

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 11, 2026 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 19, translated by Pamela Greenberg

One: The sky unfolds the story of your presence;

All: The firmament tells of the work of your hands.

One: Day after day overflows with speech;

All: Night after night breathes out knowledge.

One: There is no word or phrase

All: In which the voice of creation is not heard.

* HYMN *Restless Weaver* #520

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Rev. Christine Hribar

Jesus, you taught that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind; you taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. We long to live lives of love. Meet us here, in this place, so that we might love you and all this world. Hear us, as we pray the words you gave 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: Today we hear the passage from Exodus that includes the Ten Commandments. During our time of confession, we ponder these ten best ways and where we have room to grow. Let us pray:
Holy God, we confess to you:

All: we serve other gods, making idols of wealth, acclaim, popularity and image.

Silence

One: We confess to you:

All: we do not take your name, God, as seriously as we should.

Silence

One: We confess to you:

All: our inability to rest, our lack of Sabbath as a way to love ourselves and you.

Silence

One: We confess to you:

All: we do not honor those who have raised us: parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers.

Silence

One: We confess to you:

All: we do not honor life, in all its many forms.

Silence

One: We confess to you:

All: we have not honored our commitments.

Silence

One: We confess to you:

All: we take what is not ours.

Silence

One: We confess to you:

All: we do not always tell the truth.

Silence

One: We confess to you:

All: we covet what is not ours.

Silence

One: Merciful God, we offer our confessions and our whole selves to you.

All: Forgive us, and grant us peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God offered these ten best ways not as a means of punishment, but as a means of liberation.

All: **We live knowing that Goodness lives within us,
and God's love is as broad and wide as the sea.
We live forgiven and set free. Thanks be to God.**

* 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.**

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 *Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God* #226

LISTENING

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Read by Andrea Gilgulin

Exodus 19:3-7, 20:1-17 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

Then Moses went up to God, and YHWH called out from the mountain and said,
“This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob, what you are to tell the Israelites:
‘You saw for yourselves what I did to Egypt, how I carried you on eagles’ wings and
brought you to myself. If you now listen to my voice and keep my covenant, then out
of all people you will be my cherished ones. Truly, the whole earth is my own, but you
will be a kingdom of priests—a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to say to the
Israelites.”

Moses descended from the mountain. Summoning the elders of the people, he laid
down for them the things YHWH said to him.

—

Then God spoke all these words, and said, “I am YHWH who brought you out of the
land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

“Do not worship any gods except me!

“Do not make for yourselves any carved image or likeness of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth, and do not bow down to them or serve them! For I, YHWH, am a jealous God, and for the parents’ fault I punish the children, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of those who turn from me; but I show kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love me and heed my commandments.

“Do not utter the Name of YHWH to misuse it, for YHWH will not acquit anyone who utters God’s Name to misuse it!

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy! For six days you will labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath for YHWH. Do no work on that day, neither you nor your daughter nor your son, nor your workers—women or men—nor your animals, nor the foreigner who lives among you. For in the six days YHWH made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that they hold, but rested on the seventh day; this is why YHWH has blessed the Sabbath day and made it sacred.

“Honor your mother and your father, so that you may have a long life in the land that YHWH has given to you!

“No murdering!

“No adultery!

“No stealing!

“No giving false testimony against your neighbor!

“No desiring your neighbor’s house! No desiring your neighbor’s spouse, or worker—female or male—or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor!”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:17

Read by Mark Roberge

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

ANTHEM

O Rest in the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn

Stephanie Scarcella, *mezzo-soprano*

SERMON

“Rules to Live By?”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Teach Me O Lord

Senior Choir

Thomas Attwood

* DOXOLOGY: 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

SENDING

* HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

#237

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

#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*