

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

We are God's household, built by the one who birthed creation:
our hearts a shelter for the outcast;
our hands open to the stranger.
We are God's people, created in the divine image:
to tell others of God's love,
to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.
We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:
chosen to serve the lost and lonely,
gifted to minister to a hurting world.
Here, sheltered under God's wings,
let us worship the God who is love.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Cesareo Gabarain

Louise vanKalken, piano, 90 years old, sheltered at home (safely) in New Hampshire
(mother of Maria vanKalken, Minister of Music)

CENTERING

PRAYERS OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

Mothering God, whose nurturing love brought us to life,
draw us near to you.
You have promised to never leave us orphaned.
Come to us now.
We have gathered in the hope of worshiping you in spirit and in truth.
Come into the smallness of our minds with your divine greatness.
Break through the boundaries of our understandings of your love,
your will, your ways, that we may know you when you appear along our paths through life.
Help us to recognize Christ as he meets us where we are.
Now, settle and center us in the name and spirit of the One who taught us to pray...

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.

It is easy for us to boast of our achievements, but hard to come humbly before God with the mistakes we make. Now, in the blessed quietness, we are called to present our whole lives to the One who means to shape us into new people...

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND GRACE

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

Friends, believe the good news. The Holy One who calls us here is able and willing to make all things new! Through the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit we are a new creation! Thanks be to God! Amen.

LISTENING

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

Karen Kilty

Director of Children's Ministries

A MESSAGE: from the Old North Youth Choir taken from a weekly Zoom rehearsal while working on the chorus of *Lava*, by James Ford Murphy

VOICES FROM OUR YOUTH CHOIR

Dahlia and Maren Beltramini; Piper Horgan; Ila Bumagin; Nina Johnson;
Gavin Weiner; Regan Weiner
Sarah Del Dotto, director; Dara VanRemoortel, piano

FIRST LESSON

Acts 17:22-27

Read by Diane Thomas

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 14:15-21

Read by John Meakin

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

MEDITATION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

MUSIC

Give Me Peace on Earth
Anna, Craig and Dara VanRemoortel

by George Harrison

RESPONDING

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun

DOXOLOGY (#46)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love hath done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

SENDING

HYMN

Sent Forth With God's Blessing
Led by Holly Cameron and Stephanie Scarcella

#S28

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lindsay Popperson

Please click on "Show More," found below the youtube video, if you would like to access the "Suggested Listening" portion of our online services. Please join us next week for “Jazz Sunday” with guest artists, Trent Austin, trumpet; Dave Clark, bass; Mark Shilansky, piano with Old North vocalists Holly Cameron and Stephanie Scarcella.