

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 8, 2020 Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

One: Let us worship God as children...with wonder and awe.
Let us worship God as youth...with questions and eager hearts.
Let us worship God as adults...with gratitude and praise.
Let us worship God as elders...with wisdom and hope.
Let the Body of Christ sing praises to God, from whom all blessings flow.

Musical Offering *Christe/Kyrie* from *Missa Nr. 9 in D* Johannes David Heinichen
Featured soloists: Stephanie Scarella, mezzo-soprano; Kevin Hayden, tenor
Old North Festival Chorus live, December 2015

CENTERING

PRAYERS OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

One: God of captives and pilgrims, you brought your people home from despair and gave them a land of freedom and plenty. Look in mercy on us your people, deliver us from wandering in selfishness and sin, and bring us home to justice, sharing, and compassion, the realm you promised all the world in Jesus Christ the Savior, who taught us to pray, saying:

LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

CONFSSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

SILENT PRAYER

One: Hear the good news: we are always free to choose a new path, always free to receive God's forgiveness, always free to start fresh, no matter what is going on in the world or in our lives. Live out this week with the freedom to be who God has created and called you to be.

LISTENING

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

Tamara Whitfield

Daughter of Elaine Sharp and Neil Lockwood

SOLO

Amazing Grace

“traditional American”

Holly Cameron, soloist

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many... Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

SERMON

“Are We Ready?”

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

RESPONDING**OFFERTORY MOMENT**

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

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

MUSICAL OFFERING *Dona Nobis Pacem* from *Missa Nr.9 in D* Johannes David Heinichen
(Old North Festival Chorus, live, December 2015)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

Today's musical selections are in loving memory of Peter C. Davis, who joined the tenor section of the Festival Chorus and Old North Church choir in 2015.
