

Welcome. In this place know that you are loved. No matter what you have done or left undone, said or left unsaid, or shame you carry, you are a child of God and most welcome here. May this time together in worship be one of peace, hope, and love.

GATHERING TOGETHER

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE: *As The Deer* TFWS #2025

*HYMN: *All Creatures of Our God and King* **UMH #62 (1,2,4,6)**

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

O Love, you have created all creatures big and small.

Draw us forward in your love.

O Love, you have woken us from the sleep of sin.

Draw us forward in your love.

O Love, you continue to teach us how to love as you do.

Draw us forward in your love.

O Love, you confirm us as disciples who follow your ways.

Draw us forward in your love.

O Love, you equip us to go out and heal the world.

Draw us forward in your love.

SHARING JOYS

After each joy say: God is good all the time!
All the time, God is good!

*SINGING OUR DOXOLOGY UMH #95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God
above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost! Amen**

* means standing as you are able when invited by the leader
bold words means all speaking aloud as one when invited by the leader
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (thick); TFWS = The Faith We Sing (thin)

HEARING GOD'S WISDOM

HYMN: *The Summons* **TFWS #2130 (1,2,5)**

At this time Evelyn Miller and her mentor Mary Economou are invited to come forward for the rite of confirmation

RITE OF CHRISTIAN CONFIRMATION

HYMN: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* **TFWS #2129**

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Revelation 21: 1 – 6

PSALTER: Psalm 148 (UMH p. 861) with sung response

*HYMN: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* **UMH #147**

EASTER PRAYER:

God of love, you are love itself. Where love is, there you are. In our thirst for your love, speak your love to us. Confirm and renew your love in us. Let your love flow through us for the sake of all the world, in the spirit and the company of Christ. Amen.

SERMON

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN: *Would I Have Answered When You Called* TFWS #2137

CALL TO PRAYER: *Where the Spirit of the Lord Is* **TFWS #2119**

A CAROLEE PRAYER

SHARING PRAYERS, ending in the Lord's Prayer (UMH p. 10)

After each prayer say: Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

GOING FORTH TO MAKE DISCIPLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

*HYMN: *This Little Light of Mine* **UMH #585**

POSTLUDE

ANOTHER WEEK IN THE WORLD:

Tuesday: 7am: *Walking Group* (Devereux Beach)
Wednesday: 9:30 – 11am: *Dandee Donuts Breakfast*
4 – 6pm: *Pastoral Office Hours* (parsonage)
6 – 630pm: *Evening Vespers* (hybrid)

Thursday: 9 – 10am: *Weekly Bible Study* (online)

Next Sunday: 10:30am: *Sunday Worship Service* (hybrid)

Monthly Donations: jars of peanut butter for MHD Food Pantry. *Drop off items at the parsonage or here on Sunday.*

PRAYER CONCERNS:

for Lincoln; for Marianne and Jim with their health; for all those affected by Russian war with Ukraine; for Kwesi's friends Pierre and Sergi; for Yongwoo as discerns next steps for medical care and Meeyoung as she interviews for potential jobs; for Jean Eldridge's brother Edward and his wife Edith; for friends and family experiencing health concerns; for those suffering

Liturgist: LEEANNE, AINSLEY, and EVELYN MILLER

Minister of Music: Sam Dennis

Director of Music: Steve Baker

Reverend: Ross Johnson

Church Office: 781-631-2756 *Pastor's Cell:* 757-642-1655

Weekly Newsletter Sign Up: marbleheadmethodist@gmail.com



The Holiness of Catching a Sunset

SAINT STEPHEN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thank you for sharing your wonderful presence and voice with us this morning as we celebrate and worship the risen God.

Celebrating the Confirmation of Evelyn Miller

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 15th, 2022

NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Friends, hear the word of God from
the book of Revelation, the 21st chapter:*

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her partner. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and Jesus will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

This is word of God for the beloved of God,
Thanks be to God. Amen.

PSALM READING

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created. He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;
Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; Young men and maidens, old and young together. Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.

He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

****Now this reading will actually be printed in the hymnal and will be formatted in a different way, so the congregation can read along with you, but I wanted to print the words here so you will know all of them.*

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN CONFIRMATION

Confirmands / Mentors: Evelyn Miller / Mary Economou

God places us on unique paths, all eventually leading to the Lord. Some find Jesus early in life, before they can even recognize him. Others meet him when they have lived many years and greet him like an old friend. Still others walk alongside him all their days and know him by his other name: love.

Christian confirmation is a moment on the path when God's children can confirm to others that they have seen the Lord and have a curiosity to learn more about the ways of Jesus.

Who desires to be confirmed this day? *Confirmands: I do!*
Who advocates for these confirmands this day? *Mentors: I do!*
Who promises to nurture them in their faith? *Church: we do!*

[Confirmands read statements of faith and receive their stole]

Confirmands: We are the beloved of God. We are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's awesome image, blessed with unique gifts, talents and abilities and stories; all to be used, every single day, for the building of God's loving kingdom here on earth.

Church: **We stand behind you as the awesome gifts of God that you are. God has created you in Christ Jesus for good works. We will walk with you in your confirmation to Christ.**

Confirmands: God's people are very precious in the kingdom. Each person has value, no matter what shape, size, or color. We need each other. We love one another. We serve one another.

Church: **We promise to be an example of service to all of God's people and help you see the awesome value of each person. We promise to encourage you to walk the path to the Lord. We have your back. We are with you every step.**

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

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