

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 18, 2026 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE Maria van Kalken, *organ*

WELCOME Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP *From Jeremiah 9:23-24*

One: Thus says the Lord:

All: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom,
Do not let the mighty boast in their wealth;

One: But let those who boast boast in this,

All: That they understand and know me,
That I am the Lord;
I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth,
For in all these things I delight, says the Lord.

* HYMN *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above* #16

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Rev. Christine Hribar

Attributed to Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

God of life,
there are days when the burdens we carry
are heavy on our shoulders and weigh us down,
when the road seems dreary and endless,
the skies gray and threatening,
when our lives have no music in them,
and our hearts are lonely,
and our souls have lost their courage.
Flood the path with light,
turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise;
tune our hearts to brave music;
give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age;
and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage
the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life,
to your honor and glory. Amen.

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: Source of goodness, who remembers not our sins, open our lips this day to speak your praise. We give thanks that you are the hope of all the earth, the one for whom we yearn and yet from whom we so often turn away.

We confess that we live possessive lives as if all we have were not a gift from you.

We confess that we live prideful lives as if we were the center of creation.

We confess that we live diminished lives, jealous and resentful, as if we were not enriched by another's joy.

All: We confess the ways in which we have fallen short, to you, God of Love.

SILENCE

One: Forgive us, Lord. Ground our lives in your perfect love that never ends.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The God in whom we live, and love and have our being knows us and forgives us.

All: May we live into this newness of life, 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.**

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.**

We invite any children interested to now join their teachers in leaving the sanctuary for Sunday School. Their families can meet them in the classroom when the service is over.

* HYMN

Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

#464

LISTENING

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

Joshua 24:1-15

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst, and afterward I brought you out. When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. When they cried out to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them, and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterward you lived in the wilderness a long time. Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you.

Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you, so I rescued you out of his hand. When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, as well as the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I handed them over to you. I sent swarms of hornets ahead of you that drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. I gave you a land on which you had not labored and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.

“Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:8-10

Read by Ruth Duell

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus
Anne Burgett, *soprano*

Moses Hogan

SERMON

“The God of Our Ancestors” Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Come Down, O Love Divine Arr. Michael Ryan
Old North Bell Choir; Liz Smith, *Director*

* 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

SENDING

* HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* #477

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE *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*