

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Christine Hribar

*Psalm 1:1-3 translated by Pamela Greenberg*

One: Blessed are those who walked not influenced by the guilty,

**All: who in the path without purpose did not linger;  
in the dwellings of scorners did not long dwell.**

One: They are consumed with the teaching of God  
and meditate on divine wisdom both day and night.

**All: They will be like a tree transplanted along a breach in the river  
that yields fruit at its appointed season  
and whose leaves never cease to produce;  
all their labor streams forth to fruition.**

\* HYMN

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

#7

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

*by Ludwig von Beethoven*

We must praise Thy goodness,  
that Thou hast left nothing undone to draw us to Thyself.  
But one thing we ask of Thee, our God,  
not to cease Thy work in our improvement.  
Let us tend towards Thee,  
no matter by what means,  
and be fruitful in good works.

## 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 CONFESSION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

**One:** We come before God not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of dearly-loved children of God, let us humbly confess our sins, first in silence, and then aloud, together.

## SILENT PRAYER

**All:** O Lord our God,  
you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil.  
You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation.  
You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.  
You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people near and far.  
Forgive us, O Lord.  
Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others;  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from Romans 5:5*

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

**One:** Proclaim together the good news!

**All:** Hope does not disappoint us,  
for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism.

**One:** Believe this good news and give thanks:

**All:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

\* 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**

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Spencer Donald Paul  
Son of Amy Elizabeth Paul and Jeffrey Dana Paul  
Godparents: Lauren and James Camire

William “Wylie” Bonsor Scatchard V  
Son of Kiera Scatchard and William Scatchard

## **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.**

*We invite any children interested to now join their teachers in leaving the sanctuary for Sunday School.  
Their families can meet them in the classroom when the service is over.*

\* **HYMN** *Morning Has Broken* #258

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Read by Mark Roberge

Acts 16:11-15, 40 *The Inclusive Bible* trans.

We put out to sea from Troas and set a course straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolois; from there we went to Philippi, which is one of the bigger cities in Macedonia and a Roman colony, and spent a few days there.

On the Sabbath we went along the river outside the gates, thinking we might find a place of prayer. We sat down and preached to the women who had come to the gathering. One of them was named Lydia, a devout woman from the town of Thyatira who was in the purple-dye trade. As she listened to us, Christ opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying. After she and her household were baptized, she extended us an invitation: “If you are convinced that I am a believer in Christ, please come and stay with us.” We accepted.

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From prison Paul and Silas returned to Lydia’s house, where they met with the sisters and brothers to give them encouragement. Then they left.

ANTHEM

*The Tree of Life*

K. Lee Scott

Anne Burgett, *soprano*; Senior Choir

SERMON

“Lydia’s Hospitality”

Rev. Christine Hribar

PASTORAL PRAYER

## RESPONDING

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

*By Streams of Living Water* arr. Michael E. Akers  
Old North Bell Choir; Greg Urban, guest Director

\* 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 *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* #33

\* BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE (please join in singing) *Send Me Jesus* (Thuma Mina) #344

**Send me Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me Jesus, send me Lord**

**Lead me...**

**Fill me...**

**Thuma mina...somandla**

POSTLUDE

*Maria vanKalken, organ*