

The First Church of Christ in Marblehead
Old North Church, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 20, 2022 Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 100)

You will be invited to share aloud what you are grateful for.

One: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Many: Worship the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with singing.

One: Know that the LORD is God. It is She that made us, and we are Hers; we are Her people, and the sheep of Her pasture.

Many: Enter Her gates with thanksgiving, and Her courts with praise. Give thanks to Her, bless Her name.

One: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

* HYMN

We Gather Together

#23

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Though many forces have scattered us in various ways, we invite you to bring us together within ourselves and all around us. Prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits, Gathering God, to be present and ready to receive exactly what we need from this time of worship. Open our hearts, minds and spirits, Gracious God, to offer you our thanks and praise. We ask in Jesus Name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

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

It's so easy for us to get caught up in our human-made divisions. Whether survival instincts or capitalistic drive, we separate ourselves from those who don't look, think, or act like us. We unintentionally allow our differences to stain the beauty of your diversity. Our many different households, family structures, belief systems, and various identities become tools of divisiveness rather than gifts of the divine. Forgive us and restore us.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even when we cling to the things that unnecessarily separate us, God unscatters us. No matter who we are or what has brought us to this very moment, God chooses to love us back to wholeness, individually and communally. Hallelujah and amen!

* CHORAL 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.

* HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

#527

LISTENING

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

[Moses continued, saying,] "When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs

and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

ANTHEM

At the River

Charles Ives

Gabriela Fagen, *mezzo-soprano*

SERMON

“Our Complicated Stories” Rev. Lindsay Popperson

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Senior Choir

Virgil Thomson

* DOXOLOGY: #45 (Please note the text)

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)

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 *Now Thank We All Our God* #27

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing) American Folk Hymn, arr.by Dale Wood

God be with you – til we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.
By his counsels guide, uphold you, With his sheep – securely fold you:
God be with you – til we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.

POSTLUDE Maria vanKalken, *organ*