

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 15, 2026

Transfiguration

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Luke 15:3-6

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: Jesus said, "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?"

All: **When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.**

One: And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them,

All: **"Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost."**

* HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

#87

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil;

for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever.

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

Rev. Christine Hribar

adapted from Cole Arthur Riley

All: **Creator God, we confess every attempt to steal and grant dignity, as if it's something we have dominion over. We have lost ourselves in fear. We have amplified the cool and the confident and alienated those who feel strange and awkward.**

One: In demeaning others, we mistakenly believe that our own self-worth may be magnified, but in doing so we only become less human.

All: **Every effort to diminish the worth of another has only distanced us from the truth of our own dignity. Forgive us. And remind us of who we are, what we're made of, that a collective image of God is dwelling in and through us.**

One: We open our hearts to you in silence, confessing our brokenness.

SILENCE

All: **Forgive us. Help us to forgive ourselves and become faithful keepers of our cosmic birthright to beauty, justice and belonging. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let your soul receive this rest:

All: **The God who became seamstress, the God who knelt in the garden to make clothes for Eve and Adam, covers you now.**

One: As the divine meets your shame with tenderness, you are freed to stand before the earth, neighbor, your God, and yourself. Amen.

* 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

Jess Easter

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

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

#88

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 10:1-18

Read by Bonnie MacDonald

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

SERMON

“The Path Through the Valley” Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

There is a Balm in Gilead
Old North Bell Choir; Liz Smith, *Director*

arr. Michael Ryan

* 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

SENDING

* HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

#7

Please join in singing verses 1-4 following the introduction by the Bell Choir.

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

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*