

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: For forty days and forty nights the rain fell,
and the waters covered the face of the earth.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: For forty years the people wandered in the wilderness,
seeking the land of God's promise.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Moses spent forty days on the mountain,
learning the commandments of God.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Jonah cried out to the people of Ninevah:
turn from your violence, or you will perish.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days
and was tested by the devil.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

One: In these forty days of Lent, we turn towards God
and seek to grow in our faith.

All: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

* HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

S 24

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of the one who shared our humanity, Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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

Psalm 130:1-6, translated by Pamela Greenberg

One: From the fathomless deep I have called to you, God.
Listen to the innermost depths of my voice.

**All: Open your ears to the sound of my cry.
If you kept a record of guilt, my Source of Strength, who could remain standing?**

One: For with you is forgiveness;
from it, we learn how to hold you in wonder.

**All: I look for you, my soul looks for you wildly,
I wait for your word of response.**

One: My soul longs for you,
more than the watchman at the gate longs for morning,

**All: more than the tired watchman at the gate
longs for the first flicker of dawn.**

One: In the silence, we lift up our longings, our regrets, our shame, and our hope to the God who hears our cries.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Psalm 130:7-8, translated by Pamela Greenberg*

One: Let God's people put their hope in God,
All: **for with you is a storehouse of kindness,
and with the Holy One redemption abounds.**
One: You will redeem your people
from all their guilt and confusion and sin.
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.**

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Christine Hribar

**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 *In Deep Despair I Cry to You* #453

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Lamentations 3:19-24

Read by Dave Cross

I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.
I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.
Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for God's compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait."

SCRIPTURE LESSON*John 11: 17-44*

Read by Mark Roberge

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

ANTHEM*By An' By*

arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Maria vanKalken, *piano***SERMON**

"Jesus Wept"

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Holly Cameron, *soprano*; Senior Choir

arr. Ringwald

* 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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#407

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

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*