

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

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**August 23, 2020**

**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**

---

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

We praise the Lord with our prayers and with our songs.  
We also praise the Lord with our paintings and our sand castles,  
with our fresh-baked pies and with our laughter.  
We praise the Lord through our tears and through our grief.  
We praise the Lord in silence and in protest.  
We worship now so that we might learn to make our whole lives  
acts of worship and praise.  
Let us worship God.

**CENTERING**

**PRAAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION**

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

Come, O Holy Spirit, and fill our hearts and minds with the peace that passes all understanding. Open our eyes that we may see ourselves as we truly are, and move within us, that we may experience you as you truly are. As we open ourselves in worship, allow us to experience the rest that stills our restlessness, that we might be refreshed, renewed and enabled to face whatever life has in store. As we worship, remove from our hearts and minds anything that would distract us from communing with you, and with one another, in spirit and in truth. We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

One: When we are honest with God and with ourselves, we know we fall short of God's intention and our potential. But in each moment there resides incredible power and possibility for restoration, transformation and new life. In the blessed quietness of this moment, as we confess our sin, let our hearts and minds become aware of the power and possibility God offers...

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

One: Friends, this is the day the Lord hath made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!  
Through the love of God,  
the grace of Jesus Christ,  
and our communion with the Holy Spirit  
we are a new creation.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

## LISTENING

HYMN

*As Longs The Deer*  
Maria vanKalken, piano

#76

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

Karen Kilty

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

Read by Frank Arren

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

POETRY READING

*Try to Praise the Mutilated World*

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

by Adam Zagajewski

Translated by Clare Cavanaugh

Try to praise the mutilated world.  
Remember June's long days,  
and wild strawberries, drops of rosé wine.  
The nettles that methodically overgrow  
the abandoned homesteads of exiles.  
You must praise the mutilated world.  
You watched the stylish yachts and ships;  
one of them had a long trip ahead of it,  
while salty oblivion awaited others.  
You've seen the refugees going nowhere,  
you've heard the executioners sing joyfully.  
You should praise the mutilated world.  
Remember the moments when we were together  
in a white room and the curtain fluttered.

Return in thought to the concert where music flared.  
You gathered acorns in the park in autumn  
and leaves eddied over the earth's scars.  
Praise the mutilated world  
and the gray feather a thrush lost,  
and the gentle light that strays and vanishes  
and returns.

*The use of this poem in our worship service is permissible under US copyright law (17 U.S.C. § 110(3))*

SERMON	“Saved From Despair”	Rev. Lindsay Popperson
PASTORAL PRAYER		Rev. Lindsay Popperson

## RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT	Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun
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.

## SENDING

HYMN	<i>God Is Working In Our Midst</i> ( Verses 1-3)	#357
	Maria vanKalken, piano	
BENEDICTION	Rev. Lindsay Popperson	