

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 6, 2026 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am

GATHERING

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christine Hribar

from Matthew 11:28-30

One: Jesus calls us into worship and into rest with these words:

**All: “Come to me, all labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.**

One: Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.

All: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

One: We worship the one who shares our burdens and gives us rest.

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

by Reinhold Niebuhr

O God, you have bound us together in this life.

**Give us grace to understand how our lives depend
on the courage, industry, honesty,
and integrity of all who labor.**

**May we be mindful of their needs,
grateful for their faithfulness,
and faithful in our responsibilities to them.**

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. Lindsay Popperson

All: We are workers, God, just like you. But we confess that our work is not always done in a manner that affirms and honors each other. Our work is not always done in a spirit that is pleasing to you. We confess that we have blindly bought goods made by people who are paid too little or work in unsafe conditions. We admit that we have failed to end an unjust system in which some workers have jobs that provide good wages and benefits while others may have no job, or one that pays little and provides few benefits.

Creator God, help us to be your people, working for a world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. And one where those who serve—in stores, schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and many other places—are also served by us.

One: May this world become a world where we learn to share our abundance, where we join in the movement of love and justice in the world.

All: We confess the many ways in which we are in need of healing, all that we have done and left undone.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: Our God is a God of grace and transformation.

All: May we live forgiven and set free. When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 30:1-14

Pam Crowell

Woe to the rebellious children, says the Lord,
who carry out a plan but not mine;
who make an alliance but against my will,
adding sin to sin;

who set out to go down to Egypt
without asking for my counsel,
to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh
and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt.

Therefore the protection of Pharaoh shall
become your shame,
and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt your
humiliation.

For though his officials are at Zoan
and his envoys reach Hanes,
everyone comes to shame
through a people that cannot profit them,
that brings neither help nor profit,
only shame and disgrace.

Through a land of trouble and distress,
of lioness and roaring lion,
of viper and flying serpent,
they carry their riches on the backs of donkeys
and their treasures on the humps of camels
to a people that cannot profit them.

For Egypt's help is worthless and empty;
therefore I have called her,
"Rahab who sits still.

Go now, write it before them on a tablet,
and inscribe it on a scroll,
so that it may be for the time to come
as a witness forever.

For they are a rebellious people,
faithless children,
children who will not hear
the instruction of the Lord;

who say to the seers, "Do not see,"
and to the prophets,
"Do not prophesy to us what is right;
speak to us smooth things;
prophesy illusions;

leave the way; turn aside from the path;
let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel:
Because you reject this word
and put your trust in oppression and deceit
and rely on them,

therefore this iniquity shall become for you
like a break in a high wall,
bulging out and about to collapse,
whose crash comes suddenly, in an instant;
its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel
that is smashed so ruthlessly
that among its fragments not a sherd is found
for taking fire from the hearth
or dipping water out of the cistern.

PROSE READING

"The Little Prince" Section 1

Rev. Christine Hribar

SERMON

"Boa Constrictors, Primeval Forests, and the Stars"

Rev. Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*Today, we are receiving communion by intinction—dipping the bread in the cup and receiving both elements together.
You will be invited to come forward via the center aisles, receive communion, and then return to your seats via the
outer aisles.*

*If you would prefer, for any reason, to receive communion in your pew, stay seated and communion will be brought to
you.*

*All are welcome to receive communion at Old North—young and old, baptized and not. There are gluten free
crackers available on each tray, and we serve only non-alcoholic grape juice.
We wait until everyone is served, and then partake of the elements together.*

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Announcements Sunday, September 6, 2026

TODAY

TODAY is our last worship service at Chandler Hovey Park for the season. Please join us back in the sanctuary for worship at 8 and 10am on September 13.

Today's Deacons are: Mark and Marge Adams at 8am and Leah Waldo and Betsey Halbert at 10am.

Today's Flowers are: given by Claudia Macomber in honor of her parents,
Nancy C. and George E. Joseph, and her grandmothers,
Grace Ward Joseph and Alice MacPherson Carle.

Coffee Hour at the Lighthouse – Please join us for coffee hour after the service at the Lighthouse. Don't forget to bring your travel cup so we can reduce waste and save trees. In keeping with our church's commitment to being green, all items utilized and served at the lighthouse coffee are compostable. A compost bin is provided for cups, napkins and utensils.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Donut Sunday September 13th—Join us for coffee and donuts in the parish hall after the 10 o'clock service for our first Sunday back in the sanctuary for fall church.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Time to Register Children and Youth for Church Activities—Nursery care, Church School, Youth Group: please register your child(ren) here using the QR code to participate in church activities this academic year!



Bibles for Children and Families—Beloved families, this church has a history of giving Bibles to third graders, but the tradition has lapsed in the past handful of years. We'd love to get bibles into the hands of children and families that will actually be read and used. If you'd like to be part of thinking through giving out bibles (be it to 3-5th graders or a sort of Bible Book Fair) let Rev. Christine (rev.christinehribar@gmail.com) know!

North Shore Youth Ministry—Jess Easter has served as the Youth Group Leader for the North Shore Youth Ministries (NSYM), which is a collaboration between four churches (Old North Church, Clifton Lutheran Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and First Church Swampscott) since 2024. She is a recent graduate of BU School of Theology. To get in touch with Jess for more details about youth programs, or if finding a ride to any youth events is ever an issue, please reach out to Jess (jess@thensym.org) as she can make connections between families to make sure our youth have the opportunity to join.

FAITH IN ACTION -- THURSDAY, SEPT 10, 11AM, GREAT ROOM

The "Faith in Action" group meets monthly to build relationships and share information about how to put our faith into action in these challenging times. We are a group of folks from Old North Church, St. Andrew's Church, and First Church Swampscott, along with other friends.

This group gets support and guidance from ECCO, the Essex County Community Organization, which "brings people together across lines of difference to build people-power, provide moral clarity, and change policies to address the root causes of injustice in our midst." If you're curious, we'd love to have you join us!

FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

Please consider joining the Old North Senior Choir this season!— Singers of all ages (from high school aged to late adulthood!) and all levels of experience are enthusiastically welcomed and encouraged to enroll! Singing is not only gratifying and incredibly enjoyable, but, in fact, good for your health and well-being! Regular rehearsals for the Senior Choir take place on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm to 9pm, and at 9am on Sunday mornings.

The first rehearsal for the upcoming season is Wednesday, September 16, at 7:30pm; this rehearsal will be followed by social time with fellow singers and Maria van Kalken, Minister of Music.

FROM THE FESTIVAL CHORUS COMMITTEE

Rehearsals for the 46th annual Old North Festival Chorus concerts will begin on Wednesday, September 30, in the Sanctuary at Old North Church. Please arrive early to register; registration begins at 7pm and a rehearsal will follow promptly thereafter at 7:30pm. All singers are welcome! While participation in the Festival Chorus requires no audition, previous choral experience is expected. Singers are required to purchase their own musical scores (provided at registration); beyond the purchase of musical scores, a nominal registration fee will be collected as well. Rehearsals will take place from 7:30pm to 9pm every Wednesday; as the performance dates approach (Saturday, December 5 at 8pm and Sunday, December 6, at 7:30pm), rehearsals will extend to 9:30pm.

The centerpiece of the upcoming December 2026 Festival Chorus Concerts is a stunningly beautiful Christmas Mass (*Missa per il Santissimo Natale di Nostro Signore*) composed by Giovanni Alberto Ristori, a contemporary of Vivaldi. Our concert program will begin with the opening chorus of J.S. Bach's magnificent Christmas Oratorio. The "pops portion" of the concert will honor the ongoing celebration of the 250th anniversary of America, with a focus on music by American composers and arrangers, including spirituals, jazz arrangements, and culminating with the beloved *A Musicological Journey Through the Twelve Days of Christmas* by Craig Courtney. As always, our program will also include traditional music of the season and carols with audience participation, and all accompanied by the outstanding Old North Festival Orchestra.

High school-aged students – grades 9-12 – are encouraged to join the adult singers of Festival Chorus! Each of the four sections – soprano, alto, tenor, and bass-baritone – is led by our wonderful professional soloists/section leaders from the Old North Senior Choir.

This season's ensemble of superb Old North section leaders/soloists includes: Anne Burgett, soprano; Holly Cameron, soprano; and Kevin Hayden, tenor – all veterans of Old North's Senior Choir and Music Program and returning after numerous previous seasons. Auditions for a bass-baritone section leader/soloist have been announced and are being scheduled at this time.

Please visit the Festival Chorus Website at: www.oldnorthfestivalchorus.org or contact Maria vanKalken (vankalken@gmail.com) with questions about any aspect of the Music Program at Old North, the Senior Choir, or the Old North Festival Chorus.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Join The Haven Project's 5K Run/Walk!—Lace up your sneakers and hit the trails at Lynn Woods Reservation on Saturday, September 12th to support housing-unstable youth ages 17–24.

Every step you take and every dollar raised will directly benefit The Haven Project's programming—providing essential resources, housing support, and opportunities for young people in need. Whether you're a seasoned runner or just looking to make a difference, this event is the perfect chance to contribute to a brighter future for our community's youth.

After the race, enjoy the festival area with food trucks, local vendors, and family activities. It's a family-friendly, dog-friendly event, so bring the whole crew! You can sign up by using the QR code.



When you register, select "join an existing team" and select "Old North Church, Marblehead."

Welcome the Stranger have been busy helping supply household goods to several families moving out of shelter into their own homes but our supplies are dwindling. If you have any of the following, please contact Lynda Hare (hares8carrots@hotmail.com).

Sheets (for queen, full and twin beds), New standard size pillows, Comforters, Towels,
Glasses, Knives, Mugs, air fryers, mixers, etc etc.
All items should be new or very gently used.

CHURCH FAIR

Important dates:

Preview Party: Fri. Nov 13
Holiday Marketplace: Sat Nov 14
After church sale: Sun Nov 15

COMMUNITY LIFE

Prayer Shawl 2026-2027—Prayer Shawl Ministry resumes on the second Wednesday of the month beginning September 9 in the Great Room, Stacey Street, 10:30-12. Please join us to help wrap the congregation in love and support, all knitters are welcome. Needles, pattern and yarn are supplied for the ONC Adult and Baptism shawls, join us to grab supplies, sit and knit, or stop by to see what we are doing. Your knitting project goes home with you to continue knitting at your own pace. For more information or questions contact Alexandra at alexandradane@me.com.

Dates for 2026-2027:

September 9
October 14
November 11
December 9

January 13

February 10

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

What's going on in the Memorial Garden?—While everyone's attention is on the scaffolding and renovation work on the front of the church, a major renovation is also happening in the Memorial Garden. This summer a work crew has been replacing the old brick pathway through the garden ..No more heels caught in the cracks, stumbles over broken brick or invasive weeds! In addition, a couple of dedicated volunteers have cleaned up and weeded the planted spaces as well as completed a major pruning of the overgrown trees and shrubs. More light and air now enhance our beautiful and serene garden so come visit and enjoy our peaceful garden.

Ecclesiastical Council for Karen Kilty, Sept 22, 6pm, Maple Street Church— Karen Kilty, our former Director of Children's Ministries (who left ONC in 2023 to attend seminary) has reached the final step of the ordination process in the United Church of Christ. On Thursday, Sept 22 at 6pm at Maple Street Church in Danvers, she will have an Ecclesiastical Council, a chance for her to present to a group of clergy and laity from the Northeast Association of the SNEUCC; the Council will examine her (ask questions) and vote on her fitness for ministry. Rev. Lindsay will be there, and any ONC friends are invited to attend (and two of you can be "voting delegates"; if you're interested in this, let Lindsay know!) You can attend on zoom by using [this](#) QR code.



Life and Living Course Continues October 11, 2026- "Finding Meaning in Secular Times"—Our topic for October 11 is: "Finding Meaning in Secular Times". To read a related article, you can use this link: <https://bit.ly/4x8nFAX>

Some argue there is a cultural, moral, or philosophical chasm left behind by the decline of traditional religious faith in modern societies, leading to a crisis in meaning. In a secular world people find meaning by creating their own through personal goals, human connections, and everyday life experiences instead of relying on religion.



As always we gather in person in the Great Room of Old North Church's Stacey Street Office, from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., or on-line via the Zoom link below.

Meeting ID: 894 6648 8441

Passcode:979357

Gestures of Cheer – If you know of anyone, either here at Old North or in the wider Marblehead community, who is going through a difficult time, the Community Life Board would like to reach out with a little plant and a friendly note. Please contact Lynda Hare at hares8carrots@hotmail.com or 781-639-0107 if you know someone who would appreciate a little extra cheer.

The Narthex display for Summer – America’s 250th! “First Church Members in the Revolution” – In honor of America’s birthday, the narthex display through the summer features historical members of the congregation who were heroes in the cause for Independence as well as modern ones who portray them.

We want you! – The Community Life Ministry brings our church community together outside of the Sunday morning worship services and we are looking for new members. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm for about an hour, September through May, and our aim is to plan an activity or event once a month throughout the church calendar year. Please contact Janet Doyle if you think you might be interested. janet@doylesailsonedesign.com or cell: 781-530-0065

Heartfelt Thanks from The Village Organic Garden! –We are having a wonderful, productive season at the VOG, providing hundreds of pounds of produce and flowers to the Marblehead Food Pantry every Tuesday and Thursday. So much of this success is because of the many volunteers we have had from Old North! For details and to sign up, please visit the SPUR website:

<https://www.spurnorthshore.org/>

CHURCH OPERATIONS

Accessing Rev. Lindsay’s Calendar – Pastor Lindsay is available to meet with you for pastoral care, to discuss church matters, or simply to get to know you. You may reach Rev. Lindsay at her email address, lindsay@onchurch.org or by phone at 781-631-1244 x102. You can schedule time with her at calendly.com/lindsaypopper.

Accessing Rev. Christine’s Calendar – You can access Rev. Christine’s calendar online as well to schedule time with her: <https://calendly.com/christine-hribar>.

Rev. Christine may also be reached at her email address, revchristinehribar@gmail.com or by phone at 781-631-1244 x105.

Church Building Access and Office Hours – The church office is staffed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am-NOON. If you have an emergency outside of office hours, or need access to the Church Office, please send an email to office@onchurch.org