

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 7, 2026

Second Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: Rejoice, for God is among us!

**All: God is at work in our world,
and God is at work in our hearts.**

One: Give thanks, for in Christ we have been made new!

All: The Spirit has brought us together to worship.

One: Let us worship in Spirit and in truth.

* HYMN

Praise to the Living God

#18

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

Holy one, we gather at your invitation, to recenter, to find breath, to seek peace and to listen for your word. Use this time to work in our hearts, in our bodies, in our souls. Weave us together as community that we would become better neighbors, better stewards, and steadfast in our love. Hear us as we offer the words taught by Jesus,

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: In the light of your Spirit, in the embrace of your love, we bring forward the ways in which we have fallen short first in silence and then together.

SILENCE

All: Forgive us our greed for that we do not have.
Forgive our thirst for recognition.
Forgive our inattention to those on the margins.
Forgive our silence in the face of injustice.
Forgive our noise that covers up the voices of the needy.
Forgive our need to be strong.
Forgive our shame.

One: We confess the ways in which we are broken, knowing that we find wholeness in the God who loves us now and forever. Forgive us, loving God, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: May the peace of God that passes all understanding be with you.

All: **God's forgiveness washes over us for God's love extends to all the corners of the earth. We live forgiven and set free.**

* 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

WELCOMING NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

[Nancy Slamet – 8am]

Dale Bruce

Larissa Cartwright

Michael Bender and Zameera Fida

Don and Maria Hall

Anastasia and Bart Lowden

Andrea and Erik Mygrant

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES AND CONGREGATION

PROMISE FROM THE CHURCH

One: To the members of this church: Do you promise to help these people find their place in the body of Christ, to pray with and for them, to welcome them fully in holy friendship, to offer support to them in times of distress and to be servants to them in times of need? If so, please answer: We promise, with the help of God.

All: We promise, with the help of God.

One: As a sign of our shared desire to continue to grow as the members of Old North Church in Marblehead, let us join together in proclaiming our vision statement:

All: Old North Church shall be an inclusive Christian Community called to bring to life God's love and grace by sharing the gospel for this time and place; extending the hospitality Christ showed; embodying God's love and compassion to those in need; and growing together in our understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

One: Let us, the members of Old North Church, express our welcome and affirm our ministry together:

All: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We give thanks to God for bringing you to us. We welcome the ways in which you will enrich, change, and challenge this church. We promise you our love, support, and care, come what may.

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;
they will return to sit with their families during communion.*

* HYMN

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

#403

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

O Rest in the Lord
Holly Cameron, *soprano*

Felix Mendelssohn

* 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

LISTENING

FIRST READING

Philippians 1:1-18a

Read by Mark Adams

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi,
with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the progress of the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ, and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true, and in that I rejoice.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 9:46-48

Read by Mark Adams

An argument arose among them concerning which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side and said to them, “Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me, for the least among all of you is the greatest.”

SERMON

“Partners in the Gospel”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

* **HYMN**

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

#503

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*Today, we are receiving communion by intinction—
dipping the bread in the cup and receiving both elements together.*

*You will be invited to come forward via the center aisles, receive communion,
and then return to your seats via the outer aisles.*

*If you would prefer, for any reason, to receive communion in your pew,
stay seated and communion will be brought to you.*

*All are welcome to receive communion at Old North—young and old, baptized and not.
There are gluten free crackers available on each tray, and we serve only non-alcoholic grape juice.*

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD and CUP

You Are the Light
Holly Cameron, *soprano*

Sarah Hart

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

* **HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory

#477

* **BENEDICTION**

* **RESPONSE** (please join in singing)

Verse 1, #368

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Amen**

POSTLUDE

Maria vankalken, *organ*