

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

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**February 2, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**10:00am**

**GATHERING**

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: Church, we gather this day to celebrate life—

**All: the life we have been given by God,  
the life we share with one another in community,  
the life that Jesus gives in abundance.**

One: Let us be grateful for the joy of life,

**All: and let us worship God.**

\* HYMN

*From All that Dwell Below the Skies*

#8

**CENTERING**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Christine Hribar

“resurrection” from *Black Liturgies*

Climb back inside

Your body

No more split

Selves

Minds without

Skulls

Thirst without

Tongues—flail and  
shake like a haunting

You are alive

## 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

Adapted from *Black Liturgies*

**One:** God of welcome, we confess that at times we have been content to exclude or neglect those our communities cannot use.

**All:** **We have been so wrapped up in status and symbol that we have constructed walls not out of wisdom or self-understanding, but out of feigned superiority and elitism. We have not loved well. We have prioritized the powerful and popular. We have neglected the friends who give more than they ever receive. We have forgotten the quiet. We have forgotten ourselves.**

**One:** Have mercy on us, that we might become faithful harbours for belonging in a dislocated world. And as we gaze on the faces of the lonely, of the abandoned, forgive us. Hear now our silent prayers.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Let your soul receive this rest: The God whose friends fell asleep in the garden on the night he needed them desperately has mercy on you now. Just as this sacred company rose to be loved by God evermore, may you also know and receive this same forgiveness, extending it to all whom you're chosen to love and be loved by. 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

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;  
they will return to sit with their families during communion.*

## \* HYMN

*When Jesus Came Preaching the Way of Our God*

#358

## OFFERTORY

### INVITATION

### PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

*Simple Song* (from *Mass*)                      Leonard Bernstein  
Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Maria vankalken, *piano*

### \* DOXOLOGY #48

**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

### LISTENING

### SCRIPTURE READING      1 Corinthians 12:12–31      Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

SERMON “We Need Each Other” Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

\* HYMN *Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether* Harold Friedel, music;  
Words: Percy Dearmer, 1931, verse 1;  
Rev. Dennis B. Calhoun, 1989, verses 2 & 3

1. Draw us in the Spirit’s tether; For when humbly, in thy name,  
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them:  
Allelujah! Allelujah! Touch we now thy garment’s hem.
2. The disciples oft would gather, Living words of Christ to hear.  
Then, oppression bold to conquer, Forth they went surmounting fear.  
Allelujah! Allelujah! The same Spirit draws us near.
3. All, the Spirit now is sending, From its tether not to stray,  
Until righteousness unending, Reigns on Earth triumphantly!  
Allelujah! Allelujah! Spirit, draw us close to Thee,  
That your will, our work may be.

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-alcoholic grape juice.  
The Deacons will bring the elements to each row.  
We wait until everyone is served, and then partake of the elements together.*

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

*Hear Our Prayer*  
Senior Choir

Moses Hogan

OFFERING OF THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## SENDING

- \* HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* #238
- \* BENEDICTION
- \* RESPONSE *Go Forth for God* #352, verse 4

Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,  
And serving Christ, our ev'ry gift employ,  
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy. Amen

## ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

### AGENDA FOR ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

**Call to Order** – Betsey Halbert, Moderator

**Opening Prayer** – Rev. Lindsay Popperson

**Approval of the Minutes of the 340th Annual Meeting**  
on June 5, 2024 – Betsey Halbert

**Leadership Board Update** – Betsey Halbert

**Bylaw Change** – Betsey Halbert

**Prudential Board** – Scott Fillenworth

**Stewardship** – Rick Settelmeyer

**2024 Financial Report / 2025 Budget Proposal** – Blair Lord, Treasurer

**Comments from the Floor**

**Closing Prayer** – Rev. Christine Hribar