

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

One: Be still and know that God is.
God was, also, in the beginning.
And when all human striving has ceased, God will still be.
From everlasting to everlasting, God is God,
and alone is worthy to be worshiped

HYMN

Wer hat dich so geschlagen, chorale from the *St. Matthew Passion*

J. S. Bach

From a live recording of the Old North Festival Chorus, April 14, 2019

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

God of eternity, in these uncertain times of empty moments and foggy brains, we are reminded that you forget more than we will ever remember, you forgive so much more than we are capable of messing up, you crack open our hardened hearts to write your name on them. Reveal yourself to us, in our worship today and even more in our daily lives, that we may know you, not just in our minds, but in our hearts and in our bones

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

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

We confess our sins today borrowing the words that King David wrote in Psalm 51, when he was moved to confess:

Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out our transgressions.

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity,
and cleanse us from our sin.

For we know our transgressions,
and our sin is ever before us.
Against you, you alone, have we sinned,

and done what is evil in your sight,
that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment

SILENT PRAYER

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and put new and right spirits within us.
Do not cast us away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in us a willing spirit.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Hear the Good News: God was able to forgive King David, after he cheated on his many wives with a woman he'd seen bathing on a roof. God was able to forgive King David, after David sent Bathsheba's husband to the front lines to conceal a pregnancy. Not only did God forgive David, God was able to use David to do great and beautiful things. God forgives you all your sins and failings. God will use you to do great and beautiful works in this world. Thanks be to God.

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Karen Kilty
Director of Children's Ministries

HYMN

Erbarme dich, aria from the *St. Matthew Passion*

J. S. Bach

Stephanie Scarella, *mezzo-soprano*; Beth Welty, *violin*

From a live recording of the Old North Festival Chorus, April 14, 2019

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 12:20-3

Read by Katharine Redmond

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

SERMON

"The Days Are Surely Coming"

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.

SENDING

HYMN

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Jesu, meine freude, trad. German,
harmonized by J.S. Bach 1723

From a live recording of the Old North Festival Chorus, April 14, 2019

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun