

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 15, 2023

Second Sunday After Epiphany

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ is calling, inviting, urging and yearning: Come and follow me!

All: **Let us set aside our worry and fear, our busyness and competing agendas to respond to Christ's call.**

One: Christ offers us the opportunity to walk with him, to come to know his heart more deeply day by day.

All: **Nothing is more precious than opening our hearts to God who fills us with love.**

One: Christ grants us the privilege of working alongside him in the ministry of God.

All: **There is no higher call and no greater joy than making a difference in the realm of God.**

One: Come, let us worship the One who calls us to follow!

All: **We worship in joy, in gratitude, in praise!**

* **HYMN**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

#403

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God, you made this world to be a place of flourishing for all people—but we have wounded one another, and we are caught up in harmful systems we did not create, and cannot control. We come to worship to remember your love, to refocus on your justice, and to stir up our imaginations. We lean into your promise that you are making all things new. In the silence, we bring ourselves into your presence.

SILENT PRAYER

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: We read in the prophet Micah that this is what the Lord requires of us: to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We examine our lives in light of this. Have we committed to doing justice, or are we acquiescing to the status quo?

(silence is kept)

One: Have we loved mercy, or been hard-hearted and judgmental?

(silence is kept)

One: Have we walked humbly with our God, or have we been arrogant and self-seeking?

(silence is kept)

All: Justice-bringing God, forgive us for our failures to live rightly with one another. Loving God, forgive us for our reluctance to love our neighbors as ourselves. Waymaking God, forgive us for going our own way. Lead us along the path Jesus made for us: a way of justice, mercy, and humility. It is in his name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Micah also says this: "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of your inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy."

All: God delights in showing mercy to us. Let us delight in receiving mercy and sharing it freely. 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

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

#503

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 3:23-29

Read by Dave Cross

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

ANTHEM

At the River

arranged by Charles Ives

Gabriela Fagen, *mezzo-soprano*

SERMON

"On Being a Racist"

Rev. Don Remick

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Merman/Allen

arranged by Roy Ringwald

Holly Cameron, *soprano*; Senior Choir

* 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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHORAL RESPONSE

SENDING

* HYMN

We Shall Overcome

#476

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE (please join in singing)

#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*