

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MOMENT

Ginny von Rueden
Sally Sands

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Habakkuk 2)

Rev. Don Remick

One: We gather here to stand at the watch post and station ourselves on the rampart.

All: We are watching and waiting to perceive what God will say to us.

One: God tells us to write a vision and make it plain enough so that those who run by may read it.

All: We trust God has a vision for us for this time; a vision that will pull us excitedly into God's future.

One: We wait for it, even as we feel it unfolding in our hearts.

All: Come, let us worship our God who is the source of life giving vision.

* HYMN

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

#413

CENTERING

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Jesus, you proclaim that the kingdom of heaven has come near. We see your realm emerging, here and now, within our world, like a dandelion growing through sidewalk cracks. Nurture us, so that we can become more and more like Jesus: loving, joyful, vulnerable, and strong. Nurture this church, so that we can become what our neighborhood and our world needs. We long to live in your realm of love and justice, and to become more like Jesus, who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

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

One: Jesus, you sent your followers out to proclaim the nearness of your kingdom. We confess that we do not always trust that you have come near. We confess that we struggle to believe that this world can transform into a place of justice and flourishing for all. In the silence, we confess the limits of our imaginations and our failures to claim and to share the vision you have for us and for this world you love.

SILENT PRAYER

**All: Jesus, forgive us for our slowness to believe that you are doing a new thing.
Forgive us for our insistence on getting our own way.
Forgive us for closing ourselves off to your call.
Open our minds to notice where you are at work.
Open our hearts to receive your grace.
Open our hands to share what you have given us.
We pray this for love's sake. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God made this world in love. God continues to reach out to the world in love. Though the world is broken and hurting, God longs to heal it, and to use us for that healing.

All: Nothing can separate us from the love of God: nothing we have done, and nothing we have failed to do.

One: God continues to reach out to this world, through us: God uses our hands and feet, our minds and hearts, to heal the world.

All: As wounded and healing people, we reach out in love to a wounded and healing world.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**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.**

* HYMN

Thou I May Speak (The Gift of Love)

#68

OFFERTORY

INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Cantate Domino

Hans Leo Hassler

Senior Choir

* DOXOLOGY #48

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

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 10: 5-15

Read by John Meakin

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

SERMON

"Be Thou My Vision"

Rev. Don Remick

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

* HYMN

In Remembrance of Me

#322

RESPONDING

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

OFFERING OF THE BREAD

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Charles Gabriel

Gabriela Fagen, *mezzo-soprano*; Senior Choir

OFFERING OF THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

* HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

#445

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE

I Feel the Winds of God Today

Tune: Kingsfold

**I feel the winds of God today,
Today my sail I lift,
Though heavy oft with drenching spray
And torn with many a rift.
If hope would light the water's crest,
And Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at His behest,
And brave another cruise. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Maria vanKalken, *organ*