

The Presque Isle Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

April 30, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Gathering Music

You Are Welcome Here

Words of Welcome

Melissa Vance

Introit

What Can We Find in Our Differences

Call to Worship **

Come from the east and the west, the north and the south, and worship the God of our fathers and mothers, the God of Jesus Christ. Let the people say "Amen."

Amen.

Opening Prayer ** (unison)

Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life. We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you. Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ. May Jesus' promise, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them," be fulfilled in us. Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the faithful in every place and time we may praise and honor you, God Most High. Amen.

Opening Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West

Prayer of Confession ** (unison)

Almighty and merciful God, you created and are creating still. In your presence our limits lie stark before us. We confess our unclean lips, our cold hearts, our turning away from neighbors, our broken promises, and our unrepentant hours. Forgive us, O Holy One. We confess that we have squandered the gifts you have given. We have neglected the land. We have grasped for goods. We have used each other. We have loved power more than people. Forgive us, O Holy One. Cleanse from us the illusion of innocence. Come into our hearts, and make us new again. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon **

In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live.

Two-Minute Message

The More We Get Together

Scripture Reading

Visual Liturgy: Acts 2

Acts 2:42-47 (from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson)

⁴¹⁻⁴² That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

⁴³⁻⁴⁵ Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷ They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Choral Anthem

Sing a New Church Into Being

Proclamation

The More We Get Together

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our **Creator***, 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

***Please use whatever name is most familiar/comfortable when you pray to God.**

Closing Hymn

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

Community News and Announcements

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You

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Worship Resource Citations:

Gathering Music – You Are Welcome Here

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Introit – The Big Box. Kathy Khang. Permission to stream this visual liturgy in worship is granted by an annual subscription to The Work of the People.

Opening Hymn – In Christ There Is No East or West

*Author: John Oxenham (1908); Public Domain;
Tune: ST. PETER (Reinagle); Public Domain
In Christ There is No East or West/stanza 3
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Two Minute Message - The More We Get Together

*Lyrics: Ken Whitely, Raffi Cavoukian, Unknown Pd Writer
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Scripture Visual Liturgy - Acts 2:42-47

Permission to stream this visual liturgy in worship is granted by an annual subscription to The Work of the People.

Choral Anthem – Sing a New Church

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Ecumenical Choir of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, 2021

Closing Hymn – Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

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Benediction Response – God Be With You

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