

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

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**March 29, 2026**

**Palm Sunday**

**10:00am**

We extend a warm welcome to all who have come to worship today. If you are unfamiliar with our traditions, the \* indicates that those who are able are encouraged to stand, **bold type** indicates unison participation.

*Our worship begins with the Prelude. Please be mindful of those who wish to spend this time in prayer.*

**GATHERING**

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Parker Horgan

One: Hosanna, we cry! Save us!

**All: Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Lift your heads and behold Emmanuel, "God with us."

**All: We behold how God's love endures:**

One: Through joy and triumph, through suffering and pain, through betrayal and death,

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

\* HYMN

*All Glory Laud and Honor*

#178

**CENTERING**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

*Psalm 24 translated by Norman Fischer*

**All: All the earth and all that fills it belongs to you**

**And the earth and all that lives is yours**

**For you have arrayed it upon the dark waters**

**Upon the rivers you have set it firm**

One: Who shall ascend your mountain?  
Who shall stand in the place where you stand?

**All: The one with the open hands  
The one with the open heart  
The one whose soul is not lifted up with lies  
Nor deceit, seduction, or heedlessness**

One: That one will be moved along with your blessing  
Will be fortified with your rightness  
And will be kept whole

**All: This is the circle of those who love you  
Who search out your presence  
Jacob's family: those who journey**

One: Raise your heads, gates!  
Be raised wide, everlasting doors  
And let the fire enter!  
What is this fire?  
It is you, powerful and final  
Decisive in all things

**All: Raise up your heads, gates!  
Raise open wide, everlasting doors  
And let the fire in!  
What is this fire?  
All in all, this is the fire  
All in all, this is what burns ever bright**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

**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: Loving God, at this time, we remember that going up to Jerusalem cost Jesus his very life.

**All: So we come before you, conscious of the way religious words and holy phrases can slip so easily from our lazy lips and our hardened hearts.**

One: What do we really know of your mountainous truth, your rock-hard integrity, the depth of your suffering for love of us all?

**All: Forgive us for the shallowness of our faith, and the timidity of our following: forgive us for the ready excuses we make for going our own way and claiming it as yours.**

One: Turn us around again, we pray, by your Holy Spirit, active within us and among us.

**All: Show us how to be open again to your faithfulness and to your freedom, that we may live new lives and be again bearers of the seeds of the Kingdom.**

One: In silence we confess what is on our hearts...

### SILENCE

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear these words of assurance: there is nothing, nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ. We are forgiven and set free.

**All: We live into this truth today and always.**

\* 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.**

### LISTENING

## 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.**

*We invite any children interested to now join their teachers in leaving the sanctuary for Sunday School.  
Their families can meet them in the classroom when the service is over.*

\* HYMN

*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

#179

## GOSPEL READING

*John 12:12-27*

Read by Mark Adams

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!” Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

SERMON

“Inciting Courage”

Rev. Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER

**RESPONDING**

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

*His Voice as the Sound*  
Senior Choir

arr. Shaw/Parker

\* DOXOLOGY #45

Praise God for love we all may share  
Praise God for beauty everywhere.  
Praise God for hope of good to be.  
Praise God for truth that makes us free. Amen

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\* HYMN *My Song Is Love Unknown* #192

GOSPEL READING The Passion of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ  
*John 19:16-30*

**SENDING**

\* HYMN *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* #187

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Maria vanKalken, organ*

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**The Passion of Jesus Christ, According to John**  
*John 19:16-30*

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it."

This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

“They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.