

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 25, 2026 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Matthew 5:3-9

Left side: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Right side: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Left side: “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Right side: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Left side: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Right side: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Left side: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

* HYMN

O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright

#260

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

adapted from Psalm 25: 1-5

**To You, O God, we lift up our souls.
To You we offer our praise and prayer,
our worship and thanksgiving,
even our very lives.**

**Make Your ways known to us.
Show us the path.
Lead us in Your truth and teach us.
For You alone are the God who saves,
the God in whom we trust.**

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

from Psalm 51:1-4, 6, 9-11

One: Our prayer of confession for today comes from Psalm 51. It is the Psalm David wrote after the events described in our scripture reading for today. Let us pray.

One: "Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

**All: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

One: For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**All: Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

One: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart."

God, hear us in the silence as we confess our own sins,
and the sins done on our behalf and in our name.

SILENT PRAYER

One: "Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**All: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me. Amen."**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us proclaim together this good news:

All: God has mercy on us.

God's steadfast love never ceases.

One: God sees us as we are, and sees us as we can be.

All: Thanks be to God!

* 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 Led by: Rev. Christine and the ONC Men's Group

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 **When Jesus Came Preaching the Way of our God** #358

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE READING

Read by Mark Adams

2 Samuel 11:1-5, 14-17, 26-27, 12:1-9

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

As Joab kept watch over the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant warriors. The men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite was killed as well.

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare and drink from his cup and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.” Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your bosom and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah, and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

ANTHEM

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Tune: *Restoration*; from Walker’s *Southern Harmony*

Senior Choir

SERMON

“Speaking Truth to Power”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

The Time for Turning

Senior Choir

Craig Courtney

* 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 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* S 15

* 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*