

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Matthew 11:28-29)

One: We remind one another of the invitation that Jesus gave:

All: **“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”**

One: Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

All: **“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

One: We come together to find rest for our souls.

* HYMN

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

#302

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (adapted from Psalm 139)

O Lord, You have searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thoughts from afar.
You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on our tongues,
But You know it altogether.
May our words, songs and actions please you, God.

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 CONFESSSION

All: Loving God, we confess that we are so accustomed to pushing through an exhausted state that we come to expect the same from those nearest to us. We mirror demands made of us and dissociate from the reality that these demands have harmed us, have left us anxious and unwell. Reorient our souls towards more than self-care. We want more for one another than the same expectations that haunt us, the same brutal experience of living within the systems of this world. Free us from resentment and envy as we bear witness to the prophets in our lives who practice rest and boundaries well. Let them be our guides into deeper freedom. Help us to never get used to being used. We were made for more. And together we possess the mysterious power of regeneration wrapped up in our bones.

One: Hear now our silent prayers.

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Receive this good news: the God who sends the sun to sleep each night without apology so too grants you the rest that has been withheld from you and your ancestors.

All: God forgives us all our restlessness, that we would no longer be tormented by silence and stillness but find it a sacred reprieve from a world whose demand on our bodies is loud and unceasing.

One: There is nothing, nothing that can stand in between you and the love of God in Christ. Amen.

* 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.

CELEBRATING

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Alexander Andrew Trasher
Son of Sam and Joanna Trasher

Grandson of Andy Trasher, former Old North Deacon

WELCOME BY THE CONGREGATION

One: Let us, the members of the Body of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our ministry.

All: **We welcome you with joy into the common life of the Church, one in the unity of Christ. We promise you our prayers and support as we share the hopes and labors of our faith. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in the knowledge and love of God made manifest in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN (please remain seated) *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

#306

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

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.

Children will now go to Sunday school; families can meet them in the classroom after the service.

* HYMN *The Lone Wild Bird* #86

GOSPEL READING Matthew 12:1-8 Read by Mark Roberge

At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? How he entered the house of God, and they ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:8-11

Read by Leah Waldo

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

ANTHEM*I Have a Soul to Be Saved or Lost*

Daniel Roihl

Andrew Scoglio, *baritone*; Senior Choir**SERMON**

“More than Rest”

Rev. Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER**RESPONDING****OFFERTORY****INVITATION****PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS***Fairest Lord Jesus*
Senior Choir

arr. Martin How

* **DOXOLOGY #48**

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***Lord of All Hopefulness*

#444

* **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

POSTLUDEMaria vanKalken, *organ*