

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 20, 2026 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 33:18-22, translated by Pamela Greenberg

One: Look! God's eye shines upon those who revere the holy,
those who long for the divine presence—

**All: to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive during famine.**

One: Our souls wait for you, our help and our shield.

All: For in you our heart rejoices.

One: In your holy name we have placed our trust.

All: May your love, God, be upon us, whenever we long for you.

* HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

#80

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Hribar

by Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

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

One: Confident of God's grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world, first in silence, and then aloud, together.

SILENT PRAYER

All: Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open us to a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Isaiah 43:1,19

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.**

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

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You

#94

LISTENING

HEBREW BIBLE READING *Genesis 12:1-9*

Read by Andrea Gilgulin

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.”

So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:19-20 Read by Katharine Redmond

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ANTHEM

Cantate Domino

Pitoni

Senior Choir

SERMON

“God is Calling”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Domine Deus (From *Gloria*)

A. Vivaldi

Anne Burgett, *soprano*

* 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

For the Healing of the Nations

S 4

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

#334 verse 4

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,

Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;

Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,

Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*