

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 31, 2026

First Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: We gather together to worship,

All: Different people, different lives, different histories,

One: Yet all children of the one God,

All: Created lovingly by the Source of all life.

One: We gather to reconnect with one another,

All: Different people, different lives, different histories,

One: Yet all disciples of one Teacher

All: Who was and is and remains with us still.

One: We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears,

All: Different people, different lives, different histories,

One: Yet one people, bringing all that we have and all that we are
into the Love that unites us always.

**All: Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in us,
among us, and through us.**

* HYMN

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

#353

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

Everlasting God,

in whom we live and move and have our being:

you have made us for yourself,

and our hearts are restless

until they rest in you.

Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,

that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,

no weakness keep us from doing it;

that in your life we may see light clearly,
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who taught us to pray:

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

silence is kept after each petition

One: For failing to love others as you have loved us...
God of grace,

All: forgive us.

One: For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods...
God of grace,

All: forgive us.

One: For plundering the earth and abusing the planet...
God of grace,

All: forgive us.

One: For fearing those who are strange to us
and ignoring those in need...
God of grace,

All: forgive us.

One: For losing heart and abandoning hope...
God of grace,

All: forgive us.

One: For all the ways we turn from you...
God of grace,

All: forgive us.

One: We offer our prayers in the name
of the One who saves us, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: People of God, lift your heads.

All: God's love flows through us. We live forgiven and set free.

* 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

Jess Easter

**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.**

* HYMN

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

#223

FIRST READING

Acts 17:16-31

Read by Ruth Duell

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this pretentious babbler want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual 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 peoples 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 fumble about 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.”

GOSPEL READING

John 1:16-18

Read by Andrea Gilgulin

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

ANTHEM

O for a Closer Walk with God

John B. Dykes, 1875

Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Maria vanKalken, *piano*

SERMON

“Fumble Around and Find Out” Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

En Prière

Gabriel Fauré

Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Maria vanKalken, *piano*

* **DOXOLOGY #48**

**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**

SENDING

* **HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#12

* **BENEDICTION**

* **RESPONSE (please join in singing)**

#334, verse 4

**Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace. Amen**

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*