

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: We no longer have to wait and yearn for God, for God has come.

All: God is near, ever near.

One: We no longer have to wait and long to hear from God, for God has spoken.

All: God is speaking.

One: We no longer have to wait and imagine the day of our salvation, for the Savior has come to bring hope to the weary.

All: God is here.

One: Let us worship God.

* HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

#115

CENTERING

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

The Smith Family

Lindsay and Adam, Larkin, Pender and Avery

Isaiah 2:2-5

Leader: Where do we hear of hope?

Left side: Those who place their hope in the Lord

Right side: will renew their strength and mount up with wings like eagles.

Leader: Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,

Left side: plans for your welfare and not for harm,

Right side: to give you a future with hope.

Leader: On this first Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle to hear hope.

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

**All: Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you,
But so often we get in the way of ourselves.**

**We see only the deep sadness of the world,
and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow.**

**We assume that things will never get better,
and do not see all that is good right now.**

**We close our eyes and complain about the darkness,
rather than see the light that shines all around us.**

**One: In the silence, we confess the ways we have stifled hope Holy God,
we aspire to love and trust you,**

SILENT PRAYER

One: Help us, Holy One.

**All: Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope, so that
as the Christ Child comes to us once again, we will see him, and
know him, and rejoice. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Siblings in Christ, the promise is true:

All: God loves us. God forgives us.

One: God is coming to us even now to save us, and kindles hope in our hearts.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

* 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

Rev. Christine Hribar

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.

*Children will now go to Sunday school;
they will return to sit with their families during communion.*

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending
Senior Choir

Kevin Hildebrand

* DOXOLOGY #47

All praise, eternal Christ, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free;
Once more upon thy people shine
And fill the world with love divine. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 22:25-31

Read by Leah Waldo

[Jesus continued,] “Signs will appear in the sun, the moon and the stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. The powers in the heavens will be shaken. After that, people will see the Chosen One coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your ransom is near at hand.”

And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, or any other tree. You see when they’re budding and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things happening, know that the reign of God is near.”

SERMON

“Growing in the Dark”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

* HYMN

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

#117

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Senior Choir

OFFERING OF THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

* HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

#128

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE: (please join in singing) #121 verse 1

Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Maria VanKalken, *organ*