

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 9, 2024

Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Homiletics online)

Rev. Don Remick

One: We are children of God,

All: **As brilliant as a shining star,**

One: As wondrous as an ocean wave,

All: **As special as each fragrant rose,**

One: As unique as each falling leaf.

All: **We are God's children,**

One: United in praise, humbled in awe

All: **And prompted to sing.**

*** HYMN**

Morning Has Broken

#258

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Holy God, you are our parent, and we are all your children. In this moment, we release ourselves into your love. Hold us with strong arms. Rock us against your chest, calming our fears and giving us courage. Be present in this place and in this time, so that we can know you as a loving father, as a wise mother, as the parent who loves us, no matter what.

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)

God, we are sorry. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, and minds, and souls, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved ourselves as you love us. We are still learning, still growing, still trying. Help us to see where we've done wrong.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The scriptures tell us that God has destined all of us for adoption as God's children through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:5). Like all good parents, God sees our mistakes. God loves us just as we are, and loves us too much to let us stay as we are.

All: **We are God's children, still learning, still growing, still trying.**

One: God forgives us, and God continues to guide us to lives that are more just and more loving.

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.**

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Else Wiersma

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

**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 sit with their families during communion.*

* HYMN

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

#494

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

In the House that Love is Building
Holly Cameron, soprano; Maria vanKalken, piano

Sarah Hart

* 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

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18: 1-7

Read by Leah Waldo

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

“If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin,[a] it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of things that cause sin![b] Such things are bound to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!

SERMON

“Like a Child”

Rev. Don Remick

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

* HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

#87

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion at Old North—young and old, baptized and not. There is gluten free bread on each tray, and we serve only non-alkoholic grape juice.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

Nothing But the Water
Holly Cameron, soprano

Grace Potter
and the Nocturnals

OFFERING OF THE CUP

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE AND RELEASE

- * HYMN *Now in the Days of Youth* #329
- * BENEDICTION
- * RESPONSE (please join in singing) #344, 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*