

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 30, 2021

First Sunday After Pentecost

Online Service

GATHERING

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalms 113 and 92*)

The Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: Blessed be the name of God
from this time on and forevermore.

**All: From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of God is to be praised.**

One: It is good to give thanks to God,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**All: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness at night.**

HYMN

I Feel the Winds of God Today
Maria vanKalken, *piano*

Words: Jessie Adams
Tune: *Kingsfold*

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

O God of Mystery,
within your very self you model the beloved community.
You are the wisdom within our hearts,
the Word who dwells among us,
the Spirit who calls us beyond ourselves.
Let us know your presence here today in a new way,
that we might celebrate your love
and go forth empowered to serve you in the world.
We offer this and all our prayers in the name and spirit
of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...

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

One: Now, Holy One, we come to confess in one voice...

ALL: Forgive us, steadfast lover of our souls. Forgive how we hide from you when we need you most. Forgive how we count on other forces too much and you too little. Forgive how we inflate our wisdom and deflate the claims you make on our lives. Above all, have mercy on the ways we isolate ourselves from you and one another, keep our own counsel, and fail to entrust ourselves to your grace. Then, in forgiving, renew our living. We pray in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

One: Here, in this hallowed time and place, may we find new courage, new generosity of spirit, forgiveness given and received, and rededication to God's claim on our lives.

ALL: By the grace of God, may it be so. Amen.

LISTENING

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

Karen W. Kilty
Director of Children's Ministries

ANTHEM

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands arr. by Margaret Bonds
Holly Cameron, *soprano*; Maria vanKalken, *piano*

FIRST LESSON

Romans 12:9-18

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

POETRY READING

I lived in the first century of world wars
By Muriel Rukeyser

Read by Mark Roberge

I lived in the first century of world wars.
Most mornings I would be more or less insane,
The newspapers would arrive with their careless stories,
The news would pour out of various devices
Interrupted by attempts to sell products to the unseen.
I would call my friends on other devices;
They would be more or less mad for similar reasons.
Slowly I would get to pen and paper,
Make my poems for others unseen and unborn.
In the day I would be reminded of those men and women,
Brave, setting up signals across vast distances,
Considering a nameless way of living, of almost unimagined values.

As the lights darkened, as the lights of night brightened,
We would try to imagine them, try to find each other,
To construct peace, to make love, to reconcile
Waking with sleeping, ourselves with each other,
Ourselves with ourselves. We would try by any means
To reach the limits of ourselves, to reach beyond ourselves,
To let go the means, to wake.

I lived in the first century of these wars.

The use of this poem in our worship service is permissible under US copyright law (17 U.S.C. § 110(3))

SERMON

“If It Is Possible”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

SILENT PRAYER

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

This is My Song
Maria vanKalken, *organ*

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BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun