

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE Lisa Brooke, *violin*; Maria vanKalken, *piano*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Don Remick

One: Come! Now is the time to worship the living Lord!

All: **We come into the presence of Jesus with joy, ready to hear his voice.**

One: Look! The kin-dom of God is among us, to be shared with the world.

All: **Our eyes are open to see God at work all around us.**

One: Listen! We gather to be nurtured and will be sent to share.

All: **We are ready to come, look, listen, then go out to the world God loves.**

One: Let us worship God!

All: **Amen!**

* HYMN

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

#353

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Holy one, you send us out as your witnesses. Our lives tell stories: stories about what we've been through, about who we are, about how you have carried us through. Empower us to tell the story of your love, not with words, but with our lives. Make us faithful and gentle, bold and courageous, as we follow the one who taught us to pray:

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: Sending God, Jesus told his disciples to go out to the towns and villages, carrying nothing, only trusting in you. We hear this story, and while we admire their faith and commitment, we are certain that we can't give up the things we carry. We hold on tight to our possessions: not just shoes and purse and cloak but all our closets full of clothing and our homes full of goods. We hold on tight to our convictions too, God, and to our doubts and fears, to our pride and prejudices. We carry our status like a suitcase, and we refuse to see, or to admit, how so much of what we carry weighs us down. In the silence, we name before you all that weighs us down.

SILENT PRAYER (Unison)

Forgive us, God! Help us to travel more lightly, not just in terms of material things, but also in terms of our spirits. Show us how to reach out to the world around us, carrying a message of peace, ready to receive what is offered. Give us the discernment to know when to simply walk away and shake the dust from our feet, letting go of that which no longer serves us but only burdens us. Help us to live into the truth that your kingdom is already at hand through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: There is no burden that Jesus will not help you carry.

All: There is no struggle that is beyond God's grace.

One: There is no failing that God will not forgive.

All: Forgiveness is ours, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God! 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.**

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Rev. Lindsay Popperson and James Horgan

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 now go to Sunday school;
they will return to sit with their families during communion.*

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

The 23rd Psalm ("Dedicated to My Mother") Bobby McFerrin
Senior Choir

* 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

CHORAL RESPONSE

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 16:1-15

Read by Mark Roberge

Paul went on also to Derbe and to Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer; but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him; and he took him and had him circumcised because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went from town to town, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily.

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river,

where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

SERMON "GO" Rev. Don Remick

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

* HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together* #311

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive communion at Old North—young and old, baptized and not.
There is gluten free bread on each tray, and we serve only non-alcoholic grape juice.*

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

In Remembrance
Senior Choir

Beryl Red

OFFERING OF THE CUP

Ashokan Farewell
Lisa Brooke, *violin*; Maria vanKalken, *organ*

Jay Unger

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

* HYMN *For the Healing of the Nations* S 4

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing) #344, 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 Lisa Brooke, *violin*; Maria vanKalken, *organ*