

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 13, 2026 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Lamentations 3:19-23

One: “I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.

All: I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.

One: Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:

All: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for God's compassions never fail.

One: They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.”

All: Let us worship our merciful God.

* HYMN *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* #57

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Rev. Christine Hribar

Be with us, God: in the winds over the waters, in the breath upon our lips.

Be with this world and settle among us, in this space.

We bring our full selves, all we are and, all we carry, all we hope to be.

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

One: We hear a story today of survival and covenant, but also of terrible loss.
How, God, do we live upon this earth?

**All: We confess our heartache, our worries,
the boulders that we carry around.
We confess our lack of care for the creeping, crawling things, for
the expanse of humanity, and even those closest to us.
Hold our hearts, heavy with loss and grief, shrouded with quick
fixes, tender with our own vulnerabilities.**

One: Into the silence we confess what weighs upon us.

SILENCE

One: Lift what weighs on our hearts into your heart.
Forgive us and free us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God knows us to do the depths of our souls and the tips of our toes.
God's love for us is wider than the ocean.

All: May we live into this Love, forgiven and set free.

* 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

**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 *The Sun is On the Sea and Shore* #261

LISTENING

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Read by Bonnie MacDonald

Genesis 6:5-22; 7:17-19; 8:1-2; 9:12-16

YHWH saw the great wickedness of the people of the earth,
that the thoughts in their hearts fashioned nothing but evil.

YHWH was sorry that humankind had been created on earth; it pained God's heart.

YHWH said, “I will wipe this human race that I have created from the face of the earth—not only the humans, but also the animals, the reptiles, and the birds of the heavens. I am sorry I ever made them.”

But Noah found favor in the eyes of YHWH.

These are the generations of Noah:

Noah was just and blameless among his contemporaries, and walked in accord with God. Noah had three children: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

It was clear to God that the world was corrupt and full of violence. God looked at the earth, and saw that it had gone to ruin: all flesh had defiled its way upon the earth. So God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before me, for they are the cause of all its violence. I will destroy them, and the earth as well.

“Build an ark for yourself out of cypress. Build rooms in the ark, and coat it with pitch, both inside and out. Its dimensions are to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet tall. Put a roof over it, with an overhang of eighteen inches. Put a door on the side, and give it a lower deck, and a second and a third deck below that.

“What I have decided to do is to flood the earth and to destroy all flesh under heaven that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will die. But I will establish my covenant with you: you and your wife will go into the ark, with your children and their spouses. Bring with you two of every living thing—one male and one female—of all flesh, to preserve them. Every kind of bird, every kind of animal, and every kind of thing that creeps on the ground—two of each—are to come to you, to keep alive. You must also store up all kinds of food to eat—food for yourselves, and food for all the creatures with you.” Noah did as he was instructed; he did everything that God commanded.

For forty days the flood continued, and the rising water lifted the ark so that it rose high above the earth. The waters rose and rose throughout the whole earth, and the ark rose with them. The waters rose so high over the earth that all the high mountains under heaven were covered.

God did not forget Noah and all the animals in the ark, and sent a mighty wind over the earth so that the waters began to subside. The springs of the Deep and the windows in the heavens were closed up. The rain from the heavens stopped.

God said, “Here is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature for ageless generations: I set my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, my bow will appear in the clouds. Then I will remember the covenant that is between me and you and every kind of living creature, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. Whenever my bow appears in the clouds I will see it, and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature on the earth.”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 8:24-27

Read by Mark Roberge

A windstorm suddenly arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves, but Jesus was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?"

Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a dead calm.

They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

Kocher/Monk

Senior Choir

SERMON

"In the Same Boat"

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Senior Choir

* 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

Be Still My Soul

#95

* 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*