

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday After Christmas

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Andrew Scanlon, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP by Howard Thurman

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: The old song of my spirit has wearied itself out.
It has long ago been learned by heart;
It repeats itself over and over,
Bringing no added joy to my days or lift to my spirit.

All: I will sing a new song.

I must learn the new song for the new needs.

I must fashion new words born of all the new growth

Of my life—of my mind—of my spirit.

**I must prepare for new melodies that have never been mine
before,**

That all that is within me may lift my voice unto God.

Therefore, I shall rejoice with each new day

And delight my spirit in each fresh unfolding.

I will sing, this day, a new song unto the Lord.

* **HYMN**

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

#161

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

From Kayla Craig's *Every Season Sacred*

**O God, awaken us from our slumber. Renew in us the ability to see
miracles surrounding us. Restore in us the trust that spring will
come. Refresh in us the strength we need for the day as we hold out hope
for tomorrow. We give You every dark wondering we hold and ask that
You would breathe new life into what is bare. Let us feel you in our
scars. Help us to remember that You are compassionate and that You are
near. 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. Lindsay Popperson

**All: O God, our guide,
who once used a star to lead people to Christ,
we confess our poor sense of direction.
We let ourselves become confused and easily distracted.
We lose our way.
We fail to follow the signs you provide.
Forgive our waywardness, O God.
Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you.**

One: In the silence, we confess our sins, and open ourselves up to God's mercy.

Silence is kept.

One: Light of the world,

All: shine upon us.

**Forgive us for what we have done, and what we have left undone.
Lead us into new life, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us proclaim this good news:

**All: The Holy One is with us, forgiving us and guiding us.
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.**

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

**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.
They will return to sit with their families during communion.*

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion! (from *Messiah*) G. F. Handel
Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Andrew Scanlon, *organ*

DOXOLOGY #48

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHORAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:35-51

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus

answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

SERMON

“Come and See”

Rev. Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER

* HYMN

Wise Men Seeking Jesus

#170

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

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Kevin Hayden, *tenor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

* HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#160

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

God, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

#166, verse 1

God, bid your servant go in peace, your word is now fulfilled.

These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Andrew Scanlon, *organ*