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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 22, 2026 Stewardship Sunday 10:00am

GATHERING

WELCOME Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise be to God
who created the earth
and gives us the harvest.
All: God provides us all that we need.
One: Praise be to God
who surrounds us with love,
and strengthens us by the Holy Spirit.
All: God's care never ends.
One: People of God, let us give thanks.
All: Praise be to God!

* HYMN *We Gather Together* #23

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Rev. Christine Hribar

All: Creator God,
we come to celebrate the beauty and the bounty of your good earth:
glorious blue skies and blazing fall colors;
fields ripe for harvest and gardens overflowing with goodness.
Grant us thankful hearts, we pray,
and fill us with your Spirit so that our lives overflow with gratitude.
We offer this worship to your glory, now and always. Amen.

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: Generous God, giver of every good and perfect gift,
we confess to you:
our tendency to believe we've earned all that we have,
our entitlement to comfort,
our slowness to share.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: We confess to you:
our struggles to face the truth of the past,
our tendency to tell stories that make us feel good
and leave out harms done in our name and on our behalf.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: We confess to you:
a grasping desire for more wealth, more power, more control,
that keeps us from savoring all the good you have given us.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: In the silence, we confess to you all that weighs us down
and all that binds us up.

SILENT PRAYER

One: Holy God, you see us as we are, and you see us as we can be.
Forgive us, and free us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Rev. Christine Hribar

One: Let us proclaim together this good news:

All: God is not done with us yet.

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

All: We are freed of our burdens and shame. 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.

MISSION MOMENT Jon Waldo

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 *For the Fruit of All Creation* #527

LISTENING

HEBREW BIBLE READING Read by Mark Adams

Isaiah 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

GOSPEL READING Read by Leah Waldo

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. You don't build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do you? You don't light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven.

ANTHEM *At the River* arr. by Aaron Copland
Senior Choir

SERMON "Embodying God's Love" Rev. Lindsay Popperson

RESPONDING

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Pilgrim's Hymn Stephen Paulus
Senior Choir

* 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

* HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God* #27

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (Please join in singing)

Dismissal Sentence arr. by Dale Wood

God be with you-till we meet again, God be in-you, go in peace.
By his counsels guide uphold you, With his sheep-securely fold-you:
God be with you till we meet again, God be with you, Go in peace.

POSTLUDE Maria vanKalken*, organ*