

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
February 26, 2023 - First Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Gathering Music

You Are Welcome Here

Words of Welcome

Introit

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Call to Worship¹

Blessed are the people whose sins are forgiven!

God's forgiveness is poured on them as a healing balm.

Blessed are the people who place their trust in God.

God's presence is their guide and their strength.

Come, let us worship the God who forgives and heals us.

Let us celebrate God's presence with us each day. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Most Gracious God, we are so tempted by everything we see; the glitz and glitter of the world and the get-rich-quick schemes placed before us. We believe that if we just have enough money, enough friends, enough power, enough safety we will be OK. Show us how foolish we are to place our hope and trust in these things. Give us hearts for loving service in which we will find our strength, our courage, our security, and our home.

Opening Hymn

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

God of infinite patience and love, we come to you this day, having just gone through the season of greed. We embark on this Lenten journey not sure if we want to make the spiritual trip. It is easy for us to get caught up in our own needs and our own anxieties. We are a people of great "want," and we need to become a people of great "faith." Stop us and remove us from the self-destructive journey on which we were living. Place us on your track of hope and salvation. Forgive our stubbornness, and heal our sorrowful souls. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon

Two-Minute Message

¹ Service prayers adapted from Ministry Matters™ Worship Connection March 1, 2020. Written by the late Nancy Townley, ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church.

Scripture Reading

Kim-Anne Perkins

Matthew 4:1-11

New American Standard

The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.² And after He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.³ And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”⁴ But He answered and said, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil *took Him along into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,⁶ and he *said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written:

‘He will give His angels orders concerning You’;

and

‘On their hands they will lift You up,
So that You do not strike Your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “[b]On the other hand, it is written: ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil *took Him along to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;⁹ and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”¹⁰ Then Jesus *said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and [d]serve Him only.’”¹¹ Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and began to serve Him.

Choral Anthem

Lead Me, Lord, Lead Me in Thy Righteousness

PIUCC Choir

Reflection

It’s Your Choice!

Christine Standefer

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

Open My Eyes

Benediction

Postlude

Barbara Merryman