

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

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**May 24, 2020**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

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**GATHERING**

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

PRELUDE

*The Battle Cry of Freedom*

G. F. Root

arr. Jacqueline Schwab

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

Blessed be the name of God  
from this time on and forevermore.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting  
the name of God is to be praised.  
It is good to give God thanks,  
to sing praises to God's name;  
to declare God's steadfast love in the morning,  
and God's faithfulness by night.  
Come, friends. Let us worship the Lord our God.

HYMN

*Shall We Gather at the River*

Robert Lowry

**CENTERING**

PRAYERS OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

God, give us patience with what we don't understand and patience with what we can't control. Give us glimpses of joy and assurances of love. Give us a little break, because we need one. Give us words to pray when no words seem right.

Hear us as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

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.

SILENT PRAYER

O God of mystery, we confess that, more than deep questions, we love easy answers; explaining away miracles, disarming the Good News, we domesticate your wild ways. Teach us to love our questions, O God. Teach us to struggle with faith. Teach us to live with your holy mysteries. Hear us in the silence as we lift up our questions and our doubts to you.

*(silence is kept)*

Gentle God, expand our hearts and our minds.

Grant us patience with ourselves and with one another and with everything unanswered.

Forgive us for the ways we have failed to live into your love. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GRACE**

**Rev. Lindsay Popperson**

Beloved, hear the Good News:

God is with us in our questions and our doubts,  
our fears and our failings.

The Holy Spirit comforts us,  
and Jesus walks alongside us,  
freeing and forgiving us. Thanks be to God! Alleluia, amen!

## **LISTENING**

### **MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN**

**Karen Kilty**  
**Director of Children's Ministries**

#### **FIRST LESSON**

Acts 1:6-14

**Read by Kathleen Jasaitis**

So when they had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

#### **GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 24:44-53

**Read by Ed Jasaitis**

Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

SERMON "Why Are You Standing Around?" Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun  
PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun  
PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTORIA FRENCH Rev. Lindsay Popperson  
ANTHEM *Nimrod, from Variations, Op. 36* ("Enigma Variations") Edward Elgar  
Jacqueline Schwab, piano

## RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT Rev. Lindsay Popperson

### DOXOLOGY (#46)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love hath done;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

### A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MEMORIAL DAY

One: O God, before whose face the empires of the past  
have risen and fallen away, we come to ask that you  
not let us forget the sacrifice that has established  
this nation of your people.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: For the personalities who have inspired and led us,  
for the ideals of liberty and democracy that have  
kept us free, and for the deep passion for justice that  
disrupts our repose,

**ALL: We give you thanks, O God.**

One: For the strength of character, the forgetfulness of self,  
and the loyalty even unto death of those who have  
safeguarded the values we hold dear,

**ALL: We remember with honor, O God.**

One: Lord, carrying in our hearts deep affection for those  
whose sacrifice has made this nation great, we lift to  
you our prayers of thanks, and ask that you help us  
to so live in truth and righteousness that we might ever  
honor their memory.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

## SENDING

HYMN *This is My Song* #515  
Led by Holly Cameron and Stephanie Scarcella

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

POSTLUDE Jacqueline Schwab, piano

**Pianist Jacqueline Schwab** spins musical stories, building bridges to connect listeners to the different cultures and strands that have formed our American music. Her signature playing infuses the soundtracks of Ken Burns' Grammy-winning *Civil War*, *Baseball*, *Lewis and Clark*, *Mark Twain*, and *The War*, among others. She has performed at the White House for President Clinton, and, with Scottish singer Jean Redpath, on public radio's *A Prairie Home Companion* and on CBS' *Late Show with David Letterman*. Jacqueline graduated from the New England Conservatory in Boston, majoring in piano improvisation. She has performed vintage American music in almost every State of the Union, including at Old North Church. She is married to Rev. Edmund Robinson.

*Please click on "Show More," found below the youtube video, if you would like to access the "Suggested Listening" portion of our online services.*