

**The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
February 12, 2023 - Sixth Sunday of Epiphany**

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Gathering Music

You Are Welcome Here

Welcome

Melissa Vance

Introit

A Wilderness Wandering People

Call to Worship

Happy are those who are without blame.

Blessed are those who walk in God's way.

Happy are those who are faithful.

Blessed are those who seek God.

We will obey your word, O God.

We will praise you forever!

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Come, Holy One: teach us your ways, lead us in your paths, guide us on our journey. Speak to us your words of life, for you offer us direction and wholeness when we hear your voice and follow. You bless us with your love, shower us with your grace, and help us grow in faith. We seek you, O God, with all our hearts. Be near us this day. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Breathe On Me, Breath of God

Prayer of Confession (in Unison)

The Morrills - Allen & Susan

Loving God, you call us into community, teach us your ways, and bless us with abundant life. Yet we turn aside to follow other paths: we take the easy way out, listening to the world's call rather than your call to commitment; we quarrel with one another, letting differences divide us; we cherish our resentments, shutting off our hearts from forgiveness and reconciliation; we cling to petty jealousies, feeling we deserve more than we have. Forgive us when we wander from your love. Draw us into community with each other, and feed us with the milk of your grace, that we may grow in faithfulness and work together in peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God hears the confessions of our hearts and forgives generously, sharing love with all who follow in God's ways. It is through God's amazing grace that we are forgiven. And all God's children respond:

Thanks be to God!

Two-Minute Message

Melissa Vance

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:21-37 (CEB)

The Morrills - Allen & Susan

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago, *Don’t commit murder,[a]* and all who commit murder will be in danger of judgment. ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with their brother or sister will be in danger of judgment. If they say to their brother or sister, ‘You idiot,’ they will be in danger of being condemned by the governing council. And if they say, ‘You fool,’ they will be in danger of fiery hell. ²³ Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift at the altar and go. First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift. ²⁵ Be sure to make friends quickly with your opponents while you are with them on the way to court. Otherwise, they will haul you before the judge, the judge will turn you over to the officer of the court, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ I say to you in all seriousness that you won’t get out of there until you’ve paid the very last penny.

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, *Don’t commit adultery.* ²⁸ But I say to you that every man who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart. ²⁹ And if your right eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out and throw it away. It’s better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off and throw it away. It’s better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body go into hell.

³¹ “It was said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must *give her a divorce certificate.*’³² But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife except for sexual unfaithfulness forces her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ “Again you have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago: *Don’t make a false solemn pledge, but you should follow through on what you have pledged to the Lord.* ³⁴ But I say to you that you must not pledge at all. You must not pledge by heaven, because it’s God’s throne. ³⁵ You must not pledge by the earth, because it’s God’s footstool. You must not pledge by Jerusalem, because it’s the city of the great king. ³⁶ And you must not pledge by your head, because you can’t turn one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your yes mean yes, and your *no* mean no. Anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Choral Anthem

Lord Jesus, Think On Me

PIUCC Choir

Reflection

Meg Hegemann

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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

Draw the Circle Wide

Benediction (In Unison)

Displayed on Screen

Postlude

Barbara Merryman