

## OLD FIRST eBulletin FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

### The Fourth Sunday in Lent

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#### I. WORSHIP SERVICE

HYMN 266: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwqahDvURsQ>

VOTUM AND SALUTATION: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven earth. Grace to you and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY: **Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

#### FIRST LESSON: *1 Samuel 16:1- 13*

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then Tet out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.**

**EPISTLE LESSON:** *Ephesians 5:8-14*

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God.

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.**

**GOSPEL:** *John 4:5- 42*

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He

answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *Are We Blind?*

HYMN 67: *Be Thou My Vision* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxvXGgSIRcs>

**APOSTLES CREED: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin**

**Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a Godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy Holy Name. Amen.**

**Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.**

ABSOLUTION: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive all our sins in Our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. Amen.  
The Peace of Christ be with us all.

#### SUFFRAGES AND PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance. Govern and uphold them, now and always. Day by day we bless you: We praise your Name forever.

Lord, keep us from all sin today; Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. Lord, show us your love and mercy; For we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope; And we shall never hope in vain.

For our families and friends; for all who suffer; for the sick and the dying, the weak and the aged, the poor and the lonely, the prisoners and the exiles, we humbly pray, O Lord.

For all who struggle, all who seek, all who despair; for those threatened by temptation and whose faith is wavering; for those passing through trial; for those who forget you in their prosperity and joy, we humbly pray, O Lord.

For our country and people; for those who lead us; for our legislators and magistrates, our homes and schools, our towns and cities; and all the people of this land, we humbly entreat you, O Lord.

For our church and congregation; for this fellowship of love in which, week after week, you speak to us your Word; for our pastor, elders, and deacons and all who exercise a ministry among us; for the Reformed Church in America and its witness at home and abroad; for new life within your Church, we humbly pray to you, O Lord.

For all who suffer isolation, loneliness, deprivation, or illness in this time of pandemic. For our congregation as we seek to respond in service and mission, we humbly pray, O Lord.

For those in need: Andrew, Jean, Barbara, Eva, Albert, Nancy, Keileigh, Viola, Michael, Blas, Stephen, Elisabeth, Spencer, Maryanne, Ron. For those in ministry: Jabe, Jack, HousingPlus, and CHiPS. For any others we want to remember, we humbly pray, O Lord.

For the faithfulness of your Church throughout the world, for its expectant waiting for your kingdom, and for the unity of your body on earth, we humbly pray, O Lord, through Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be glory and honor now and forevermore, and in whom we are bold to say, ***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 glory forever. Amen.***

HYMN 7: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spE-BE23qxA>

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord's face shine upon us and be gracious to us, the Lord's countenance be lifted upon us and give us peace. Amen.

## ii. Announcements

Last Week's Attendance was 60. The offering was  
\$2,485

**COMMUNITY HELP IN PARK SLOPE (CHiPS)** feeds more than 150 families every week. Old First helps provide food for these families by collecting donations.

**COFFEE HOUR HOST SIGN-UP:** online at [goo.gl/JCtidQ](https://goo.gl/JCtidQ) Sign up for any unclaimed Sundays. Dates are open in January & February. If you are not comfortable signing up online, please speak with a deacon or contact the church office ([info@oldfirstbrooklyn.org](mailto:info@oldfirstbrooklyn.org)) to schedule a date. Thank you.

**TESTIMONIES IN EASTERTIDE:** Pastor is looking for six members and adherents to offer 5-minute testimonies during worship on the six Sundays between Easter and Pentecost, April 19 to May 24.

Starter

questions: What do you look for? What do you hope for? What do you pray for?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN ADHERENT AT OLD FIRST?

It's

not membership, but we take you under care and you can fully participate in all committees and projects,

Speak to the pastor or an Elder.

**iii. Schedule**

**This Week**

**Sunday, March 22, 2020**

**Sunday School - suspended**

**Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m, online, see the link on our webpage, [www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org](http://www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org)**

**Slow Yoga - Breathe & Align - Suspended**

**Wednesday -Slow Yoga @ High Noon Breathe & Align -Suspended**

**Look Ahead**

**Sunday, March 29,2020**

**Sunday School - suspended**

**Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m, online, see the link on our webpage, [www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org](http://www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org)**

**Slow Yoga - Breathe & Align - Suspended**

**Monday, March 30, 2020**

Possible Consistory - 7:00 p.m., online.

**Wednesday -Slow Yoga @ High Noon Breathe & Align -Suspended**

**Saturday April 4, 2020 - Dzieci Presents A Passion - Suspended**

**Sunday April 5,2020**

**Sunday School - suspended**

**Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m, online, see the link on our webpage, [www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org](http://www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org)**

**Slow Yoga - Breathe & Align - Suspended**

**Wednesday -Slow Yoga @ High Noon Breathe & Align -Suspended**

**iv. Roster**

**Staff**

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meeter, Pastor	(718) 614-9763
Maureen Doyle, Finance & Operations Director	(917) 428-0395
Trentasia Morant, Office Coordinator	(718) 638-8300
Aleeza Meir, Organist	(917) 902-0793
Abraham Barrios, Sexton	(718) 638-8300

**Consistory**

Elders		Deacons	
Jessica Stockton Bagnulo	2021	Kent Adams	2021

Jeff Cribbs	2021	Margaret Kearney	2022
Ken Nieuwenhuis	2022	Susan Snyder	2022
Wayne Adams	2023	Philip Alexander	2023
Jabe Ziino	2023	Kelly Greene	2023

**Officers**

Pastor Daniel Meeter, President	Jeff Cribbs, Vice President
Kent Adams, Deacons Chair	Ron Coombs, Clerk pro tem
Danny Silitonga, Treasurer	Elisabeth Gaikema Platt, Financial Secretary pro tem
Maureen Doyle, Bursar	

**GROUPS AND MINISTRIES**

Cooking for CHiPS: Second Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. Cook for the homeless and hungry.

Contact: Steve Lappert (718) 230-0448.

Sunday School Teachers: Joanna Franchini, Matt LeBreux, Pastor Meeter, Jessica Stockton Bagnulo, Rev. Melody Meeter, Virginia Bouillerot, and Jabe Ziino.

Nursery Staff: Renee Espinosa, Sally Ragudo, and Bailey Olander.

CHiPS Board of Directors: Gordon Meyer.