

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Psalm 93 trans. by Pamela Greenberg

One: God reigns, adorned with splendor.

All: Adorned with power, the Eternal is crowned with strength.

One: You made the earth firm so it would not falter.

All: Your throne is always steady.

You have been present from the beginning of time.

One: The rivers grew swollen, God.

All: They lifted their voice.

They raised their crashing waves.

One: More powerful than the roar of many waters,

All: Mightier than the breaking sea,

Invincible in the heights is your presence.

One: Your testimonies are faithful beyond measure.

All: Your house shines with holy splendor.

You live on, God, for the length of days.

* HYMN

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

#16

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

Adapted from Cole Arthur Riley

God of every beautiful thing, make us people of wonder. Show us how to hold on to nuance and vision when our souls become addicted to pain, to the unlovely. It is far easier to see the gloom and decay; so often it sings a louder song. Attune our hearts to the good still stirring in our midst...

Let the mundane swell with a mystery that makes us breathe deeper still. And by this, may we be sustained and kept from despair.

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: Lent is a season for examining our hearts and our lives, a time to be honest with ourselves and with God about the brokenness within us and all around us. When we are honest about our pain, we prepare the way for God to heal us. Let us pray:

Jesus, our deliverer, we take your freedom from others.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Jesus, our hope, we deprive others of hope.

Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

One: Jesus, God's shalom, we distort your peace.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: In silence before God, we confess our sins:

those we have done, and those done on our behalf and in our name.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us proclaim together the good news that the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans:

All: "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit."

One: God's love is with us, and with our broken world, healing us and guiding us.

All: In the name of 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

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

Community of Christ

#502

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 145:10-14, 21

Read by Dave Cross

All your creatures will praise you, Yahweh,
and your holy people will bless you.
They will tell of the glory of your reign
and speak of your strength.
You make known to all humankind
your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your reign.
Your reign is a reign for all the ages,
and your dominion endures
from generation to generation.
You lift up those who are falling
and raise up those who are oppressed.

GOSPEL READING

John 18:28-40

Read by Ruth Duell

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” They shouted in reply, “Not this man but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a rebel.

ANTHEM

I'm On Your Side
Leah Waldo; *vocals and guitar*

Nathanial Rateliff

SERMON

“Done In Our Name”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Glory in the Cross
Old North Bell Choir; *Liz Smith, Director*

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

Lord of All Hopefulness

#444

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

**Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins,
And close by thee to stay. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*