

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 4, 2020

World Communion Sunday

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

Come. Let us be God's community.

Come with love. Let us be one in the Spirit.

Come with curiosity. Let us come as one Body, one Church, one Planet.

Come with hope. As we come to Christ's Table, community is built.

Come. Let us worship together.

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! (Verses 1 & 4)

#10

Led by Holly Cameron, soprano; Maria vanKalken, organ

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

God, who multiplied the loaves and fishes, we come before you today with so many hungers. We are hungry for community, for meaning, for purpose. We are hungry for connection and for solitude. We are hungry for justice and equity. We bring all our hungers to you. On this World Communion Sunday, bind us together with faithful people throughout the world who eat at the table you have set. Remind us that all people are our neighbors, and hear us as we pray together with one voice,

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

God, you created us for community, and tasked us with caring for one another. Help us to see how our hearts have become numb to the suffering of others. God, you created a world of abundance where there was enough for all. Forgive us for the times our hoarding of wealth has meant that others go hungry. God, you created us to rely on one another. Save us from our rugged individualism and self-reliance so that we might be drawn into interdependence. Hear us as we examine our consciences, confess our sins, and ask for your grace in the silence that follows.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

People of God, receive this good news: though our human love is sometimes fickle and fleeting, God's love is unconditional and never-ending. God's grace does not keep a record of our wrongs. You are loved, you are forgiven, and you are free to learn, to grow, and to change. Thanks be to God!

LISTENING

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

Karen Kilty, Director of Children's Ministries

ANTHEM

En Prière

Gabriel Fauré

Performed by Annie Burgett, soprano;
introduction by Sarah DelDotto, director, Old North Church Youth Choirs

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

Read by Diane Thomas

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

SECOND READING

Matthew 21:33-46

Read by John Meakin

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

SERMON "More Trouble in the Vineyard" 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Rev. Lindsay Popperson

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

MUSICAL OFFERING

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Holly Cameron, soprano; Maria vanKalken, piano

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

OFFERING OF THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

HYMN *Son of God, Eternal Savior* S2
Maria vanKalken, organ

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun