

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Canzon for four trombones Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)
Peter Charig, Michael Tybursky, Charles Morris, *tenor trombone*;
Gabriel Rice, *bass trombone*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, let us sing the glad songs of victory!
ALL: For we believe God has created a new day!
One: We rejoice that God is our strength and our song!
ALL: We celebrate this as the day of our salvation!
One: People of God, come let us worship our Living God!

HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Maria vanKalken, *organ*; Trombone Quartet

#107

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

God of the empty tomb, we gather in worship to witness the persistence of your love. We who have lived through so much are here to remember and to celebrate your love which persists. Nothing--not human failings, not deepest evil, not betrayal or denial or fear or injustice--is stronger and more persistent than your love. To that, we say alleluia. We raise our voices in the prayer of the crucified and risen Jesus, saying...

THE 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

Very early in the morning, God created all that is good and beautiful. Very early in the morning, a mother placed her newborn in a manger. Very early in the morning, the good news that Jesus was risen and alive in their midst was shared with frightened friends. Let us confess the fears we bring this morning, first in silence, and then aloud, together.

SILENT PRAYER

¹ Confession and Assurance of Pardon © Thom Shuman, from *Fire and Bread*, published by Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow G2 3DH, UK

Emptier of tombs, on this morning of hallelujahs, we must confess how human we are. We haven't done any great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance. We easily accept the witness of the angel in the tomb, but find it difficult to share this good news with our friends and neighbors. Dazzling God, bring us to life. Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace; forgive us for all the damage we have done – and fill us with the joy of your Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, our Creator, gives us new life; Christ, our Redeemer, prepares a table for us; The Holy Spirit, our Joy, calls us to service. This is the good news: The tomb is empty, sin is powerless, death is defeated forever.

On this very first day, and every day, we walk as God's people: forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God. Amen.

LISTENING

ANTHEM

Every Valley Needs a Lily

arr.by Stace Nordmeyer

Ila Bumagin, Ivy Guo, Nina Johnson, Sydney McCoy, Lily Walsh, Youth Choir

Sarah DelDotto, *director*, Josh Del Dotto, *piano*

FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

Read by John Meakin

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

Read by Bonnie MacDonald

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see

him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

SERMON

“You Go Ahead”

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

PASTORAL PRAYER

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Poco adagio from *Drei Equali für Vier Posaunen*

Trombone Quartet

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Hallelujah (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

Old North Festival Chorus and Orchestra recorded live on April 17th, 2011

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

OFFERING OF THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING FORTH

HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

#205

Maria vanKalken, *organ*; Trombone Quartet

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Achieved is the Glorious Work, from *The Creation*

Franz Joseph Haydn

Peter Charig, Michael Tybursky, Charles Morris, *tenor trombone*

Gabriel Rice, *brass trombone*