

The First Church of Christ in Marblehead
Old North Church, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: For the beauty of the earth

All: For the splendor of the skies

One: For the love which from our birth

All: Over and around us lies

One: Lord of all, to thee we raise

All: This our voice of grateful praise.

* HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

#54

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

Praise you, journeying God, God of movement, God of change. Thank you for the example of Jesus, who traveled lightly, taking note of creation along the way. Bless this land, draw our attention to it, help us to tread lightly and recognize the abundance that surrounds us. We pray in this spirit as we pray the words you have taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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 and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: God made the world, and made us to live in harmony with the land and all creatures. In the midst of busy lives, we pause to consider the harm we have done and the harm done on our behalf.

SILENT PRAYER

One: Giver of life, in the midst of a plundered earth we groan with creation:

All: have mercy on us.

One: Giver of life, at the shores of poisoned waters we groan with creation:

All: have mercy on us.

One: Giver of life, under polluted air we groan with creation:

All: have mercy on us.

One: Giver of life, among mountains of waste we groan with creation:

All: have mercy on us.

One: Giver of life, in the midst of a world at war, we groan with creation:

All: have mercy on us.

One: Giver of life, we who are made in the image of God have gone astray, and creation groans with us.

All: have mercy on us.

One: Giver of life, mend our broken lives;

All: restore, revive, repair.

One: Recreate us in your image.

All: Renew your creation, for your love's sake. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us proclaim together this good news:

All: God is making all things new!

One: God is not done with us yet.

God is renewing us, and delights in using us to bring healing and new life to the world around us.

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (please join in singing)

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Spirit One,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen, Amen.**

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

May you know that you belong here and can always come home.

May you grow, learn, and question.

May you feel the love of God wherever you go.

*We invite any children interested to now join their teachers in leaving the sanctuary for Sunday School.
Their families can meet them in the classroom when the service is over.*

* HYMN

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

#230

FIRST READING

Acts 2: 43-47

Read by Bonnie MacDonald

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

GOSPEL READING

John 15: 1-11

Read by Bonnie MacDonald

[Jesus continued, saying,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

ANTHEM

A Rose Touched by the Sun's Warm Rays

Jean Berger

Senior Choir

SERMON

"Abide"

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Thou Visiteth the Earth
Antanas Meilus, *tenor*; Senior Choir

Maurice Greene

* DOXOLOGY #45

**Praise God for love we all may share.
Praise God for beauty everywhere.
Praise God for hope of good to be.
Praise God for truth that makes us free, Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

SENDING

* HYMN *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky* #461

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing) verse 1, #527

**For the Fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe - keeping, thanks be to God. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*