

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to you, O God, our River of Life:

All: May we drink deeply, and receive your grace.

One: We come to you, O God, our Rock of Ages:

All: May we stand in trust, and receive your strength.

One: We come to you, O God, our Source of Compassion:

All: May we open our hearts, and receive your healing love.

HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

#2

Stephanie Scarcella, *mezzo-soprano*; Maria vanKalken, *piano*

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Holy one, we know you by so many names: you are the Mothering God that gave us birth. You are the Father that tenderly comforts us. You are the Ground of All Being, and the Creator of the Stars of Night. You are both Lamb and Shepherd. You are vast as the universe and as near to us as breathing. We open ourselves to you, in all the ways you are made known to us, and we pray in the words that Jesus taught us, saying:

LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

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

Come to us, God, like fresh water, softening the soil of a parched and weary land. We confess that hurts and disappointments harden our hearts, frustrations and failures dry us out. Come to us, God, with life-giving power. Free us from resentment, reluctance, and reserve. Remind us that in your forgiveness we are free. In the silence, we consider our sins and confess our thirst for your grace.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As the sun melts the ice in spring, as blossoms burst forth on dry branches--so God's warmth transforms the deadness and brokenness within us. The Living Water refreshes and renews us. In Christ we are a forgiven people! Thanks be to God!

LISTENING

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Benjamin and Orjon Pano Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

HYMN *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* #306
Holly Cameron, *soprano*; Maria vanKalken, *piano*

FIRST LESSON Acts 3:12-19 Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

When Peter saw this, he addressed the people as follows:

"Why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if we had made this person walk by our own power or holiness? You are Israelites, and it is the God of Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, Leah and Rachel and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified Jesus--the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. You disowned the Holy and Just One and asked instead for the release of a murderer. You put to death the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead--a fact to which we are witnesses. It is the name of Jesus, and faith in it, that has strengthened the limbs of this one whom you see and know well. Such faith has given this beggar perfect health, as all of you can see.

"Yet I know, my sisters and brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did. God has brought to fulfillment by this means what was announced long ago by the prophets: that the Messiah would suffer. Therefore, reform your lives! Turn to God, that your sins may be wiped away, and that God may send a season of refreshment."

GOSPEL LESSON 1 John 3:1-3 Read by Katharine Redmond

See what love Abba God has lavished on us
in letting us be called God's children!

Yet that is what we are.

The reason the world does not recognize us
is that it never recognized God.

My dear friends,

now we are God's children,

but it has not been revealed

what we are to become in the future.

We know that when it comes to light,

we will be like God,

for we will see God

as God really is.

All who keep this hope keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

SERMON "God of Many Names" Rev. Lindsay Popperson

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

MISSION MOMENT

Marblehead Counseling Center

Ben Day, 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.

SENDING

HYMN

Thine Is the Glory
Maria vanKalken, *organ*

#214

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson