

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 11, 2026

Third Sunday after Christmas

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: We worship a God of abundance:

**All: a God who clothes the lilies with splendor
and who feeds the ravens and sparrows.**

One: We live in a world where some have so much more than they need,
while many go hungry.

**All: We worship a God who has given us plenty
and called us to share.**

One: Here in our worship, we turn from the ways of the world—
hoarding, indifference, and inequality.

**All: We turn towards the ways of God:
abundant love, abundant care,
sharing what we have so that everyone has enough.**

One: Let us worship our abundant God.

* HYMN

All Splendor of God's Glory Bright

#260

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: God of wonder and awe, be with us as we open ourselves in
worship. Help us find release from all we carry, even for a moment, to
feel how you are at work in our lives. Let this music, this sunlight, this
moment be one of restoration. Help us to see this moment anew.

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: Holy one, the wonders of this world fall lightly upon us.

All: Help us to open our eyes to the gifts that surround us, the lightly falling snow, a gentle touch, a warm hearth after a cold day.

One: We ask forgiveness for our overwhelm, our lack of attention, our breathlessness.

All: Help us to lift our heads, to pause and reckon with the moments of joy and compassion.

One: We confess that at times our concern for own comfort keeps us from speaking hard truths, from supporting our neighbors, from standing up for what is right.

All: We also confess the times when we care for causes and friends at the expense of our own-well being. Help us to find this balance, to thread this needle.

One: We hold silence to confess our burdens to you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: People of God, may the love of God cover you like a gentle snowfall. There is nothing you can do that can separate you from the love of God in Christ. You are forgiven and set free. Amen.

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

* HYMN

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

S 7

FIRST READING

Psalms 104:14-16

Read by Ruth Duell

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate,
to bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine and bread to strengthen the human heart.

The trees of the field are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

GOSPEL READING

John 2:1-11

Read by Dave Cross

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

ANTHEM

Tis Winter Now; the Fallen Snow arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Senior Choir text: Samuel Longfellow, 1864

SERMON

"Follow the Signs"

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me
Senior Choir

arr. K. Lee Scott

* DOXOLOGY #48

To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

SENDING

* HYMN *All Beautiful the March of Days* #525

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

#334 verse 4

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*