

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 17, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

Rev. Don Remick

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: Jesus says to us, "Come and see!"

All: What is there to see?

One: Jesus has so much to show us about God's love.

All: Where are we going?

One: Jesus is leading to God.

All: (turning to one another) I'm going! You come too!

* HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#57

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Don Remick

God, you have called us here. And you have called us holy and beloved. You have claimed us in the waters of baptism. In our worship clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, and patience. Enable us to forgive one another, as You in Christ have forgiven us. And above all these bind us together in your perfect love. We ask in Christ who taught us when we pray to say:

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 (Unison)

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you.

You call, but we have not listened.

We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns.

We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace, help us to admit our sin,
so that as you come to us in mercy,
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, we are followers of Jesus, yet we stumble and fall along the way.

**All: The good news is that Jesus does not condemn us,
but lifts us up to continue the journey.**

One: Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved. Amen.

* 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.**

CELEBRATING

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Arelis L'ilany Aguilar
Daughter of Stephanie Ortiz

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

Rev. Debbie Gline Allen

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.

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

* HYMN

Breathe on, Me Breath of God

#220

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Read by Kathleen Jasaitis

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

ANTHEM

O Breath of Life
Senior Choir

Arr. A. Bullard

SERMON

"Bringing Dry Bones to Life"

Rev. Debbie Gline Allen

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Senior Choir

J.S. Bach

* 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**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHORAL RESPONSE

SENDING

* HYMN

Go Forth For God

#352

* 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

Maria vanKalken, *organ*