

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

Rev. Don Remick

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Something stirs deep within us ...

All: A longing, a hope, a thirst for joy

One: A hunger for peace, a yearning for blessing

All: We know deep within

One: That our hopes and fears

All: Will be met by angel songs

One: And a baby's cry

All: That will turn the world upside down.

One: It is Advent ...

All: Season of waiting, hoping, yearning. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

* HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#114

CENTERING

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Mark and Marge Adams

One: In the season of Advent, we remember when God became flesh, and moved into our neighborhoods. Like a pregnant mother, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Though Christ was born two thousand years ago, so much is still broken in the world. In the season of Advent, we remember that we too are called to embody God. I find hope in...

One: We light the first Advent candle, the candle of hope.

Many: Waymaking God, we commit today to being a hopeful people. Even when the ground is frozen, we know there are bulbs waiting to bloom in spring. We come together to give each other courage and to find solace in your presence. We will leave this place ready to embody your hope, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

One: We confess that we often give into hopelessness.

All: We confess that we doubt transformation can happen.

One: We confess how we become stuck in old paths, and fail to try new ways.

All: We confess how complacent we can be.

One: In silence, we confess to you all the ways we fail to nurture hope in our lives and in our world.

Silence is kept

All: Holy one, our hope is frail and sometimes faltering. Even so, don't give up on us. Forgive us for our small minds and hardened hearts, and show us another way to live. We pray this for love's sake. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: The hope of Advent is this:

All: God comes to us, breaking into our broken world.

One: God comes to us, showing us what love looks like.

All: God comes to us, offering forgiveness, freedom, and new life.

CHORAL RESPONSE

**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.**

* HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

#115

LISTENING

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

Read by Ed Jasaitis

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke” —we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

ANTHEM

Of Eternal Love Begotten
Senior Choir

Plainsong

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44

Read by Rev. Don Remick

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

SERMON

“Embodying God’s Hope”

Rev. Don Remick

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Lord of All Hopefulness
Senior Choir

arr. Grundahl

* 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

* CHORAL RESPONSE

SENDING

* HYMN

Wake Awake, for Night Is Flying

#128

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE: #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*