

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
February 5, 2023

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Gathering Music

You Are Welcome Here

Welcome

Jennifer Gillis-White

“The Presque Isle Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation that embraces Jesus’ teaching about God’s love for every person. We, therefore, welcome persons of any age, race, culture, nationality, and religious background; all sexual orientations and gender identities; persons of any marital, educational, or financial status; regardless of physical and mental health or ability. All are invited into full participation in the life of our faith community. We accept with gratitude the beautiful diversity of God’s creation as we share God’s love in our community and beyond.”

Introit

By the Stream

Call to Worship

Craig Vietti

One: Praise the Holy One! Be in awe of God!

Many: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One’s presence!

One: Fear no evil. Keep your heart firm. Be secure in God!

Many: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One’s protection!

One: Arise for what is right. Be pursuers of justice.

Many: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One’s power!

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Sovereign God, we gather as a community to worship you in spirit and in truth. May we resist empty actions. Let our rituals and routines hold meaning and connect us to you. May seek an encounter with you to receive your revelation and be transformed, healed, and renewed. Let it be so. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Gather Us In

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Lee Thomas

Righteous One, it is not easy to follow your path. Your way requires sacrifice and intention—resisting cultural norms and societal pressures and abandoning our need to control and to function from our own power. Sometimes, we add complexity in order to assure ourselves it is not possible to be faithful. Yet, your way is simple. Soften our hearts and encourage us to return to the journey with you.

Assurance of Pardon

God, who is faithful, can redeem our detours and misdirections on the journey for our good and the good of others. God’s invitation to covenantal life has no expiration date, and the Holy One receives us with joy and grace when we take even a step toward the kingdom.

Two-Minute Message

Jennifer Gillis-White

Children’s Hymn

A Better Place

Scripture Reading**Luke 20:22-40 (CEB)**

Kim-Anne Perkins

When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout...Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple...Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

"Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation. You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel."

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

There was also a prophet, Anna...she was now an 84-year-old widow. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

Choral Anthem*O Lord, Have Mercy on Me*

PIUCC Choir

Reflection

Meg Hegemann

Service of Holy Communion**Communion Hymn***I Am the Bread of Life***Prayer of Confession: (unison)**

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Responsive - On Screen Display)**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*Here I Am, Lord***Benediction**

Break forth in the world secure in the love of God. Break forth into the kingdom for love of God and neighbor. Trust. the good news. Proclaim the good news. Be the good news.

Postlude

Barbara Merryman