

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 17, 2024 Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 146)

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: Help and hope come from God, and so we gather to give God our praise.

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

One: I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

All: I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

One: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

**All: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,**

One: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;

All: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

One: The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

All: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

One: The Lord watches over the strangers;
God upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

All: The reign of God will never end!

One: The reign of God is forever, for all generations.

All: Praise the Lord!

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Written by John O'Donahue

May my mind come alive today
To the invisible geography
That invited me to new frontiers,
To break the dead shell of yesterdays,
To risk being disturbed and changed.

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

Written by John O'Donahue

All: May I have the courage today
To live the life I would love,
To postpone my dream no longer
But do at last what I came here for
And waste my heart in fear no longer.

One: We confess in silence for the ways in which we have not lived as we ought to have lived or loved as we ought to have loved.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

All: In God, everything is possible: hope, love, and life abundant.

One: There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God in Christ.

All: May we know this truth and turn to our neighbors in love.

* 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.

**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;
they will return to the Sanctuary at the end of the service.*

* HYMN

How Can We Name a Love

#409

LISTENING**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 7:36-50

Read by Mark Adams

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus[b] said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

ANTHEM

"Down to the River to Pray"
Leah Waldo, guitar and vocals

Trad.

SERMON

“A Story within a Story”

Rev. Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

MISSION MOMENT

Jen Jackson

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

All Praise and Thanks to God
Old North Bell Choir; Liz Smith, Director

arr. Bill Ingram

* DOXOLOGY: #46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

* HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

#333

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

#334 verse 4

**Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*