

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

One: For our community gathered here,
for the spirit that called us together and drew us to this place:

ALL: Let us give thanks.

One: For moments we have shared with others;
for times when we have reached out across barriers of distance and fear;
for times when others have reached out to us:

ALL: Let us give thanks.

One: For our weaving together out of many separate selves
this hour of celebration and reflection:

ALL: Let us give thanks.

One: Once again, we have gathered from our scattered homes
and our varied lives, to be in communion with one another
and with the Holy One who breathed us into being.

**ALL: May we continue to create a circle of love,
ever expanding, ever growing.**

A circle of wisdom.

A circle of connection.

A circle of hope.

One: Friends, let us worship our good and gracious God.

HYMN

The Lord's My Shepherd
Led by Holly Cameron

#430

CENTERING

PRAYERS OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Shepherding God, we have heard your voice calling to us, beckoning us to come to you and rest. We have heard you offering life, and life abundant. So we come to you today, just as we are: weary, worn, and sad, to find in you our resting place. Make us lie down in green pastures. Lead us by still waters. Restore our souls, because they need restoring.

Hear us in the silence as we settle our hearts and minds and bring ourselves before you, our good shepherd.

Silence is kept.

God, you are the one who sustains us as we walk through this valley of the shadow of death. We are your flock. Hear us as we pray in one voice the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

THE 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

God, you know all too well how much we like to go down our own paths, instead of walking in your ways of compassion and care. We confess today our tendency to think only of ourselves, and not of other people. We confess today our desire to stop being cautious, thus putting others at risk. We confess that we have been clumsy and short with one another in these hard days. We confess that we are beginning to feel pretty lost.

Hear us in the silence as we lift up to you all that weighs us down:

Silence is kept.

God, we mean it when we say sorry today. We mean it when we confess that we're trying to do better, and be gentler with ourselves and with each other. Hear our confessions, and give us the grace we know we need, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GRACE

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Beloved ones, hear the good news: our Good Shepherd will never stop calling us back, never stop searching for us, never close the gate to us. Our Good Shepherd will never stop leading us and caring for us, and shepherding us into life abundant. Thanks be to God that we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture!

LISTENING

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

Karen Kilty
Director of Children's Ministries

ANTHEM

It is Well With My Soul Arr. by David Abramsky
Stephanie Scarcella, mezzo-soprano; Darlene Scarcella, piano;
Anthony Scarcella, cello (instrumental parts recorded in Italy)

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 23

Read by Katharine Redmond

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:1-10

Read by Jill Dearborn

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love hath done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

OFFERING OF THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kingsfold

Recessional hymn sung by choir, congregation, organ and orchestra,
recorded live at Old North Church on Sunday, April 14, 2019

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

*Please click on "Show More," found below the youtube video
if you would like to access the "Suggested Listening" portion of our online services.*