

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: There are so many paths set before us; so many choices we can make.

All: Today we have chosen to be here.

One: We have chosen the path to come here into the heart of God.

All: We have chosen to worship God.

One: Let us open our hearts to God's presence.

All: Let us sing to God our praises.

* HYMN

Praise to the Living God

18

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Oh Lord, you are the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, and you are our God. You have shown yourself throughout generations, and called people to follow you. You have promised to be with us, and to go before us. We gather here together, neighbors and strangers, old-timers and new-comers, Christian and Jew, to bear witness to your presence. We pray in the power of the Spirit that binds us together. 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

One: Each week, we confess our brokenness before God. We do this so that God can mend our broken hearts and our broken world. In this season of Lent, we are especially mindful of our human frailty and failures. In the silence, we open ourselves to God.

SILENT PRAYER

One: Truly, God, you are present in all places—especially those places most wounded and hurting, even in our own souls and lives. We call upon your presence now.

Where we are harsh and judgmental,

All: God of mercy, be among us.

One: When we have wounded others, or become wounded,

All: God of healing, be among us.

One: Where we have grown habituated to practices that harm others, and failed to see new ways forward,

All: God of new life, be among us.

One: Where the ways of a warring world have drowned out the tenderness and courage that so many long to share,

All: God of peace, be among us.

One: Merciful and gracious God, receive our confessions, and lead us away from everything that separates us from you, from each other, and from who you have created us to be. We pray this in your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In Psalm 139, the psalmist writes:

**All: “O God, where could I run from your spirit?
where could I flee from your presence?
if I go up to the heavens, you’re there;
if I make my bed in Death, you’re already there.**

One: I could fly away with wings made of dawn,
or make my home on the far side of the sea,

**All: but even there your hand will guide me,
your mighty hand holding me fast.”**

One: We are held gently in the hands of a loving God,
who will never let us God.

All: Thanks be to God!

* 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 James Horgan.*

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

* HYMN

The Lone Wild Bird

86

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 28:10-18 Read by Katharine Redmond

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

ANTHEM

A Simple Song (from Mass)
Gabriela Fagen, mezzo-soprano

Leonard Bernstein

SERMON

"A Song About Shoes"¹

Rabbi David Meyer

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Like A River In My Soul
Senior Choir

arranged by Tim Osiek

* 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 (please join in singing)

#271

**Lead Me Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
That makest me dwell in safety.**

SENDING

* HYMN

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

S 28

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing) *Go in Peace*

351

**Go now in peace, go now in peace, go now in peace.
We'll meet here again, we'll meet here again, go now in peace.
*Shalom chaverim, shalom chaverim. Shalom, shalom.
Lehitraot, lehitraot, shalom, shalom.***

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken

ⁱ To listen to Rabbi Meyer's "A Song About Shoes", follow this link:
<https://meyerandnelsonmusic1.bandcamp.com/track/a-song-about-shoes>