

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

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**January 17, 2021**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

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**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

Rev. Mimi Hollister Gardner

**CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 139)**

Rev. Mimi Hollister Gardner

God, you are the one who formed us;  
you knit us together in our mothers' wombs.

We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that we know very well.

We worship you, our Creator, with our whole selves.

**HYMN**

*I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say*

tune: *Kingsfold*

Choir and Congregation recorded live in April 2019; Old North Festival Chorus

**CENTERING**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (from Psalm 139)**

Rev. Mimi Hollister Gardner

Loving God, where can we go from your spirit?  
Or where can we flee from your presence?  
If we ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if we make our bed in the depths, you are there.  
If we take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead us,  
and your right hand shall hold us fast.  
If we say, "Surely the darkness shall cover us,  
and the light around us become night,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

We bring ourselves before you now, praying in the words that Jesus taught us:

**LORD'S PRAYER (debts)**

**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.**

## PRAAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Mimi Hollister Gardner

*Our prayer of confession and assurance of pardon comes from Pamela Greenberg's modern translation of Psalm 139.*

God, you have searched out our deepest places;  
you know what lies in our depths.  
You know our sitting down and our rising up.  
You know how to shepherd us from afar.  
Our paths and our night thoughts--you sift through them.  
You know all our roads,  
for there has been no word on our tongues  
that--behold--you did not know it beforehand.  
In the silence, we confess our sins, our failings, and our shame to you.  
(silence is kept)  
Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Mimi Hollister Gardner

God searches us out with shovel and torchlight  
and knows our hearts by means of compassion.  
God understands the turbulent branching of our thoughts.  
God sees the roads that brings us sadness,  
and leads us instead on the path of eternal life.  
Thanks be to God.

## LISTENING

### MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Karen Kilty  
Director of Children's Ministries

### ANTHEM

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Arr. Roy Ringwald;  
text Joyce Merman

Holly Cameron, soprano; Maria vanKalken, piano

### HEBREW BIBLE READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Read by Rebecca Ehrhardt

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls

you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 1:43-51

Read by Katharine Redmond

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

    who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

    make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

## SERMON

“Who Are You Listening To?”

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

## 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

## HYMN

*We Shall Overcome*

#476

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson