

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: The Psalmist tells us:

Many: **this is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Even a year into the pandemic:

Many: **this is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: With the snowdrops and the crocuses and the dandelions blooming:

Many: **this is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: With our whole selves, all our scars and wounds and hopes, we say:

Many: **this is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor

#178

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

Living, loving God, you have given us this day, full of hope and promise. We give you thanks for the opportunity to gather in celebration. As our ancestors waved palms in praise of Jesus of Nazareth, we bring our praises too, believing that you will take our lives and transform us into Christ's disciples. Give us glad hearts and open minds, that in and through our worship we will be filled by your Spirit as it moves in our midst. Unite us now in the faith and fellowship of the One who taught us to pray...

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

Now let us, in silence, confess before God our tendency, like the Jerusalem crowds, to profess our faith in moments of enthusiasm but deny our faith in moments of stress.

Silent Prayer

God of grace and glory, it grieves us to admit how ill-prepared we are to receive your Christ and the reign that he brings. We are too fond of the little realms we have built for ourselves, and enjoy too much being our own rulers. Forgive us, we pray, and give us the ability to place

ourselves in your charge and to be worthy and willing citizens of your unfolding realm. In the name of the One who taught and brought your grace we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news: Jesus Christ lives that we might live too.
Our prayers are heard. Our sins are forgiven. Our lives are made whole.
Thanks be to God! Amen!

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Karen Kilty

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

trad. Irish

Ila Bumagin, Nina Johnson, Lily Walsh, youth choir;
Sarah Del Dotto, director; Dara VanRemoortel, piano

FIRST LESSON

Mark 11:1-11

Read by Ed Jasaitis

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

POETRY READING

“The Poet thinks about the Donkey” Read by Kathleen Jasaitis

By Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
the donkey waited.

Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
he stood and waited.

*How horses, turned out into the meadow,
leap with delight!*

*How doves, released from their cages,
clatter away, splashed with sunlight.*

But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.
Then he let himself be led away.
Then he let the stranger mount.

Never had he seen such crowds!

And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.

Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark, obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.

*I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly upon him,
as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to, forward.*

SERMON

“Borrowed Donkeys”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

MISSION MOMENT

Marblehead Food Pantry

Janet Parker

DOXOLOGY (#45)

GOING FORTH

MUSICAL OFFERING

Chorale from: Cantata: Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden

from a live recording of the Festival Chorus April 2019

BENEDICTION