

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 10, 2021

First Sunday after Epiphany

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 29)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in the temple all say, "Glory!"

HYMN

Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering New Century Hymnal
Holly Cameron, *soprano*; Maria vanKalken, *piano*

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Mimi Hollister Gardner

Loving God, open our hearts
that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.
Unclench our hands,
that we may reach out to one another with signs of your Love.
Open our lips,
that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.
Widen our minds
that we may know Christ in friend and stranger.
Breathe your Spirit into us,
and touch our lives with the life of Christ, 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

Rev. Mimi Hollister Gardner

We are people of worth and value.
When we honestly acknowledge the shame and guilt of our lives,
there is a possibility of transformation.
Let us confess in silence, putting out trust in the accepting grace of Christ.

(silence is kept)

Holy God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as liberation and peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves,
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor,
and nation against nation.
We abuse your gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Mimi Hollister Gardner

Receive this good news:
The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us.
The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.
Be assured that God is with us even now,
accepting, guiding, and forgiving.

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Karen Kilty
Director of Children's Ministries

MUSICAL OFFERING

Down To The River To Pray
Anna VanRemoortel, *guitar and vocals*

traditional American

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

Read by Melissa MacDonald

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

Read by Melissa MacDonald

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

SERMON

“Sustenance and Strength”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word
Stephanie Scarcella, *mezzo-soprano*; Maria vanKalken, *piano*

New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson