

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 4, 2026 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am

GATHERING

PRELUDE Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Tyler Schwalbe

One: Be still before the mystery of Life,
 Before your Creator who made it,
 Before Jesus who said that he was Life,
 Before the Spirit who breathes life into us all,
 Before life as we see it in God's good world.

**All: Gracious God, let us revere you in your gift of Life,
 And grant to our reverence, insight into your holy purpose.**

One: With praise and thanksgiving we open our lives to you.

* HYMN *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky* #461

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison) Jess Easter

God of life, we rejoice in your love which has filled creation from the beginning and which calls all life into being. We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals your loving purpose for all people. We bless you for your Spirit who draws all humanity into the circle of your tender love. Gracious God, bless us with your presence so that our worship and our lives may be a true celebration of your love in Jesus Christ. We pray with the words he taught us saying...

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

Rev. Christine Hribar

One: Our God is a God of liberation. So much keeps us bound:
systems that we did not create and cannot control,
bad habits, unhealthy patterns.
Confession is a time to be honest
about our individual and collective failings, and to seek God's freedom.
We confess first in silence, and then aloud, together.

SILENT PRAYER

**All: Liberating God,
you long to lead us and all people to freedom.
We confess our failure to confront systems
that keep people oppressed.
We confess our lack of imagination
for a better future,
and we confess our hesitancy to work towards it.
We confess our slowness to love You, to love others,
to love ourselves, to love the world.
We confess our own hardness of heart,
and our own unwillingness to change,
and our tendency to get in our own way.
Forgive it all, and—despite our waywardness and slowness—
continue to lead us towards freedom and new life,
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: We confess our sins so that we can be set free from the bondage of the past. Therefore, let us proclaim together that in the name of Jesus, we are set free:

**All: set free from all the enslaving bonds of our past,
set free to live powerfully in every present moment,
set free to love God, to love our neighbors,
and to work together in building a peaceful world.**

One: Jesus said: I have come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly. Praise God!

All: God's name be praised!

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.**

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.**

*We invite any children interested to now join their teachers in leaving the sanctuary
for Sunday School. They will return to join their families for communion.*

* HYMN *I've Got Peace Like a River* #426

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Keep Your Lamps
Senior Choir

Arr. Victor Johnson

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

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Read by Andrea Gilgulin

Exodus 13:17-20, 14: 5-7, 10-14, 21-29

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer, for God thought, "If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness bordering the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle.

And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, “God will surely come to you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here.” They set out from Succoth and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness.

...

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, “What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?” So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him; he took six hundred elite chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.

...

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

...

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:13-15

Read by Leah Waldo

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

SERMON

“Carry the Bones”

Rev. Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER

* HYMN

The Lone Wild Bird

#86

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*Today, we are receiving communion by intinction—
dipping the bread in the cup and receiving both elements together.*

*You will be invited to come forward via the center aisles,
receive communion, and then return to your seats via the outer aisles.*

*If you would prefer, for any reason, to receive communion in your pew,
stay seated and communion will be brought to you.*

*All are welcome to receive communion at Old North—young and old, baptized and not.
There are gluten free crackers available on each tray, and we serve only non-alcoholic grape juice.*

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Dolly Parton

Holly Cameron and Leah Waldo, *vocals and guitar*; Mark Shilansky, *piano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

* HYMN *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* #439

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE *Amazing Grace* #401 verse 5

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Then when we'd first begun. Amen.

POSTLUDE Maria vanKalken, *organ*