

The image is a vertical composition. The background is a soft-focus clock face with large, stylized numbers. In the foreground, there are several lit tealight candles in brass holders, and a cluster of pinecones on the left. A vertical blue decorative band is on the left side of the image.

Making  
the  
most  
of  
every  
opportunity

## *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

*Please use the prelude as a time to prepare our hearts and minds to worship God together.*

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

INTROIT

*The First Nowell*

Hymn 147 (Verse 1 only)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us rejoice in God! Let us marvel in all that our God has done!

**Our eyes have seen the glory of God; made known to us in the manger.**

Let us rejoice in our God; the creator of all that has life!

**Our eyes have seen the compassion of God; come to us in the cry of a baby.**

Let us rejoice in our God; giver of redemption and grace!

**Our eyes have seen the redeeming love of God; alive in Jesus, our Christ.**

Let us rejoice in our God; the Spirit of peace and grace among us!

**Our eyes have seen the power of God; at work in changing our world forever.**

Rejoicing in the presence of Christ in our lives, let us worship our God together!

\*HYMN 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, in Jesus Christ you came among us as eternal light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not always welcomed the light in our lives or trusted your good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory; expecting little and hoping for even less. As reminders of this joyful season begin to fade, we often allow the power of your Christmas miracle to be forgotten. Our “hallelujah’s” and “glory to God’s” are replaced by feeble efforts to remember your gracious faithfulness and proclaim your everlasting love.**

**Loving God, free us from our doubts and renew our hope, peace, joy, and love, so that we may discover with each new day, the fullness of your eternal grace. Help us to rejoice in the truth of Jesus Christ, our Lord, born to save us from our sins; a promise that shatters the boundaries of time and season. Give us the strength to seek your love, grace, and mercy each day of our lives; confident in the everlasting hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus, our Christ, the Lord and Savior of our lives, in whose name we offer ourselves in prayer ...**

*(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.

**People: God forgives us ... frees us ... and gives us peace.**

**To God we are ever thankful. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (Hymn 110)

*Love Has Come*

### \*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 42:1-9, Old Testament p.670 / P.820

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Joseph's Lullaby*  
Ken Duncan, Tenor

J. Kavanagh

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Congregational Invitation: (sung)

**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.**

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:12-21, New Testament p.198 / P.242

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

*"New Year ... New Commitments"*

\*HYMN 488

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

*\* Note: When you reach the end of the first three verses,  
return to the top of the page.*

*Verse 4 of "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"  
is printed at the bottom of the page.*

*We Respond in Word and Deed*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Althea Margaret Folk*

Meaning and Institution

\* Vows

\* Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed (see below)*

Prayer for Blessing

The Baptism

Welcome

**\*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 AND OFFERINGS**

**RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

*O Joyful Children*  
Ken Duncan, Tenor

L. Holdridge

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 606)**

*Doxology*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SHARING OF 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 143**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION                      *The First Nowell*      Hymn 147 (Verse 6 only)

\*POSTLUDE                                      *In Thee Is Gladness*                      G. Gastoldi

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THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor

Ken Duncan, Special Music

Ken Friese, Director of Music

Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

Roger Ketcham and Bill Roe, Ushers

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*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory and honor of God in celebration of today's baptism by Althea's grandparents, Leslie and Ralph Yovino.*

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with worship flowers, Please contact the church office at your convenience to make arrangements.

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IN OUR PRAYERS:

**New to the prayer list this week:**

**Tom Bosch and Bob Esser**

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

Rick Ambrosio and Wendy (Friends of the Worledge Family), William Gray (Dorothy Mandrakos' father), Dave and Else Haddock, Joan Lobasso, Ken Peterson, Cynde and Robert Raynor (Brett Raynor's parents), Rebecca Raynor (Brett Raynor's sister), Angelica Richter, James Schubauer, Gerry Schult, Rod Tibbetts (Husband of Martha Tibbetts), Laura Jane Tiberia (Joan Lobasso's Daughter), 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.*

**Survey Says ... IT'S TIME FOR FUN!!!!**

The New Year brings a chance for our church family to have a great night together! Join us on **Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** for a potluck dinner and Family Feud night with our Deacons! **Potluck** begins at **5:00 pm** (*bring your dishes to share!*) and **Family Feud** kicks off at **6:00 pm!** The cost is **\$8 per person or \$25 per family** as we have a great time raising funds for Deacons' ministry! Come alone! Bring a date! Invite friends and family! Just be sure to join us for a GREAT NIGHT!

**Mark Your Calendars: Annual Meeting Date Set!**

The Session has set **Sunday, February 11, 2018**, as the date for our annual meeting of the congregation. This special day in our church family is a chance for us to come together in looking back at the year that was while joyfully looking ahead to the coming year. **Start writing your Annual Reports** and make plans to join us for this celebration of ministry in our congregation!

**Get Connected to Your Church Family at Old First!**

With so many exciting opportunities for us to gather together in worship, fellowship, and service; now more than ever, it is important to "stay connected" to and with Old First! We share information about our ministries by phone, email, and through our website and Facebook page.

If you are not receiving these communications from Old First, please contact the church office and provide us with your information! We look forward to getting, and **staying**, connected with you!

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*Old First Presbyterian Church*

*125 Main Street*

*Huntington, NY 11743*

*(631) 427-2101*

*Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor*

[www.oldfirstchurchhuntington.org](http://www.oldfirstchurchhuntington.org)

## **Isaiah 42:1-9**

### **Old Testament, p. 670 / P. 820**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:



<sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Philippians 3:12-21**

**New Testament, p. 198 / P. 242**

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is

destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**