

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

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**April 27, 2025**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**10:00am**

**GATHERING**

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: The stone has been rolled away. He is risen!

**All: The tomb is empty. He is risen indeed!**

One: The new blade rises. He is risen!

**All: New life is abundant. He is risen indeed!**

One: There is no king but Christ, the Prince of Peace. He is risen!

**All: A new crown for a new time. He is risen indeed!**

\* HYMN

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

#210

**CENTERING**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

**Risen Lord, you came to your fearful disciples and gave them peace. Stand among us, here today, and bring peace: peace in our world, peace in our neighborhoods, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. We pray this in the power of the Holy Spirit that you gave us.**

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

One: Let us confess our shortcomings,  
recalling the words of Christ:  
Jesus said, "Peace be with you."

**All: Yet sometimes we sow discord,  
neglecting to make peace with our neighbors.**

One: Jesus said, "As God has sent me, so I send you."

**All: Yet sometimes we refuse to go,  
fearing to follow unknown paths of faith.**

One: Jesus said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

**All: Yet sometimes we turn away, rejecting the gifts of the Spirit.**

One: In the silence we listen to our consciences,  
and we listen for the God who speaks into our fear, our doubt, and our struggles.

*Silence*

**All: Forgive us, blessed God,  
in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Jesus said to his disciples, "take heart. Have no fear."

**All: As disciples, we no longer need to be burdened by guilt,  
no longer need to be bound by fear.**

One: Be renewed through God's forgiving love:  
be open to Christ's presence in your life.

**All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

\* 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

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; families can meet them in the classroom after the service.*

\* HYMN

*Now the Green Blade Riseth*

#208

## LISTENING

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31

Read by Ruth Duell

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

ANTHEM

*Rejoice Greatly (from Messiah)*

G.F. Handel

Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Maria vanKalken, *piano*

SERMON

"The Blessing of Doubt"

Kenna Bartholomew

PASTORAL PRAYER

## RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

*Lord of the Dance*

Arr. Sydney Carter

Senior Choir

\* 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 *The Day of Resurrection!* #216

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE (please join in singing) #215, verse 2

**O Jesus source of gentleness,  
come now yourself our hearts possess,  
that we may give you all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise. Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Maria vanKalken, organ*