

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: Children of God: welcome!

All: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

One: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

All: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

One: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

All: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

One: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

* HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West

#381

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Christine Hribar

(from Psalm 42:1-2 and Matthew 5:6)

**All: As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.**

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

One: When shall I come and behold the face of God?

**All: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.”**

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

All: **Our hearts are hard, O God—
 soften them with your love.
Our hands are clenched, O God—
 open them with your grace.
Our eyes are shut, O God—
 help us to see the truth of the world.
Our minds are set in stone, O God—
 enable us to think more deeply.
Our souls yearn for you, O God—
 may we know your presence and peace.**

One: In the silence, we lift up our own prayers,
 we bring our burdens,
 we listen for God's grace.

Silent Prayer

All: **Forgive us, free us, transform us,
 in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, God's presence is always with us, in us, and around us.

All: **God's peace already dwells in our hearts.**

One: Know that, in peace and love, through Jesus Christ, God forgives us.

All: **We are freed from the burden of sin, and freed to live in peace.**

* 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.**

CELEBRATING

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Iris Elizabeth Ashby

Daughter of Olivia Barry and Daniel Ashby
Godparents Colleen Gabel and Chris Remeika

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

One: Let us, the members of the Body of Christ, express our welcome and
 affirm our ministry.

All: We welcome you with joy into the common life of the Church, one in the unity of Christ. We promise you our prayers and support as we share the hopes and labors of our faith. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in the knowledge and love of God made manifest in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN (please remain seated) *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* #306

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

LISTENING

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.

*Children will now go to Sunday school;
their families can meet them in the classroom when the service is over.*

* HYMN *As Longs the Deer* #76

SCRIPTURE LESSON James 2:1-7, 14-17 Read by Mark Adams

My brothers and sisters, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into the courts? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

ANTHEM *O Rise and Shine* arr. Donald Moore
Senior Choir

SERMON

“A Living Faith”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Arioso

Michael Helman

Old North Bell Choir; Liz Smith, *Director*

* DOXOLOGY #48

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 (Please join in singing)

Sing Amen

#41

(Sing a-men:) Amen, we praise your name O God. (Sing a-men)
Amen, we praise your name O God. (Sing a-men)
Amen, amen, amen, amen, Amen, we praise your name O God.
(Ma-si-thi:) Amen, si-ya -ku-du-mi-sa. (Ma-si-thi:)
Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa. (Ma-si-thi:)
Amen, Bawo, amen bawo, Amen, si-ya-ku-du-mi-sa.

SENDING

* HYMN

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

#33

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (Choir only)

Irish Blessing

Bob Chilcott

*May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back
May the sunshine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again, may god hold you, may god hold you
Ever in the palm of his hand*

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*