

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from John 1

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: In the beginning was the Word,

All: And the Word was with God,

One: And the Word was God.

All: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

One: God breathes life through us, rustling our plans, embracing the
downtrodden, and lifting up our hearts.

All: Let us join together and worship God.

* HYMN

Now Bless the God of Israel

#122

CENTERING

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Clark Family

One: Today we light the second candle; the candle of Peace.

**All: May we become people of infectious Peace.
Come, Lord Jesus!**

One: Where do we see hope?

**Left side: In light that shines in darkness and the darkness cannot
overcome it.**

***Right side: In the light of one candle that illumines a face or ignites a
thousand other candles.***

One: Where do we see hope?

Left side: In the human fragility of a baby, full of promise.

*Right side: For unto us a child is born, and he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.*

One: On this second Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle to see hope.

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

One: Confessing is like walking into a dark cave, seeing nothing, hearing nothing—

All: We do not know what we will find there.

One: Maybe we will find the bones of things long dead. Maybe we will find the silence not at all quiet, but full of unknown rustles.

All: Maybe we will find ourselves, and find old hurts or desires that are long dead, and find some urge or temptation that could carry us away in a heartbeat.

One: But it is only in the deepest dark that we can see the tiny light that is always present, that sliver that comes from an unknown place, that sliver of light that give us hope, that sliver of light that looks a bit like grace.

All: It is only in the stillest silence that we can hear the whisper of mercy.

One: Let us enter into silence.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, neighbors: hear this good news and see the grace of God: You are forgiven. You are free to go and live in the light of love.

All: Thanks be to God. 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.**

CELEBRATING

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Barbara and Kevin Burke
MaryEllen Solomon-Auger

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES AND CONGREGATION

PROMISE FROM THE CHURCH

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.

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.

*Children will now go to Sunday school;
their families can meet them in the classroom when the service is over.*

* HYMN

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

#124

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5, 31

Read by Mark Adams

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day..... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-5

Read by Mark Adams

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life,[a] and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Leah Waldo, *vocals and guitar*

15th c French

SERMON

"Origin Stories"

Rev. Christine Hribar

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION**PASTORAL PRAYER****RESPONDING****MISSION MOMENT**

Betsey Halbert

OFFERTORY**INVITATION****PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS***Peace to Your Soul*

written and performed by Leah Waldo

*** DOXOLOGY #47**

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee.
Whose advent sets thy people free;
Once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine. Amen.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SENDING

* HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* #127

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE: (please join in singing) #121, verse 1

**Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Maria VanKalken, *organ*