

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
January 8, 2023 - Celebrating Epiphany

Prelude		Barbara Merryman
Welcome		Melissa Vance
Gathering Music	<i>Il Est Né - He Is Born</i>	Gary Sanfacon
Introit	<i>O-So-So Come Now, O God of Peace</i>	Erinn Kelly

Call to Worship

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plane of God is known to all.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us kneel down before him to give him honor, glory, and praise.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

O God our Creator who sent your Son to be our Savior: renew in us day by day the power of your Holy Spirit; that with knowledge and passion, with courage and love, with gratitude and hope, we may strive powerfully in your service: may he keep our vision clear, our aim high, our purpose firm and our sympathy wide; that we may live as faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Inspired by Psalm 80:1-7, 7-19)

Opening Hymn	<i>Venid Fieles Todos O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	Daniel Jackson
---------------------	---	----------------

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

Assurance of Pardon

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." We believe and although we fall short, we must persevere to the end. Hold tight to His Word.

Two Minute Message

Scripture Reading**Matthew 2:1-12.**

Ginette Rivard

Coming of the Magi

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.*"[a]

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Special Music*The Holly and the Ivy*

Diane Deschesne

Reflection

Meg Hegemann

Choral Anthem*Beautiful Savior*

PIUCC Choir

Offering*Generous People - Offering Video*

Ray Rice

Gracious God, bless our mutual commitment to build and nurture this faith community and to spread the good gospel. Grant that our discipleship might supply not only the needs of our mission and ministry, but that it might overflow with many thanksgivings and surprising gifts to You. Grant that we may answer your call with willing hearts and serve in the body of Christ, as our ancestors once did, with an eye to your vision for heaven here on earth. In Jesus' holy name, we pray, Amen.

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*Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope***Benediction****Postlude**

Barbara Merryman