

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 5, 2023

Second Sunday in Lent

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From water and the Spirit, life is born.

All: Through water and the Spirit, new life begins.

One By water and the Spirit, eternal life is sustained.

All: Let us celebrate being born anew in Christ, and worship God!

* HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

#87

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Psalm 121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?

My help comes from the **LORD**, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The **LORD** is your keeper; the **LORD** is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The **LORD** will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The **LORD** will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

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

One: Lent is a time for returning to God. The prophet Joel spoke these words to the people: “Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” (*Joel 2:12-13*) Confession is when we bring ourselves before our God. What is weighing on your heart this day? What do you need to confess to God?

SILENT PRAYER

All: Holy God, you call us to return to you with our whole hearts. We bring you our whole selves, not just our polished facades. We bring you the brokenness we carry; we bring you our baggage, our doubts, our grudges, our anger. We bring you our unwillingness to welcome others. We bring you our reluctance to change. We bring our shame, our hurt, our despair. You call us to return to you with all our hearts, and so we return, seeking your welcome and your healing, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: Only when we open our whole hearts to God—including the parts we wish were different, or weren’t there at all—can we feel the love of God coming into every corner of our hearts. In issuing his call to the people, the prophet Joel assures them about the character of God:

All: “Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.”

One: This is the God we turn to in Lent. This is the God who meets us in our brokenness. This is the God who heals our hearts.

All: Thanks be to God!

* CONGREGATIONAL 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

Come Down, O Love Divine

S 6

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Brother James’s Air
Senior Choir

arr. Gordon Jacob

*** DOXOLOGY #48**

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**

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3:1-17

Read by Frank Arren

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

SERMON "The Places We Go When We Are Hurting" Rev. Don Remick

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

CELEBRATING

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Katherine Howe, Isaac and Aine Lorie, Ruth Duell, Jon and Leah Waldo

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES AND CONGREGATION

PROMISE FROM THE CHURCH

One: As a sign of our shared desire to continue to grow as the members of Old North Church in Marblehead, let us join together in proclaiming our vision statement:

All: **Old North Church shall be an inclusive Christian Community called to bring to life God's love and grace by sharing the gospel for this time and place; extending the hospitality Christ showed; embodying God's love and compassion to those in need; and growing together in our understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst.**

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

One: Let us, the members of Old North Church, express our welcome and affirm our ministry together:

All: **We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We give thanks to God for bringing you to us. We welcome the ways in which you will enrich, change, and challenge this church. We promise you our love, support, and care, come what may.**

* HYMN

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

#244

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

I to the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes Scottish Psalter, 1615
Senior Choir

OFFERING OF THE CUP

Hostias (from *Requiem*)
Andrew Scoglio, *baritone*

Gabriel Fauré

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

- * HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* #238
- * BENEDICTION
- * RESPONSE *I Feel the Winds of God Today* Tune: Kingsfold

I feel the winds of God today,
Today my sail I lift,
Though heavy oft with drenching spray
And torn with many a rift.
If hope would light the water's crest,
And Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at His behest,
And brave another cruise. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*