

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
January 22, 2023 - Third Sunday of Epiphany

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Gathering Music

People of God¹

Welcome

Melissa Vance

Introit

Gloria

Video Liturgy

Call to Worship

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways

Who will lead your pilgrim people, wandering in their separate ways?

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar.

We your people, ours the journey, now and evermore.

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

You call us, Wanderer of seashores and sidewalks, inviting us to sail out of our smug harbor into the uncharted waters of faith; to wander off from our predictable paths to follow You into the unpredictable footsteps of the kingdom; to leave the comfort of our homes and accompany You into the uncomfortable neighborhoods we usually avoid.

As we wait, in our simple, sometimes crazy, constantly uncertain lives, speak to us, Spirit of Grace: of that hope which is our anchor; of that peace which is our rock; of that grace which is our refuge. Amen

Opening Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Prayer of Confession: (In Unison)

Gracious and Loving God, we come into Your presence asking for Your forgiveness. Forgive us for aspirations that never get translated into action and for promises that we have not kept. Forgive us for having good intentions that were not fulfilled and for the good deeds that we never got around to doing. Grant us a new vision and help us to move from intention to action. Help us, Lord, to keep our eyes on You and to be faithful in all that we say and do. In Christ's Name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Two-Minute Message

Hymn of Reflection

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

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Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:21-23 (NIV)

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. **13** Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Choral Anthem

We Are Marching in the Light of God

PIUCC Choir

Reflection

Based on Matthew 4:21-23

Daniel Jackson

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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Community News and Announcements

Benediction

May...

The peace of God be in our hearts

The grace of God be in our words

The love of God be in our hands

The joy of God be in our souls

and in the song that our lives sing

Postlude

Barbara Merryman