

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 28, 2024

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am & 10am

GATHERING

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

(Psalm 145, selections, translated by Pamela Greenberg)

One: All your creation, God, thanks you;

All: all the faithful cry out praise of your blessings.

One: You care for the entire world.

All: Your governance continues from one generation to the next.

One: You support all who are falling and straighten those who are bent.

All: All eyes search for you with hope and you give them food in its time.

One: You open up your hand, satisfying the desires of all life.

All: You are righteous in all your words, kind in every act, close to all who call out, to all who earnestly call out your name.

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

God of love and God of justice, we come to this sacred place looking for you. Young and old, stranger and friend, believer and doubter, we come to you. Your love surrounds us here today and will go with us when we leave. We call out your name, and hear your response in the silence, the birdsong, the waves, our heartbeats, every sign of life.

SILENT PRAYER

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

Jesus taught us not to be anxious about our lives or about tomorrow. Much in the world makes us anxious or fills us with dread. We bring ourselves, and all that we carry, before a God who promises peace. In the silence, we bring our burdens before the God who knows us. (*silence is kept*)

One: When we have relied on that which distracts us and that which numbs us:

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: When we have put our hope in the powers of this world, instead of in you:

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: When, believing they cannot make a difference, we have failed to continue in doing small works with great love,

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: When we have turned away from the suffering of others and concerned ourselves only with our own comfort,

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: When we have become separated from you, the Source of Love in whom we live and move and have our being,

All: Lord, source of mercy, welcome us back, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in love, and lead us to new life, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: The God of Love is with us, and the God of Love is for us.

All: The God of Love forgives us, and the God of Love frees us.

One: Come what may, we can live in this world as people of love.

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

POETRY READING

“Yes” by William Stafford

Yes

It could happen any time, tornado,
earthquake, Armageddon. It could happen.
Or sunshine, love, salvation.

It could, you know. That’s why we wake
and look out—no guarantees
in this life.

But some bonuses, like morning,
like right now, like noon,
like evening.

SERMON

“Deep Roots, Strong Storms” Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

*(poem from The Way It Is: New and Selected Poems, William Stafford, Graywolf, 1999.)
The use of this poem in our worship service is permissible under US copyright law (17 U.S.C. §
110(3))*

Announcements Sunday, July 28, 2024

TODAY

Today's Deacons are: Mark Adams (reading today's Scripture lesson) and Rebecca Ehrhardt (reading today's Poem) at the 8am Lighthouse Worship; and Rebecca Ehrhardt (reading Scripture) and Ruth Duell (reading Poetry) at the 10am Sanctuary Service

Summer Worship at Chandler Hovey Park – Again this year we are happy to continue our annual summer tradition of worshiping together at Chandler Hovey Park. There is something unique and spiritual about gathering in worship where ocean waters meet solid rock and the light shines to guide people safely. As in the past, if it is raining at 8 am, the service will be moved to the Sanctuary. Look for the sandwich board sign at the Devereux Beach entrance: if green, go to the Lighthouse; if red, the service will be held in the Sanctuary.

10 Am Worship continues through July – We've had a regular response to our 10 am service this summer and the Diaconate has decided to continue this service through the month of July. We will continue to offer the 8 am service at the Lighthouse at Chandler Hovey State Park (which will move to the Sanctuary in inclement weather). This summer we will be painting the Sanctuary ceiling as part of our Capital Campaign. When that project begins we will move the 10am service to the Parish Hall.

Coffee Hour at the Lighthouse – Please join us for coffee hour after the service at the Lighthouse (or in the Parish Hall in the case of inclement weather). Don't forget to bring your travel cup so we can reduce waste and save trees.

Online worship – For the month of July we will continue to livestream our 10am worship held in the Sanctuary.

Rev. Lindsay is back! – "Church, I missed you! I'm so grateful I had the chance to step away for a few weeks, rest, and get a fresh perspective on our shared ministry. We went to Acadia and had a family reunion in New Hampshire; I took weaving lessons and read a lot of books. I'm coming back refreshed with a lot of excitement and hope for the months and years ahead.

I'm looking forward to having much more time to spend in the community, especially spending one-on-one time with as many of you as possible as we dream about and plan for the future. I'll be in the office all day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (you can put yourself on my calendar at calendly.com/lindsaypopper/30min).

Ashley and I are planning to move to the North Shore soon; there are a lot of moving parts to that, and we're prioritizing Nicholas (making sure he has everything needs, and that we follow all the requirements of the Department of Children and Families as we move). It won't happen right away, but I'll keep you posted as things move along.

I'd love to see you at either of our Sunday services (8am at the Lighthouse, 10am at the church meetinghouse)!"

YOUTH MINISTRY

MYCM (Marblehead Youth Cooperative Ministry) is pleased and excited to announce Jessica Easter as our first MYCM Youth Minister. – A student at Boston University's School of Theology, Jessica will officially begin here on August 11, and after a few weeks of remote preparations, she'll be on site by early September to meet parishioners at all three congregations: St.

Andrew's Episcopal, Clifton Lutheran, and Old North (United Church of Christ). The part-time job allows for the establishment of one or more youth groups (e.g. high school and middle school), as well as some time spent at each church each month.

Jessica comes highly recommended with excellent religious training and numerous experiences with youth and families. Since September of 2023, she has led Godly Play at Saint John's Episcopal Church in Jamaica Plain. Before that she was Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Coordinator at Mount Cross Lutheran Church in Camarillo, California for close to four years, serving as an assistant youth leader and also as a preschool teacher, experiences which, as her mentor explains "kept her work in religion grounded and practical. "Jessica helped with high schoolers and faith formation with younger children, but she was primarily tasked with building and leading a middle school youth group. She says it was during Covid and it was challenging, but "My biggest thing is asking the kids what they want to do. They started to invite their own friends, and we ended up with a much larger group. That was rewarding to see the community that they built."

As an undergraduate at California Lutheran University, Jessica was an honors student and a peer leader, and she received a number of fellowships and awards. References cite her love of children and youth, her impressive communication skills, and her leadership capacity. Strong relationship skills and a deep commitment to open and affirming practices are among the impressive attributes she will bring to her work with young people.

Jessica expects to receive her Master of Divinity in May 2026. She has expressed great enthusiasm for her new position at MYCM and says of our ecumenical approach, "I believe we firmly agree on the core tenants of our faith, especially in efforts of advocacy, care for one another in community, and the amazing love of God for every single person."

Thank you to the MYCM congregations for your support of this position. Current board members are: Kara Bixby and Ross Dobson from Clifton Lutheran; Betsey Halbert, Richard Thibedeau, Heather Martin and Roy Martin from Old North, and Dave Westbrook and Peg Howard from St. Andrew's, assisted by pastors Jim Bixby, Clyde Elledge, and Lindsay Popperson.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Search for a New Board Member of Essex County Habitat for Humanity – Old North Church's Outreach Ministry Board (OMB) has been asked by the Essex County Habitat for Humanity to help its board identify a new board member to represent southern Essex County. Stuart Johnson, a current board member and past-president, reached out to OMB through Old North members Steve and Suzanne Quigley to request the assistance in a partnership to better address housing needs in the south of Essex County, including cities such as Lynn, Salem, Peabody, and Gloucester. The Essex County Habitat for Humanity covers 34 cities and towns throughout Essex County, providing help to qualified families to make it more affordable for them to build and improve places to call home.

The Essex County Habitat for Humanity board currently has 16 members serving 3-year renewable terms and meeting as a full board 4 times per year. Board members also serve on subcommittees that meet more often, with most members serving on at least two. These subcommittees work closely with staff in key areas such as site and family selection, marketing and advocacy, events, development, and finance. There are currently 17 homes under construction in Essex County, including a multi-family development for 10 families in Hamilton.

The board seeks candidates who are passionate about Habitat for Humanity's mission to create affordable housing. There is a desire to balance the board composition with new members who live in southern Essex County. The ideal candidate will be someone who is well connected in the community and can relate to city and town administration, city councils and planning boards, for example. Prior experience with nonprofit boards, town/city planning, construction, finance, law, or development would be a plus.

Interested potential candidates can contact Richard von Rueden, Chair of Old North's Outreach Ministry Board at rvonrueden@gmail.com or 617-416-5264 to obtain more information and arrange for a conversation with Stuart Johnson of Essex County Habitat for Humanity.

Garden Volunteers – During the summer months we will need volunteers to weed and tidy our church properties in the Memorial Garden, front patio area and parking lot beds. The Green Team has planted a pollinator garden behind the work trucks in the parking lot which they will maintain.

If you can help for an hour or two to keep our gardens looking healthy and beautiful Please contact Ginny von Rueden: rvonrueden@comcast.net or 781-631-7898.

Gestures of Cheer – If you know of anyone, either here at Old North or in the wider Marblehead community, who is going through a difficult time, the Community Life Board would like to reach out with a little plant and a friendly note. Please contact Lynda Hare at hares8carrots@hotmail.com or 781-639-0107 if you know someone who would appreciate a little extra cheer.

CHURCH OPERATIONS

Designated Term Associate Pastor Search Team Update – Our search team is up and running for our Designated Term Associate Pastor. We have been meeting to get oriented on the search process. We've met with Rev. Alex Shea Will to receive guidance and resources. We've completed the Designated Term Associate Pastor profile which has been reviewed and approved by our Leadership Board and Conference. The position has been posted nationally. Our team is reviewing profiles. We'll be holding a mock interview to get some good practice and feedback before we launch into interviews with prospective candidates. We remain hopeful that we'll have a candidate prepared to present to the congregation in September, if not before.

Please hold us in prayer!

Your Search Team: Betsey Halbert, Blair Lord, James Horgan. (with guidance and support from Lindsay)

Seeking Refrigerator Donation - The refrigerator at Stacey Street appears to be no longer working well enough to keep items cool or frozen. Before we invest in a new one, we wanted to put out a request to see if any member has an extra one they might donate to Old North. If so, please contact the office at office@onchurch.or or 781-631-1244. Thank you.

Capital Campaign Projects Update – Painting and carpentry repairs on the Parish Hall and Link building are almost complete, and replacement of the Sanctuary roof is well underway. The old roof materials have been removed and new ice & water shield and roofing shingles are being installed, with completion by next week. Once that is done, work will begin on new copper gutters and fascia boards for both sides of the Sanctuary building to replace the rotted wooden ones. Then scaffolding will be erected on the north wall of the church building for the masonry repairs. In early August we

expect to have scaffolding erected in the sanctuary for the repainting of the ceiling. At that time, the space will be closed until the work is completed by the end of August.

In our two-year plan, the repairs to the bell tower and the repointing of the granite façade will not begin until next spring.

Property Projects – Eleven sections of new fencing have replaced deteriorated ones along the southern portion of the parking lot.