

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 21, 2020

Third Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

One: Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking, the tired and the aching who long for the peace found in you.

ALL: Gather us in,

One: the done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering, the puzzled and pondering who long for the company found in you.

ALL: Gather us in,

One: the proud and pretentious, the sure and superior, the never inferior, who long for the leveling found in you.

ALL: Gather us in,

One: the bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers, the kind laughter makers who long for the deeper joys found in you.

ALL: Gather us in.

HYMN

Faith of Our Fathers (Verses 1, 3 and 4)
Led by Stephanie Scarella

#418

CENTERING

PRAAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Blessed are you, Holy One, who made this world to move in cycles: day into dusk into night into dawn, ebb tide into flow tide, the dark cold of winter to the muddy joy of spring to the lush bright heat of summer. Here we are, on this longest day, remembering that the light does come back. We have felt so broken these past months. Break us open to the beauty and delight all around us, even in the midst of so much loss. Bring us to the shores of your love. Hear us as we pray in the words Jesus taught us, saying:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

We confess our sins not because God needs us to, but because we need us to--because we need to lay down our burdens. Let us pray.

Holy one, you have called us to worship so that we might bask in the abundant life all around us. A day of rest seemed good to you, almighty God, creator of the universe, and yet we balk, and say we cannot rest. We confess our addiction to distraction and busyness. We confess that we do not know how to slow down, even when our schedules are empty. We confess that we long to rest, but we're not sure if we can. We're not sure if we remember how. In this silence, God, we will bring to you our restless wanderings, our relentless worryings, and we know that you will hear us.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GRACE

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Hear this good news: God's grace surrounds us, God's beauty stills our tired hearts, God's love will restore us, if only we slow down enough to receive it. God has opened to us the doors of sabbath, and we walk through those doors as free and forgiven people. Alleluia, amen.

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Karen Kilty, Director of Children's Ministries

ANTHEM

Simple Gifts Shaker tune by Elder Joseph Brackett

Members of the Old North Youth Choir; Sarah Del Dotto, director

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Read by Melissa MacDonald

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

SECOND READING

“Another Sunday Morning Comes...”

From *A Timbered Choir*

by Wendell Berry

Read by Rhod Sharp

*Another Sunday morning comes
And I resume the standing Sabbath
Of the woods, where the finest blooms
Of time return, and where no path*

*Is worn but wears its makers out
At last, and disappears in leaves
Of fallen seasons. The tracked rut
Fills and levels; here nothing grieves*

In the risen season.

*Past life Lives in the living. Resurrection
Is in the way each maple leaf
Commemorates its kind, by connection*

*Outreaching understanding. What rises
Rises into comprehension
And beyond. Even falling raises
In praise of light. What is begun*

*Is unfinished. And so the mind
That comes to rest among the bluebells
Comes to rest in motion, refined
By alteration. The bud swells,*

*Opens, makes seed, falls, is well,
By becoming what it is:
Miracle and Parable,
Exceeding thought because it is.*

*Immeasurable; the understander
Encloses understanding, thus
Darkens the light. We can stand under
No ray that is not dimmed by us.*

*The mind that comes to rest is tended
In ways that it cannot intend:
Is borne, preserved, and comprehended
By what it cannot comprehend.*

*Your Sabbath, Lord, thus keeps us by
Your will, not ours. And it is fit
Our only choice should be to die
Into that rest, or out of it.*

SERMON

“It’s About Time”

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE

Lead Me Lord

#271

**Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.**

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PRAAYER OF DEDICATION

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

ANTHEM

What the World Needs Now is Love Hal David, Burt Bacharach

Holly Cameron, soprano; Mark Shilansky, accompaniment track.

Please click on "Show More," found below the youtube video, if you would like to access the "Suggested Listening" portion of our online services.