

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 19, 2020

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 86)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

You are good and forgiving, O Lord,
full of constant love for all who call on you.
Listen to our prayers, God,
hear our cries for help.
Teach us your ways, O Lord,
so that we may walk with you alone.
We will praise you with all our hearts, God,
and glorify your name forever.
You, Lord, are a compassionate and merciful God,
slow to anger, overflowing with love and fidelity.
You are the God we worship with our whole hearts, minds, souls, and strength.

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

All-knowing God, we have gathered in the hope of worshiping you in spirit and in truth. We pray that you come into the smallness of our minds with your divine greatness. Break through the boundaries of our present understandings of your love, your will, your ways, that we may know you when you appear along our paths through life. Help us to recognize Christ as he meets us where we are. Now, settle and center us in the name and spirit of the One who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

One: It is easy for us to boast of our achievements, but hard to come humbly before God with the mistakes we make. Here in the blessed quietness, we are called to present our whole lives to the One who means to shape us into new people...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GRACE

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

One: Friends, believe the good news. The Holy One who calls us here is able and willing to make all things new! Through the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit we are a new creation! Thanks be to God!

ALL: Amen!

LISTENING

HYMN

When Jesus Came Preaching the Way of Our God #358 (verses 1 & 3)
Maria vanKalken, piano

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Karen Kilty, Director of Children's Ministries

FIRST READING

Matthew 13:24-30 Read by Melissa MacDonald
translation: The Inclusive Bible

Jesus presented another parable to those gathered: "The kingdom of heaven is like a farmer who sowed good seed in a field. While everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then made off. When the crop began to mature and yield grain, the weeds became evident as well.

"The farmer's workers came and asked, 'Did you not sow good seed in your field? Where are the weeds coming from?'

"The farmer replied, 'I see an enemy's hand in this.'

"They in turn asked, 'Do you want us to go out and pull them up?'

"No,' replied the farmer, 'if you pull up the weeds, you might take the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until the harvest, then at harvest time I will order the harvesters first to collect the weeds and bundle them up to burn, then to gather the wheat into my barn.'"

SECOND READING

"Imagine the Angels of Bread" Read by Melissa MacDonald
By Martín Espada

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

This is the year that squatters evict landlords, gazing like admirals from the rail
of the roofdeck
or levitating hands in praise
of steam in the shower;
this is the year
that shawled refugees deport judges, who stare at the floor
and their swollen feet
as files are stamped
with their destination;
this is the year that police revolvers, stove-hot, blister the fingers
of raging cops,
and nightsticks splinter
in their palms;
this is the year

that darkskinned men
lynched a century ago
return to sip coffee quietly
with the apologizing descendants
of their executioners.

This is the year that those
who swim the border's undertow
and shiver in boxcars
are greeted with trumpets and drums
at the first railroad crossing
on the other side;
this is the year that the hands
pulling tomatoes from the vine
uproot the deed to the earth that sprouts the vine, the hands canning tomatoes
are named in the will
that owns the bedlam of the cannery;
this is the year that the eyes
stinging from the poison that purifies toilets awaken at last to the sight
of a rooster-loud hillside,
pilgrimage of immigrant birth;
this is the year that cockroaches
become extinct, that no doctor
finds a roach embedded
in the ear of an infant;
this is the year that the food stamps
of adolescent mothers
are auctioned like gold doubloons,
and no coin is given to buy machetes
for the next bouquet of severed heads
in coffee plantation country.

If the abolition of slave-manacles
began as a vision of hands without manacles, then this is the year;
if the shutdown of extermination camps
began as imagination of a land
without barbed wire or the crematorium,
then this is the year;
if every rebellion begins with the idea
that conquerors on horseback
are not many-legged gods, that they too drown if plunged in the river,
then this is the year.

So may every humiliated mouth, teeth like desecrated headstones, fill with the angels of
bread.

SERMON

“Imagining the Kingdom of Heaven” Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

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

God We Thank You for Our People
Maria vanKalken, piano

#378

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson