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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 8, 2026 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 82:1-4, 8 (translated by Pamela Greenberg)

One: God, you stand amidst all the flawed objects of praise;
from among the false gods you will judge.
All: How long, God, will you tolerate injustice,
lifting the spirits of those who refuse to do right?
One: Bring justice to the downtrodden and orphaned.
The poor and hungry, protect their rights.
All: Rescue the needy and afflicted;
from the hands of the wrongful, lift them away.
Rise up, God, judge the earth,
for all nations belong to you.

* HYMN *O Lord, Almighty God, Thy Works* #22

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Rev. Christine Hribar

Creator God, we thank you for the opportunity we have to share this world, for everyone and everything you created, and for the chance to make a difference.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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. Christine Hribar

All: Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our failure to be what you created us to be.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
By your loving mercy,
help us to live in your light
and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

One: In the silence, we reflect on our own sins
and those done on our behalf or in our name.

SILENT PRAYER

All: Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Rev. Christine Hribar

One: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

All: God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth!
By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Please join in singing)

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.

MISSION MOMENT Larissa Cartwright

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

May you know that you belong here and can always come home.
May you grow, learn, and question.
May you feel the love of God wherever you go.

We invite any children interested to now join their teachers in leaving the sanctuary for Sunday School. Their families can meet them in the classroom when the service is over.

* HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* S 17

LISTENING

HEBREW BIBLE READING Read by Leah Waldo

2 Kings 5:1-15

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go, then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his skin disease." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant."

GOSPEL READING Read by Ruth Duell

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said,

"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

ANTHEM *Down by the River to Pray* arr. Sheldon Curry
Senior Choir

SERMON "Where the Power Is" Rev. Lindsay Popperson

RESPONDING

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Laudate Dominum W.A. Mozart
Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Senior Choir

* DOXOLOGY: 46

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

SENDING

* HYMN *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* #454

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (Please join in singing) *Go With Us, Lord* #336

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

POSTLUDE Maria vanKalken, *organ*