



OLD first REFORMED CHURCH

EBULLETIN FOR 5TH PENTECOST SUNDAY, JULY 5, 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.
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I. WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE *Arioso* J. S. Bach **Aleeza Meir**

VOTUM AND SALUTATION

WELCOME AND INSTRUCTIONS

HYMN 6 Praise to the living God! All praised be his name,
who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same.
The one eternal God, ere aught that now appears:
the first, the last, beyond all thought his timeless years.

Formless, all lovely forms declare his loveliness;
holy, no holiness of earth can his express.
Lo, he is Lord of all, creation speaks his praise,
and everywhere, above, below, his will obeys.

His spirit floweth free, high surging where it will:
in prophet's word he spoke of old; he speaketh still.
Established is his law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep written on the human hear, on sea, on land.

Eternal life hath he implanted in the soul;
his love shall be our strength and stay while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praised be his name,
who was, and is and is to be, for aye the same.

COLLECT OF THE DAY (*In unison*)

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

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Lector: **Kent Adams**

The man said to Rebekah and her household, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' "I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter, are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left." And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 45: 11-18

Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely;
forget your people and your father's house.
The king will have pleasure in your beauty;
he is your master; therefore do him honor.
The people of Tyre are here with a gift;
the rich among the people seek your favor.
All glorious is the princess as she enters;
her gown is of cloth-of-gold.
In embroidered apparel she is bought to the king;
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
With joy and gladness they are brought,
and enter into the palace of the king.
In place of fathers, O kin, you shall have sons;
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to another;
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever.

**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.**

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Lector: **Kent Adams**

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can with what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Lector: **Rev. Livingston**

Jesus said, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ASCRPTION OF GLORY AND SILENCE

HYMN 2 **O worship the King, all glorious above, O gratefully sing
his power and his love: our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space. His chariots of wrath the
deep thunderclouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**This earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, thy power
hath founded of old; hath 'stablished it fast by
a changeless decree, and round it hath cast, like a mantel, the sea.**

**Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it
descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in thee do we trust,
nor find thee to fail; thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end!
Our maker, defender, redeemer and friend.**

**O measureless Might, ineffable love! While angels delight
to hymn thee above, thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

APOSTLES CREED (In unison)

**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 (*In unison*)

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

KYRIE: **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
(564) **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ABSOLUTION

PASSING THE PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's service recognitions
Wednesday evening Vespers
Virtual Coffee Hour
Godly Play / Children-in-Worship
Interim Minister
Brooklyn Relief Kitchen / Cooking for CHiPS
Other Announcements

TESTIMONY: from the Belhar Confession

3. We believe

- that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.
- that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;
- that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;
- that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine

- which, in such a situation, sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Anita Keire

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

OFFERING

The Deacons

While we worship together online, we can still make our offerings. Our preferred method is the digital platform Tithe.ly, which you can find as a smart-phone app or as a link at OldFirstBrooklyn.org. Please consider covering the processing fee to make your gift go farther. If you prefer to mail a check, please note whether your gift is for the general fund, mission, or the capital campaign. And please consider giving for our mission work with CHiPS and Housing Plus, as well as our Brooklyn Relief Kitchen.

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.**

RINSE YOUR HANDS: I am baptized. **In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

SET YOUR TABLES

LIGHT YOUR CANDLE

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

*COMMUNION

PSALM OF THANKSGIVING

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all his benefits.
Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from the Pit,
Who crowns you with steadfast mercy and loving-kindness.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
Nor reward us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
So far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father pities his children,
So the Lord pities those who fear him,
Who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all
And will also give us all things with him.
Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord
From this time forth and forever more.

**HYMN 12 Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him; praise him, angels in the height;
sun and moon, bow down before him; praise him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! For he hath spoken, words his mighty voice obeyed:
laws which never hall be broken for their guidance he has made.**

**Praise the Lord! For he is glorious; never shall his promise fail;
God hath made his saints victorious: sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation; hosts on high, his power proclaim;
heav'n and earth, and all creation, laud and magnify his name!**

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

La Lutine

J.P. Kimberger

Aleeza Meir

ii. Announcements

We welcome our guest preacher, the Reverend Gregory Seal Livingston.



Rev. Livingston is a pastor, preacher and community leader.

The son of a pastor, Rev. Livingston accepted his call to the pulpit at an early age. Educated at the University of Illinois, he worked in the financial markets until 1992 when he enrolled as a full-time Master of Divinity student at the North Park Theological Seminary of Chicago. As an ordained minister he has served several congregations and organizations locally, nationally and internationally.

He has served as National Field Secretary and Chief of Field Operations for the RainbowPUSH Coalition. He has served as president/leader of various organizations including: The Coalition for a New Chicago; Syrian Faith Initiative; The African-American Leadership Commission (Gamaliel Foundation); Equanomics UK; National Advisory Board of Walgreens; Westside Ministers Coalition of Chicago; The Westside Health Crisis Coalition; The Metropolitan Alliance of Congregations West (Gamaliel Foundation). He has also chaired several committees for the Illinois 7th Congressional District.

Rev. Livingston has spoken for and worked with various organizations, groups and events such as: The United States Congressional Health Summit Tri-Caucus; Harvard School of Public Health; NAACP; The Anti-Defamation League; The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago; Chicago Urban League; The Broadcast Ministers Alliance of Chicago; various faith communities, universities and other institutions.

As a public minister Rev. Livingston has engaged the media (local and national; BBC; Al Jazeera; Russian Television America; China TV etc.) on issues that affect his congregation, community and beyond — as well as writing for publications such as the Huffington Post.

He is known as an electrifying speaker and visionary leader. Rev. Livingston's faith in Jesus Christ shapes his life and provides the impetus of his commitment to the holistic uplift of all people especially the poor and disadvantaged — so that the Will of God may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Arts at Old First is pleased to welcome writer Carey Wallace (via Zoom) to discuss and read from her new book *Stories of the Saints* with Brooklyn-based artist and Old First elder Wayne Adams, in a virtual book event for adults and children as well. Wednesday, July 8, 7:30 PM. Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_THkHoRa7R7WbKo6Z4CRhsQ

Old First is working on creating a new prayer team, to bring our biggest issues and individual requests to God in prayer as we face many new challenges. We hope to find a time to meet weekly to pray together via Zoom, and also to write prayers to be shared with the consistory and the larger congregation. We have a lot of committees at Old First, but not many of them are for directly talking to God; this is important work, and we hope you'll consider whether you can help to lead and support our congregation in this way. If you're interested or you'd like to know more, please contact Jessica Stockton Bagnulo; you can email jsbagnulo@gmail.com, or talk at the virtual coffee hour after the service. You can also send your prayer request to our direct email 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. please use this zoom link to join. <https://zoom.us/j/314004075>

THE OLD FIRST BROOKLYN RELIEF KITCHEN is cooking up a storm and sending out lots of free food. You can volunteer to prepare and package fresh meals, and help delivery to 3 sites: CHiPS, Camp Friendship and Red Hook, plus a new site in Coney Island (probably more to come).

You can volunteer to help by Contacting Piper the Volunteer Coordinator at : piper@brooklynreliefkitchen.org

We will be accepting drop off donations Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wed 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. at the front entrance at 126 7th Ave. under the tent.

OUR MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE: HousingPlus provides housing and services for women who have been incarcerated and marginalized in New York City—including an apartment to call home. They support about 150 women and 94 children in overcoming poverty, homelessness, addiction, and trauma. CHiPS, on 4th Avenue in Park Slope, provides meals and housing for the needy, especially now. Our Old First CHiPS team is 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.

THE CONSISTORY HAS APPROVED A NOMINEE FOR INTERIM PASTOR. Contractual details are being worked out now.

BAROQUELYN: After two months of weekly spotlight concerts, Baroquelyn is taking a little breather. We aim to have one concert a month for the summer while we look ahead to some fun fall programming. Stay tuned for announcements in the newsletter and on the website! Subscribe at www.baroquelyn.com.

iii. Schedule

This week

Sunday, July 5

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

Wednesday, July 8

Old First Take-Out – 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Front Door on 7th Avenue.

Vespers - 9:00 p.m., online

Looking ahead

Sunday, July 12

Sunday Worship – 11:00 a.m., online

Monday, July 13th

Deacons – 7:00 p.m., online

Monday, July 20th

Consistory – 7:00 p.m., online

iv. Roster

Staff

Maureen Doyle, Finance & Operations Director (917) 428-0395

Aleeza Meir, Music Director (917) 902-0793

Abraham Barrios, Sexton (718) 638-8300

Consistory

Elders

Jessica Stockton Bagnulo 2021

Jeff Cribbs 2021

Ken Nieuwenhuis 2022

Wayne Adams 2023

Jabe Ziino 2023

Deacons

Kent Adams 2021

Margaret Kearney 2022

Susan Snyder 2022

Philip Alexander 2023

Kelly Greene 2023

Officers

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.

The Old First Brooklyn Relief Kitchen

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

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/oldfirstbrooklyn/