

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
July 9, 2023

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Welcoming Music

You Are Welcome Here

Words of Welcome

Melissa Vance

Introit

Be Still My Soul

Call to Worship¹

We have made this place for you, O God, and gathered here to worship you.

But do you indeed dwell on earth?

Your presence floods into this sanctuary, the fire of your Spirit settling on each of our heads,

But do you indeed dwell on earth?

Your presence flows into each of our lives, filling our hearts with peace and our souls with song,

But do you indeed dwell on earth?

Even as we gather here in your presence, we acknowledge that your dwelling place is not limited by our construction, nor is your mercy limited by our needs.

But do you indeed dwell on earth?

On the earth, in the earth, and above the earth, in the depths of the human heart and the depths of a single blade of grass: In every place we can imagine, and places we cannot imagine,

And so we will meet you here, anywhere, and everywhere.

Opening Prayer²

Creator God, we glory in the gift of your world. May we love and trust you enough today that we may open ourselves to hear your words as they are written on our hearts through scripture, word, and song. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

vv 1, 3, 4

Prayer of Confession³

We confess that we often feel overwhelmed by life itself. We take actions that belie our faith in Jesus and the message of his grace. Deliver us from our doubts, O merciful God. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know that those who rely on God's grace cannot be defeated. God loves us more than can be imagined—in that love, we find peace.

¹ Shorey, Anna, Contributor. Before the Amen, Creative Resources for Worship. Tirabassi, Maren C and Maria I, Editors. The Pilgrim Press, 2007.

² McLennan, Jamie Norwich, Contributor. Before the Amen, Creative Resources for Worship. Tirabassi, Maren C and Maria I, Editors. The Pilgrim Press, 2007.

³ Helmer, Jean, Contributor. Before the Amen, Creative Resources for Worship. Tirabassi, Maren C and Maria I, Editors. The Pilgrim Press, 2007.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30

¹⁶ “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

Jesus Thanks His Father

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.] ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Reflection

Up, Please!

Daniel Jackson

Music

The Church Is More Than Just A Building⁴

Prayer of the People⁵

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Community News and Announcements

Benediction

Departing Song

⁴ *The Church Is More Than Just A Building*. Amanda Udis-Kessler.

⁵ Prayer for Independence Day. Sine, Christine. godspacelight.com