

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Shilansky, *piano*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 42, translated by Pamela Greenberg* **Rev. Lindsay Popperson**

One: The way a deer longs for streams of water,
my soul has longed for you, God of Strength,

All: **My soul has thirsted for my Upholder,
for presence of the living God.
When will I arrive and behold the light of your face?**

One: My weeping was like bread for me—morning and night—
when each day they say to me, “Where is your God?”

All: **Why are you bent so low, my soul?
And why so in tumult?**

One: Be hopeful; wait for God.

All: **For in the future I will again thank you, my Upholder,
for turning me toward your face—
and because you are my God.**

*** HYMN**

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

#427

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: Holy One, your ways are a mystery. We come to meet you, but you find us in the hand on our shoulder, the slowness of a breath, the silence of a moment.

All: **You find us at the edge of the water, in the bustle of a crowd, in
song and conversation.**

One: Holy one, may we find you as we gather, may we listen closely and know your presence.

All: **We open ourselves to your mystery as we worship today.**

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

In the silence after each petition, we offer our own confessions to God.

One: For failing to love others as you have loved us...
God of grace,
All: forgive us.

One: For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods ...
God of grace,
All: forgive us.

One: For plundering the earth and abusing the planet...
God of grace,
All: forgive us.

One: For fearing those who are strange to us and ignoring those in need...
God of grace,
All: forgive us.

One: For losing heart and abandoning hope...
God of grace,
All: forgive us.

One: For all the ways we turn from you...
God of grace,
All: forgive us.

One: We offer our prayers in the name of the One who saves us, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us proclaim together the good news!
**All: Hope does not disappoint us,
for God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.**

One: Believe this good news, and give thanks:
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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.**

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.
They will return to sit with their families during communion.*

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

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Senior Choir

arr. David Cherwien

* 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

SCRIPTURE LESSON *John 4:3-30, 39-42* **Read by Mark Adams**

Jesus left Judea and returned to Galilee. This meant that he had to pass through Samaria. He stopped at Sychar, a town in Samaria, near the tract of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph, and Jacob's Well was there. Jesus, weary from the journey, came and sat by the well. It was around noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions. The Samaritan woman replied, "You're a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?"—since Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, "If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him for a drink instead, and he would have given you living water."

“If you please,” she challenged Jesus, “you don’t have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this ‘living water’? Surely you don’t pretend to be greater than our ancestors Leah and Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with their descendants and flocks?”

Jesus replied, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give them will never be thirsty; no, the water I give will become fountains within them, springing up to provide eternal life.”

The woman said to Jesus, “Give me this water, so that I won’t grow thirsty and have to keep coming all the way here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband and then come back here.” “I don’t have a husband,” replied the woman. “You’re right—you don’t have a husband!” Jesus exclaimed. “The fact is, you’ve had five, and the man you’re living with now is not your husband. So what you’ve said is quite true.”

"I can see you're a prophet," answered the woman. "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where God ought to be worshiped."

Jesus told her, “Believe me, the hour is coming when you’ll worship God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you don’t understand; we worship what we do understand—after all, salvation is from the Jewish people. Yet the hour is coming—and is already here—when real worshipers will worship God in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers whom God seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to Jesus, "I know that the Messiah—the Anointed One—is coming and will tell us everything." Jesus replied, "I who speak to you am the Messiah."

The disciples, returning at this point, were shocked to find Jesus having a private conversation with a woman. But no one dared to ask, "What do you want of him?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people, "Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?" At that, everyone set out from town to meet Jesus.

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Many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus on the strength of the woman's testimony—that “he told me everything I ever did.” The result was that, when these Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So Jesus stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith. They told the woman, “No longer does our faith depend on your story. We've heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the savior of the world.”

SERMON “A Love That Crosses Borders” Rev. Lindsay Popperson
PASTORAL PRAYER

* HYMN

In the Morning When I Rise

420

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*Today, we are receiving communion by intinction —
dipping the bread in the cup and receiving both elements together.
You will be invited to come forward via the center aisles, receive communion,
and then return to your seats via the outer aisles.*

*If you would prefer, for any reason, to receive communion in your pew,
stay seated and communion will be brought to you.*

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

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

Desperate Jamie MacDonald
Holly Cameron, *soprano*; Mark Shilansky, *piano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

* HYMN	<i>Every Time I Feel the Spirit</i>	#439
* BENEDICTION		
* RESPONSE (please join in singing)	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	#401 verse 4

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE Mark Shilansky, *piano*