

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 18, 2020

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

One: Beloved, our hearts were made for the glory of God.
Let us open our hearts to receive our God.
We were created in the image of God.
Let us show God's likeness in the way we live.
Come, from our scattered homes and varied lives:
Let us be of one heart and mind as we worship the Lord our God!

MUSICAL OFFERING

When the Summer Goes Runnin

Composed and performed by Raymond Gonzalez, vocals, guitar

CENTERING

PRAYERS OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: God, you have promised that your presence would go with us, wherever we go. Here we are, looking for you. In this time of worship, train us to see you everywhere: in the changing of the leaves, in the steadiness of the tides, in the blowing of the wind, in the holy words that have been passed down, in the wisdom of our community.
We listen for you in this silence:

SILENT PRAYER

One: When our worship is ended, send us into our days searching for you everywhere: in the wide eyes of children, in the faces of strangers, in the chaos of our common life together that we call politics, in every act of love and justice, and in each moment of calm.

LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: We pray now the words that Jesus taught us, saying:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: We confess our brokenness so that we might be able to receive God's grace with open hearts.
Holy one, no one can see you, but you created us humans in your image, to show forth your beauty and your glory.
Forgive us:
We have forgotten to see ourselves as bearers of your divine image.
We have forgotten to see one another as bearers of divine image.
We have believed too much in what the world says about us:
that we are what we earn and what we produce,
that we are not good enough, not pure enough, not perfect enough.
We get wrapped up in trying to prove ourselves as better than others and neglect to love ourselves, and love one another, and love you.
Hear our cries for help, loving God.
Hear our need for compassion.
Speak to us in the silence, as we listen for you:

SILENT PRAYER

One: Holy one, we confess our need for grace. We confess that we are bound up in systems that we did not create and cannot control. Forgive us and restore us. We pray this for Love's sake. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: People of God, let me assure you:
though we look at ourselves and see our faults and our failings,
God looks at us and sees beauty, and glory, and wholeness.
There is nothing we can do, and nothing that can be done to us,
to change the fact that we bear the image of God.
God's grace is yours for the taking. Thanks be to God. Amen.

LISTENING

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

Karen Kilty

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Red Leaf

Raymond Gonzalez, guitar

FIRST READING

Exodus 33:12-23

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you

have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The Lord’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the Lord continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:15-22

Read by Katharine Redmond

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

One Bright Light

composed and performed by Raymond Gonzalez

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun