

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 27, 2024 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: Blessed are those who serve the poor,
All: they will be called the children of God.

One: Blessed are those who share the wealth,
All: they will be called the children of God.

One: Blessed are those who work for good,
All: they will be called the children of God.

One: Blessed are those who open doors,
All: they will be called the children of God.

One: Blessed are those who break down walls,
All: they will be called the children of God.

One: Blessed are those who challenge hate,
All: they will be called the children of God.

One: Blessed are those who live their faith,
All: they will be called the children of God.

One: Blessed are those who speak the truth,
All: they will be called the children of God.

One: Blessed are those who show Christ's love,
All: they will be called the children of God.

* HYMN

The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore

#261

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

Holy Spirit, open our minds to recognize Jesus when he comes to us. Open our hearts to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Open our hands to share what we have and receive what we need.

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

All: Jesus, you told us you would appear to us in the disguise of the least of these, but we curry favor with the wealthy and powerful. We see the need in the world and become overwhelmed or paralyzed with fear. But you come to us, again and again, and give us the opportunity to meet you: in strangers and neighbors, in children and elders, in those very similar to us and those very different. Forgive us for when we fail to recognize you, and fail to meet your needs.

One: In the silence, we call to mind the times this week when we have missed the chance to offer food and water, comfort and community.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Jesus comes to us, again and again, offering forgiveness and healing.

All: Jesus comes to us, offering fresh chances to encounter him in “the least of these.”

One: Our willingness to confront our mistakes and change our ways matters: to us, to our neighbors, to God.

All: We are forgiven. 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

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.**

*Children will now go to Sunday school;
their families can meet them in the classroom when the service is over*

* HYMN

Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door

#305

LISTENING

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31–46

Read by Mark Roberge

When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-3

Read by Katharine Redmond

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

ANTHEM

There Is a Balm in Gilead

African-American Spiritual

Holly Cameron and Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Senior Choir

SERMON

“Sheep and Goats”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

MISSION MOMENT

Ginny von Rueden

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Down to the River to Pray
Senior Choir

arr. Sheldon Curry

* 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

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

#503

* 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*