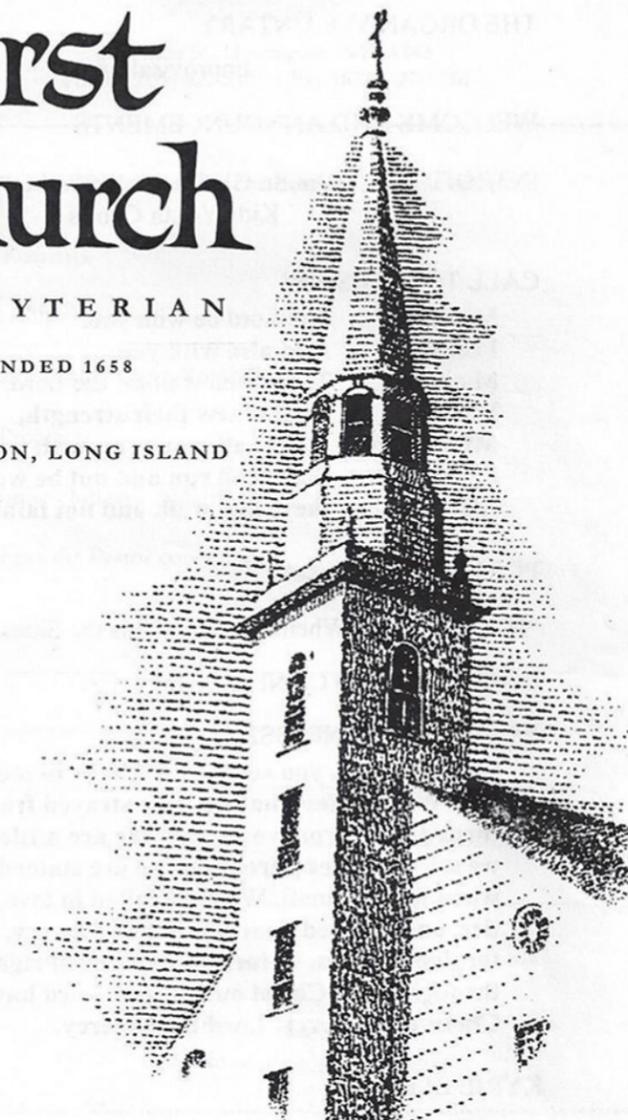
We are sent out into the world with a charge and benediction from the pastor, inviting the spirit of today's worship to go with us as we seek ways to share our faith with others!

# Old First Church

PRESBYTERIAN

FOUNDED 1658

HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND



**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2018**

**10:00 AM**

## **1 Timothy 1:12-17**

**New Testament, p. 208 / P. 253**

<sup>12</sup>I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only  
God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Luke 15:1-10**

**New Testament, p. 78 / P. 95**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?

<sup>5</sup> When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’

<sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’

<sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**