

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 15, 2020 Twenty Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: Jesus came to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives,
to open every heart,
to liberate those who are oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of God's favor.
We gather for worship to witness what God is doing
and to participate in God's liberating love

HYMN

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending
Maria vanKalken, organ

#454

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

One: Kind and ever-loving God, Giver of Life and all that is good, you have trusted us with so much: your creation, your peace, and your promise. We pray for the grace to see your goodness unfold in the world around us, right here in the land of the living, right now in the midst of these challenging times. Let us be united in love and seek you with our whole hearts, as we see your salvation at work in us, through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray as he prayed, saying...

LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

ALL: 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

One: We pause now to ponder and confess the ways we sin and fall short of God's will and purpose. We do so, not to wallow in our faults and failings, but in anticipation of the good news of God's amazing grace, through which we become a new creation. With faith in God's mercy, let us open our hearts and minds in silent prayer...

SILENT PRAYER

One: Lord of Creation, we confess that we have squandered your gifts and used them as if they had been given for us alone. There have been times we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not always done your will. We have broken your law, rebelled against your love, times we have not loved our neighbors or heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from the burden of guilt and fill us with promise of redemption. We pray in the sure and certain faith in your goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the Good News: We have not been faithful in all things. But our God welcomes us with patience and kindness. As people of God's promise, let us receive forgiveness, embrace hope, and press forward in faith, for by the grace of God, we are a New Creation. Thanks be to God! Amen.

LISTENING

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

Karen Kilty

HYMN

My Life Flows On in Endless Song
Verses 1, 2 & 4

#427

Stephanie Scarcella, mezzo-soprano; Maria vanKalken, piano

FIRST READING

Psalm 123

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he has mercy upon us.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30

Read by Katharine Redmond

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five

talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

SERMON

“Entrusted”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

John and Barbara Tatum

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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

#467

Holly Cameron, soprano; Maria vanKalken, piano

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson