

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

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**March 24, 2024**

**Palm Sunday**

**10:00am**

We extend a warm welcome to all who have come to worship today. If you are unfamiliar with our traditions, the \* indicates that those who are able are encouraged to stand, **bold type** indicates unison participation.

*Our worship begins with the Prelude. Please be mindful of those who wish to spend this time in prayer.*

**GATHERING**

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hosanna, we cry! Save us!

**All: Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Lift your heads and behold Emmanuel, "God with us."

**All: We behold how God's love endures:**

One: Through joy and triumph, through suffering and pain, Through betrayal and death,

**All: God's steadfast love endures forever. Hosanna in the highest!**

\* HYMN

*All Glory Laud and Honor*

#178

**CENTERING**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

O God, who in Jesus Christ triumphantly entered Jerusalem, heralding a week of pain and sorrow, be with us now as we follow the way of the cross. We know all too well that the people who waved palms and shouted 'Hosanna' are likely the same ones who would shout "Crucify Him" a few days later. In one week you lived through the whole range of human emotion reminding us that you live with us through all the emotions of our life's journey. We thank you for these palm branches. Help them to become for us symbols and reminders of martyrdom and majesty. Bless them and us that their use this day may announce in our time that Christ has come and that Christ will come again. Amen! Come, Christ Jesus!

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

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

O God, we know that our lives have missed the mark and fallen short of your call to love you and neighbor with our whole lives. At times we can enter into the circumstances of our lives with power over others, arrogance, or a lack of awareness of the needs of our neighbor. Forgive us for being more interested in our own achievements or our obsessed with seeking the approval of others. Come and save us now. Transform us into a people of humility and righteousness, we pray.

## A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Even on the cross, Jesus cried out for forgiveness.

All: **We are worthy of forgiveness and love.**

One: We are called to share that love and forgiveness with others.

All: **Let us live in ways that share the Good News. Amen.**

## \* 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

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;  
their families can meet them in the classroom when the service is over.*

## \* HYMN

*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*

#179

## GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-11

Read by Mark Roberge

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with this instruction: "Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing that?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.'"

So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What do you mean by untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!

Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

## SERMON

"The Donkey"

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

## A TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## RESPONDING

## OFFERTORY

## INVITATION

## PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

*What Wondrous Love is This*  
Senior Choir

Shaw/Parker

## \* DOXOLOGY

## \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## \* HYMN

*A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd*

#180

## GOSPEL READING

The Passion of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ  
*From Mark 14 and 15*

Read by  
Rev. Lindsay Popperson

## SENDING

\* HYMN

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

#187

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

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### The Passion of Jesus Christ, According to Mark (*selections for Chapters 14 & 15*)

When it was evening on the first day of Unleavened Bread, Jesus, came with the twelve to the upper room. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me.

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, but after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me, yet not what I want but what you want." He came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the

spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived, and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. [They] were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

At the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they crucified him, crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.