

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 12, 2025

First Sunday after Epiphany

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 136; selections)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: O give thanks to the Lord, who is good,
All: for God's steadfast love endures forever;

One: who alone does great wonders,
All: for God's steadfast love endures forever;

One: who by understanding made the heavens,
All: for God's steadfast love endures forever;

One: who spread out the earth on the waters,
All: for God's steadfast love endures forever;

One: who led the people through the wilderness,
All: for God's steadfast love endures forever;

One: it is God who remembered us in our low estate,
All: for God's steadfast love endures forever;

One: O give thanks to the God of heaven,
All: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

* HYMN

I Sing the Might Power of God

#57

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

**God our Mother, Living Water, River of Mercy, Source of Life,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
who quenches our thirst,
refreshes our weariness,
bathes and washes and cleanses our wounds,**

be for us always a fountain of life,
and for all the world a river of hope
springing up in the midst of the deserts of despair.
Honor and blessing, glory and praise, be unto you forever.

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 (Unison)

(adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

God of mercy, we have sinned against you and against one other. We have sinned in what we have done, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, forgive us all that is past and raise us into newness of life.

In silence, we offer our confessions.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent

All: May God forgive us and strengthen us.

One: With God's steadfast love, we are forgiven and made new.
May we manifest God's love in the world. 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.**

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

"Renewing Our Baptisms"

Please join in singing on refrain:

Leader:

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way!

**All: O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on brothers let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!

**All: O mothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on mothers let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!

**All: O fathers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on fathers let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

You are God's beloved child, with you, God is well pleased.

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

* HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

S 17

LISTENING

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-11

Read by Leah Waldo

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON "Beloved" Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
Senior Choir

arr. Alan Bullard

* 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

SENDING

* HYMN *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* #407

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE *Dismissal Sentence* Dale Wood

God be with you-till we meet again, God be in-you, go in peace.
By his counsels guide uphold you, With his sheep-securely fold-you:
God be with you till we meet again, God be with you, Go in peace.

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*