

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 8, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

by John Lewis

Peter Watt

One: You are a light. You are the light.

All: Never let anyone—any person or any force—dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant.

One: Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates...

All: Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge.

One: Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won.

* HYMN

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You

#94

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

by Reinhold Niebuhr, 1892-1971

O God, who has bound us together in this bundle of life, give us grace to understand how our lives depend upon the courage, the industry, the honesty, and the integrity of our neighbors; that we may be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness, and faithful in our responsibilities to them, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying:

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

One: In a world centered on image and presentation, confession can be a relief. It offers a moment to face our imperfection, trusting that through God's love and acceptance, we can come to accept ourselves. In this spirit, we confess:

We confess that our attention splinters.

All: In a world crying for peace and unity, we confess that we have not reached out to others as we should: across the bounds of religion and race, across the political aisles, across the street to greet our neighbors.

One: We confess our anxiety.

All: In a world that needs us to stay grounded, to continue to do the next right thing, we confess that our worry entangles our agency and joy.

One: We confess words spoken when silence was needed, and silence that hung when words were needed. We hold silence now, lifting our brokenness to you, God.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: With God's help we walk together.

All: In God's love we know that we are more than the sum of our actions.

One: Live into this new day in the hope and power of the one who is with us always.

* 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

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

Turn Back

#518

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 32:1-15 Read by Katharine Redmond

The people saw that Moses had delayed in coming down from the mountain. The people gathered around Aaron and said to him, “Arise, make us substitute leaders, who will lead us, because this man Moses, who led us up out of Egypt—we do not know what has become of him.”

Aaron said to them, “Remove the gold rings from the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” All the people stripped themselves of the gold rings that were on their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took it from their hands, bound it in a cloth, and made it into a molten calf. They said, “This, Israel, is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt.” Aaron saw, so he built an altar before it. Aaron announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to God!”

They rose early the next day and sacrificed ascent-offerings and brought peace-offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink, and then got up to revel.

God spoke to Moses, “Go, descend, for your people whom you brought up out of Egypt have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from the path that I commanded them to follow; they have made themselves a molten calf. They have prostrated themselves before it and have offered up sacrifices to it, saying, ‘This, Israel, is your god, who brought you up out of Egypt.’” God further said to Moses, “I have observed this people, and it is indeed a stiff-necked people. Now, let Me be; I will display indignation against them and will destroy them entirely. I will make you into a great nation.”

So Moses then pleaded with God, his God, and said, “God, why should You display indignation against Your people, whom You brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say: ‘He took them out with evil intent: to kill them in the mountains and to utterly eradicate them from the face of the earth’? Withdraw from Your display of indignation, and renounce the thought of bringing evil upon Your people. Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, to whom You swore by Your Self, telling them, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky, and I will give to your descendants this entire land that I promised, and they will inherit it forever.’”

God renounced the thought of the evil that He had said He would do to His people.

Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two Tablets of Testimony in his hand—tablets inscribed on both sides, inscribed on one side and on the other.

ANTHEM

Evening Prayer

Englebert Humperdinck

Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Holly Cameron, *mezzo-soprano*

Translation:

*When at night I go to sleep, fourteen angels watch do keep,
Two my head are guarding, two my feet are guiding;
Two upon my right hand, two upon my left hand.
Two who warmly cover, two who o'er me hover,
Two to whom 'tis given, to guide my steps to heaven.*

SERMON “In Good Time – The Value of Patience” Rabbi Jenn Mangold

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Until Love Is Spoken
Senior Choir

Karen Marrolli

* 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

SENDING

* HYMN

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

#80

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

Go Now in Peace (Shalom Chaverim)

#351

Go now in peace, go now in peace, go now in peace.

We'll meet here again, we'll meet here again, go now in peace.

Shalom chaverim, shalom chaverim. Shalom, shalom.

Lehitraot, lehitraot, shalom, shalom.

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*