

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Jazz Sunday

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE Mark Shilansky, *piano*; Jeff Stout, *trumpet*; Dave Clark, *bass*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

INTROIT (Please join in singing) *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* #467

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Don Remick

O Christ, the risen One, ascended into heaven, yet closer than our own breath, draw us into your presence. Be near to us — near to our praises, our prayers, our words, our songs; near to our wonderings, our tentative answers, our hidden doubts, our deepest affirmations. Be near to us, risen Lord. Amen.

* HYMN

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

#439

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy one, we lift our eyes to you who dwell in high and holy places. We sing our song to you who are in the very air we breathe. We pause in the music of silence to listen for you who are in the beating heart beside us. You are our help and our hope. Hear us and be near us as we pray the words taught to us by the risen and ascended one, Jesus Christ.....

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

Excerpt from "Listen, Lord: A Prayer" by James Weldon Johnson

O Lord, we come this morning
Knee-bowed and body-bent
Before Thy throne of grace.

O Lord—this morning—
Bow our hearts beneath our knees,
And our knees in some lonesome valley.

We come this morning—
Like empty pitchers to a full fountain,
With no merits of our own.

O Lord—open up a window of heaven,
And lean out far over the battlements of glory,
And listen this morning.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Lamentations 3:22-23

One: "The Lord's favor is not exhausted,
All: Nor has God's compassion failed.

One: They rise up anew each morning,
All: So great is God's faithfulness."

One: God is with us, extending hope, offering forgiveness.
All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

#437

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.**

Children will remain with their families this morning to enjoy Jazz Sunday.

ANTHEM

You've Got a Friend

Carole King
arr. by Mac Huff

* HYMN

He's Got the Whole World

African-American Spiritual

1. He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.
2. He's got the wind and the rain in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.
3. He's got the sun and the moon in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.
4. He's got the little bitty baby in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.
5. He's got you and me Brother in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.
6. He's got you and me Sister in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.
7. He's got everybody here in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 121

Read by Mark Roberge

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

ANTHEM

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me arr. by David Cherwien

MEDITATION

“I Lift My Eyes to Higher Ground” Rev. Don Remick

A TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

People Get Ready

Curtis Mayfield,
arr. Kyle Pederson

RESPONDING

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Kevin Hayden

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Higher Ground

Stevie Wonder
arr. Matt and Adam Pond/Kirby Shaw

* 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

ANTHEM (please be seated) *Climbin' Higher Mountains*

arr. Kirby Shaw

SENDING

INTRO to *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah,*

arr. by Howard Helvey (soloists)

* HYMN

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

S 18

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (Please join in singing)

Refrain:

**(All): What the world needs now is love, sweet love.
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.
What the world needs now is love, sweet love,
No, not just for some, but for ev'vry one.**

(Solo): Lord, we don't need another mountain,
there are mountains and hillsides enough to climb.
There are oceans and rivers enough to cross,
enough to last till the end of time. **(Refrain)**

POSTLUDE Mark Shilansky, *piano*; Jeff Stout, *trumpet*; Dave Clark, *bass*

Soloists

Holly Cameron, *soprano*; Gabriela Fagen, *mezzo-soprano*
Kevin Hayden, *tenor*; Andrew Scoglio, *baritone*

Note to the Congregation:

We use the word “performance” when we refer to the final result of our preparation and rehearsal. Part of our inspiration for learning our music well comes, of course, from a desire to present it well to you, our public, but, beyond the performance aspect, our inspiration to devote such precious time and concentration, our willingness to do our personal best, our promise to leave our egos and personal concerns far, far away, and ultimately our pledge to think with and for those around us—comes from the satisfaction of working together to create an ensemble. The purpose of our performance, therefore, is not merely to entertain the audience, but to enlighten ourselves as an ensemble, by creating something much larger and more meaningful than each of us can do individually. At the same time, we hope to add our own meaning to the text and to the musical intentions of the composer. Singing (and ringing!) in a choir allows one to strive for and reach individual goals while collaborating with an entire group; it also provides fellowship, challenge, a wonderful sense of accomplishment, and ultimately, a sacred space for both performers and listeners. Beyond our own quite satisfying mission as described above, please know that we love to provide sacred music to you as listeners; without you there to receive our music, we are incomplete.

Heartfelt thanks to our music staff, volunteers and committee members for their tireless dedication to execute our music program, to our ministers and office staff, and to the congregation for your generous support.

Gratefully yours,

Maria