



OLD first REFORMED CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meeter, Pastor / Aleeza Meir, Music Director

EBULLETIN FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 17, 2020

Use this eBulletin for Sunday morning. To log-on, Ctrl+click: <https://zoom.us/j/281701997>.

To join via phone: Dial 1-929-205-6099. If you are told to enter a webinar id, the id is: 281701997.

Please join us for Virtual Coffee Hour. To log-on, Ctrl+click: <https://zoom.us/j/402156419>.

Please have ready your bowl with water, a cloth, your candle, your bread, and your cup of wine or juice.

.....

I. WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

Prelude

G. F. Handel

WELCOME AND INSTRUCTIONS

HYMN 63

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
sing praises to his name: he forgets not his own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou; Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!**

**We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

ACCLAMATION AND SALUTATION

Pastor: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
the first-born of the living and dead.

Amen and Amen, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE COLLECT The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

Lily Brooks

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66: 7-18

Bless our God, you peoples;
 make the voice of his praise to be heard;
Who holds our souls in life,
 and will not allow our feet to slip.
For you, O God, have proved us;
 you have tried us just as silver is tried.
You brought us into the snare;
 you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water;
 but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows,
 which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;
 I will give you oxen and goats.
Come and listen, all you who fear God,
 and I will tell you what he has done for me.
I called out to him with my mouth,
 and his praise was on my tongue.
If I had found evil in my heart,
 the Lord would not have heard me;
But in truth God has heard me,
 he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
 nor withheld his love from me.
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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Be still and know that I am God.

God be in my head, and in my understanding.
God be in my eyes, and in my looking.
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.
God be at my end, and at my beginning.

SONG I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,

down in my heart, down in my heart.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart to stay!

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart,

down in my heart, down in my heart,

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus down in my heart, down in my heart to stay!

I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart,

down in my heart, down in my heart.

I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart to stay!

SONG I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike.

The lamb is the light of the city of God; shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.

Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

In him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike.

The lamb is the light of the city of God; shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike.

The lamb is the light of the city of God; shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Ann Herpel

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VIDEO MOTET

If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lZHByBB84>

(NOTE: These wonderful Germans signing American-gospel style would not be my preferred live performance, but for Zoom purposes it's the best available online. Pastor)

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

Ann Herpel

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *Signs and Wonders #6: The wonder of Love*

Pastor

ASCRPTION AND SILENCE

HYMN 277

Come, my way, my truth, my life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as *killeth* death.

Come, my light, my feast my strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as *makes* his guest.

Come, my joy, my love, my heart:
such a joy as no one can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as *joys* in love.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made a man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all. (*We pass the peace via Zoom.*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's service
Wednesday evening Vespers
Virtual Coffee Hour
Godly Play / Children-in-Worship
Baroquelyn
Other Announcements

TESTIMONY

Melody Meeter

PRAYERS OF PEACE AND INTERCESSION Lindsay Gavin

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Intercessions

In need: Georgia Herpel, Andrew, Jean, Barbara, Eva, Albert, Nancy, Keileigh, Viola, Michael, Blas,
Stephen, Elisabeth, Spencer, Maryanne, Ron, Susanna, Ronnie.
In ministry or service: Dr. Jessica, Dr. Paul, Jabe, Jack, Jeff, Housing Plus, and CHiPS.

OFFERING

The Deacons

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

RINSING YOUR HANDS: I am baptized.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

SETTING YOUR TABLES

CANDLE-LIGHTING

The Light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

**The Light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and right it is, O God, and our joyful duty, to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. You created the heaven with its host and the earth with its plenty. You have given us life, and being, and you preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love by sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty savior, who has reconciled us to you, we praise and bless you, O God. With your whole church on earth, and all the company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest!

Holy and righteous Father, we remember in this supper the perfect sacrifice once offered on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection, and in expectation of his coming again, we offer to you ourselves, as holy and living sacrifices, proclaiming the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen, **Christ is risen.**

Christ will come again. **Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the body and blood of Christ. Grant that being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into him who is the head, even Christ our Lord.

And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into these loaves, and these grapes from many hills into these cups, grant Lord, that your whole church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Even so come Lord Jesus, Maranatha, Amen.

Through Jesus Christ, who taught us when we pray 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 the glory forever. Amen.

INSTITUTION

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it,
and he gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you, do this in remembrance of me.”

*Take the bread
Raise the bread
Break the bread*

Share the bread.

After the same manner also he took the cup
when they had supped, saying,
“This cup in the new testament in my blood,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Take, drink it in remembrance of me.”

Take the cup

Raise the cup

Drink from the cup.

PSALM OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me beside still waters,
He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.
For thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.
Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

HYMN 464

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Come almighty to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

**Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE *COURANTE*

G. F. Handel

ii. Announcements

WE HAVE A DIRECT EMAIL for prayer requests, for yourself or someone else. Please send your request to prayerrequests@oldfirstbrooklyn.org

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR follows the service. To log-on, Ctrl+click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/402156419>.

MID-WEEK VESPERS on Wednesday evenings from 9:00 to 9:45 p.m. is hosted by the Elders. We greet one another, read the Vespers liturgy and the week's scripture; reflect, share and review prayer requests from our community; and receive an evening blessing. We offer this service to however many or few desire and are able to join. Please use this zoom link to join. <https://zoom.us/j/314004075>

FROM THE DEACONS: Though we are not currently passing a collection plate for offertory, the following options are available for you to give to Old First:

1. Tithe.ly

Available as a smartphone app, via the Donations Tab on the Old First website, or through a phone call to Old First staff members. You can select a credit or debit card, or an account with a financial institution. If you currently have a check mailed to Old First from your bank, please consider switching this service to Tithe.ly

2. Mail a check to:
Old First Reformed Church
729 Carroll St.
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Remember, whichever method you send in your offering, to identify your offering as either:

- GENERAL FUND for general offering,
- CAPITAL CAMPAIGN for building restoration, or
- MISSION (CHiPS and HousingPlus)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN ADHERENT of Old First? If you worship with us, but you have your reasons for not becoming a member, you can be included as an "adherent". That means you are under the care of the Elders, and you may fully participate in all programs and activities. Speak to the Pastor or an Elder.

OUR INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH Team is busy contacting candidates, and we have a list to start interviewing. We are very hopeful about having a good Interim Pastor to serve us part-time during the year that we will patiently and deliberately be engaged in the Search for our next Installed Minister.

OUR MISSION work with CHiPS continues! CHiPS is handing out bag lunches to hungry people from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. Our CHiPS team is providing 45 of those meals every week. Please consider supporting CHiPS two ways, as you are able:

- Donate through our collection for mission. If you start using Tithely, you can designate gifts for mission, or you can write "Mission" on any donation mailed directly to church.
- Volunteer as a back-up for the cook team by contacting Steve Lappert at (718) 230-0448 or lappert@clm.com

JOIN BAROQUELYN ONLINE TODAY for our Spotlight concert at 3pm will feature Bach's beloved Cello Suite in G Major played by cellist Steven Chen. Join us by subscribing to Baroquelyn at www.baroquelyn.com, and help keep the music going! All funds are going directly to the musicians and greatly appreciated. Or if you'd like to attend as a guest this week, just write to baroquelyn@gmail.com and ask for a link!

PASTOR'S EASTER SEASON SERMON SERIES: SIGNS AND WONDERS

- 4/19 #1, The Mark of the Nails
- 4/26 #2, The Breaking of the Bread
- 5/3 #3, Jeff Chu, guest preacher, Feasting among Enemies
- 5/10 #4, The Stones that Live
- 5/17 #5, The Wonder of Love
- 5/24 #6, The Wonder of Glory
- 5/31 #7, The Signs and Wonders of the Holy Spirit

iii. Schedule

This week

Sunday, May 17

Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m., online

Monday, May 18

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

Wednesday, May 20

Vespers - 9:00 p.m., online

Look Ahead

Sunday, May 24

Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m., online

Wednesday, May 27

Vespers - 9:00 p.m., online

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.

Old First Reformed Church

www.oldfirstbrooklyn.org

(718) 638-8300

info@oldfirstbrooklyn.org

Learn more and connect:

Newsletter sign up: newsletter@oldfirstbrooklyn.org

Pastor's Sermon Blog: oldfirst.blogspot.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Old.First.Brooklyn/

Facebook Arts: [@artsatoldfirst](https://www.facebook.com/artsatoldfirst)

Instagram: www.instagram.com/oldfirstbrooklyn/