

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday After Epiphany

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Shilansky, piano

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Modified from the work of St Irenaeus)

One: It is not you that shapes God,

All: it is God that shapes us.

One: If you are the work of God,

All: then we can await the hand of the artist who does all things in due season.

One: Offer him your heart, soft and tractable, and keep the form
in which the artist has fashioned you.

**All: Let the clay of our souls be moist, that we may not grow hard and
lose the imprint of his fingers.**

* HYMN

Lord, of All Hopefulness

#444

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy one, we call you different names, and know you in different ways. We have come together today doing what you have called us to as a church: extending Christ's welcome, embodying God's love, telling our stories, and sharing the journey. Join us in this place, shepherd us our journeys, and fill our lives with your love. We pray this in the words of the One who taught us to pray:

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

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

One: Jesus, you came that all might know the abundant, world-changing love of God. We come today in search of that love.

ALL: **We invite your healing love in:
into our fearful, guarded hearts.
We invite your healing love in:
into our reluctance to change.
We invite your healing love in:
into our exhaustion.
We invite your healing love in:
Into our places of shame, and guilt, and fear, and hurt.**

One: In the silence, we invite your healing love in to the places in our hearts, our lives, and our world that need it most.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Together, let us proclaim the good news:

All: **God's love is like a port in a storm, offering safety and home.
God's love is like an anchor, holding us fast. God's love is like a
map, guiding us to new adventures. God's love is like the ocean,
vast, boundless, powerful, cleansing. God's love holds us, today
and always. Thanks be to God!**

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**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.**

* HYMN

I've Got Peace Like a River

#426

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 49:1-7

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God." And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—he says, "It is too light a thing that you

should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

MUSICAL MEDITATION

SERMON “Prime Directives” Rev. Don Remick

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

What the World Needs Now Is Love Hal David/Burt Bacharach
Holly Cameron, *soprano*; Mark Shilansky, *piano* Arr. Shilansky

* 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

SENDING

* HYMN *He's Got the Whole World* African-American Spiritual

1. He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.
2. He's got the wind and the rain in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.
3. He's got the sun and the moon in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.

4. He's got the little bitty baby in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.
5. He's got you and me Brother in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.
6. He's got you and me Sister in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.
7. He's got everybody here in His hands...
He's got the whole world in His hands.

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

#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

Mark Shilansky, *piano*