

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jess Easter

One: We have been claimed by the God who calls us children.

All: We, the redeemed, have been called by name.

One: As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the water.

All: We will not fear, for God is with us!

One: The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is our guide and our protector.

All: Through God's saving grace, the waters that tested us are now the waters that wash us and nourish us.

One: Great is the Fount of Every Blessing,

All: ever flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as God's children.

One: Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

* HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

#237

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (from Isaiah 43:2)

Rev. Christine Hribar

Inhale: *When I pass through deep waters*

Exhale: *you are with me.*

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

All: God of deliverance, you once parted the sea so that your people could cross from bondage and oppression to freedom, and yet we often doubt you are at work in our world. We act as though we have forgotten that you gave us Jesus who knows our suffering, the Holy Spirit who empowers us, and one another as companions on the journey. We act as if we are all in the same boat, but we are not. Our boats are very different, and some are sinking, and some are drowning.

One: In the silence, we consider the brokenness in the world, and our own part in it.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: When the waters threaten to overwhelm us, God promises to be with us.

All: Through the waters of baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are raised with Christ to a life full of promise.

One: Beloved children of God, believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. 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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parker William Carey

Son of Jessica Carey and Connor Carey

Godparents: Rebecca Carey and Brett LeBlanc

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

One: Let us, the members of the Body of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our ministry.

All: We welcome you with joy into the common life of the Church, one in the unity of Christ. We promise you our prayers and support as we share the hopes and labors of our faith. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in the knowledge and love of God made manifest in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN (please remain seated) *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* #306

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Christine Hribar

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 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* #439

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 14: 10-31

Read by Dave Cross

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them, and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.”

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

ANTHEM

Go Down Moses
Senior Choir

African-American Spiritual

SERMON

“A God Who Liberates”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Precious Lord

Senior Choir

arr. Roy Ringwald

* DOXOLOGY #45

Praise God for love we all may share

Praise God for beauty everywhere,

Praise God for hope of good to be

Praise God for truth that makes us free. Amen

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHORAL RESPONSE

SENDING

* HYMN

We Shall Overcome

#476

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE

Send Me Jesus (Thuma Mina)

#344

Send me Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me Jesus, send me Lord

Lead me...

Fill me...

Thuma mina...somandla

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*