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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 15, 2026 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

WELCOME — Rev. Christine Hribar

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love–
Neighbors, family, friends old and new.
People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know–
Strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends,
The ones who need an outstretched hand.
People of God, look about and see so many images of God assembled here.
In me, in you, in each of us.
People of God, come. Let us worship together.

* HYMN — *O for a World* — #500

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION — Led by Rosemary

from Psalm 80, trans. Pamela Greenberg

One: Creator of the Heavenly Array, cause us to return to you.
Light up your face, and we will be saved.
All: You caused a vine to stretch forth from Egypt,
made a small garden among the nations and planted it.
One: You cleared space in the soil around it, prepared a hole for its root to grow.
Now it fills the earth.
All: The mountains were covered by its shadow.
Its branches became mighty cedars of God.
One: You caused its boughs to stretch toward the sea,
toward the river, its tender shoots.
All: Take care of the root your right hand planted,
the children you strengthened in your service.
One: Place a hand over each person, your right arm over every human life–
strengthen them toward you. Eternal Creator of the Heavenly Array, turn towards us.
All: Light up your face and we will be saved.

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: Holy one, your prophet Micah instructed the people
about what you require of us.
We confess now our strivings and our shortcomings:
You call us to do justice, but we allow injustice to reign.
We fail to challenge inequality, we become accustomed to horrors,
we believe ourselves too small or powerless to make a difference,
we allow opportunities to slip through our fingers.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: You call us to love kindness, but our world is full of cruelty.
We become impatient with family and strangers alike.
We prefer judgement over mercy.
We let our hearts become hard.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: You call us to walk humbly with You, our God,
but we prefer to rely on our own strength to prove ourselves.
We ignore how You are at work in the world.
We turn from Your call.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: In silence, we confess our own sins,
and those done on our behalf and in our name.

SILENT PRAYER

One: God of mercy,

All: forgive us, and lead us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Rev. Christine Hribar

One: Proclaim together the good news:
though we struggle to live as we want to live,
though we struggle to follow God's call,

All: **God is gracious and merciful,**
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love.
One: Our God continues to lead us, teach us, forgive us, and heal us.
All: **Thanks be to God!**

* 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.

MISSION MOMENT Dave Weber

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 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* #224

LISTENING

HEBREW BIBLE READING Read by Mark Roberge

Micah 1:3-5, 5:2-5, 6:6-8

For the Lord is coming out of his place
and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth.
Then the mountains will melt under him,
and the valleys will burst open
like wax near the fire,
like waters poured down a slope.
All this is for the transgression of Jacob
and for the sins of the house of Israel.
What is the transgression of Jacob?
Is it not Samaria?
And what is the high place of Judah?
Is it not Jerusalem?

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But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,
and he shall be the one of peace.

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"With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

GOSPEL READING Read by Ruth Duell

Matthew 9:13

Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

ANTHEM *If I Had a Hammer* Pete Seeger and Lee Hays
Leah Waldo, *guitar and vocals*

SERMON "Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with God" Rev. Christine Hribar

RESPONDING

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Happy the Home When God is There Jason W. Krug

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 the Fertile Fields* #456

* 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*