

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

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, organ

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are people on a journey.

All: We are seeking meaning, truth, and freedom.

One: We are people with complicated lives.

All: We are bringing grief and worry, hope and longing.

One: We are the people of God,

All: and we are worshipping a God who leads us to new life.

* **HYMN**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

#494

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy God, Creator of Life, you are blessed. You invite us out of our hiding place, offering us the grace of new life. When we fear being seen and known you surprise us with the deep breath of your Spirit. Move our souls as we sing you praise

**Open our hearts to the light of your compassion. We ask in Jesus name.
Amen**

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

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

God of compassion, you have given us this journey of Lent. But we have so easily wandered off the path. We have not taken advantage of time to be with you. We have not opened our hearts to you or to others. We have not looked into the places of shadow where you long to bring your light. We have stayed within the routines that keep us comfortable. Forgive us and set us again on the right path that leads to you. Even now, in the silence as we bring our places of regret to your compassion.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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.

*Following the Congregational Response, the children are invited
to go up to children's church with Karen.*

Please note that Children of all ages are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary."

* HYMN

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

#461

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7

Read by Mark Roberge

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as:1-7 the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

ANTHEM

In the Mornin'

Charles Ives

Gabriela Fagen, *mezzo-soprano*

SERMON “Admitting Our ‘Thirst” Rev. Lindsay Popperson

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Morning Has Broken arranged by Larry Sue
Old North Bell Choir, Liz Smith Director

* 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 *Lord of All Hopefulness* #444

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

I Feel the Winds of God Today tune: Kingsfold

I feel the winds of God today,
Today my sail I lift,
Though heavy oft with drenching spray
And torn with many a rift.
If hope would light the water's crest,
And Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at His behest,
And brave another cruise. Amen

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*