

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Pride Sunday - June 18, 2023

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Welcoming Music

You Are Welcome Here

Words of Welcome

Welcoming Statement

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

Open Our Hearts¹

Call to Worship²

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

ALL: With my mouth, I will declare your faithfulness

One: Your steadfast love is established forever.

ALL: Your faithfulness is as firm as the strongest oak

One: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, my servant David"

ALL: Following you, we have established our own covenant with you and each other, to affirm the lives of our transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay siblings, to invite them into the full life and ministry of your Church, our church.

One: For you are the glory of their strength, of our strength

ALL: By your favor, our burdens are lifted. For your steadfast love endures all things.

Opening Prayer³

Holy One of Blessing, eternally we co-create ourselves in your love. All companionship orientations; All gender identities and expressions; All ways of having family. We celebrate LGBTQ+ peoples everywhere, knowing that many are still not safe to come out; To be free; To live life abundantly. Heal all who are ill in body, mind, heart or spirit. Extinguish any stigma people are enduring. May our love and hope be sent on the wings of this prayer To all who need refreshing, affirmation, and love's embrace. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

Two-Minute Message

Jennifer Gillis-White

¹ *Open Our Hearts, Jesus Loves Me, and Blessed Assurance* are podcast/streamed/printed via OneLicense#A-726652.

² Kimi Floyd Reisch, 2020, inspired by Psalm 89) <https://openandaffirming.org/worship/>

³ Mak Kneebone, 2020 <https://openandaffirming.org/worship/>

The legal experts and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery. Placing her in the center of the group, they said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone women like this. What do you say?” They said this to test him, because they wanted a reason to bring an accusation against him. Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger. They continued to question him, so he stood up and replied, “Whoever hasn’t sinned should throw the first stone.” Bending down again, he wrote on the ground. Those who heard him went away, one by one, beginning with the elders. Finally, only Jesus and the woman were left in the middle of the crowd. Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Is there no one to condemn you?” She said, “No one, sir.” Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, don’t sin anymore.”

Reflection

Kiradwen Libby

Musical Offering*Blessed Assurance*

Mykah

Invitation to Communion

Meg Hegemann

Prayer of Confession⁴

Loving God, sometimes we have dishonored ourselves and others in our longing to fit in and to be accepted. At times we have rejected the individuality of others. We have been silent when we have witnessed people being dishonored because of their truth. Please change our hearts and help us to love our own humanity and the awesomeness of other humans. Help us to remember that each person is a beautiful expression of God’s divine light and love.

Assurance of Pardon**Communion Hymn***When Jesus Set His Table***Prayer 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*The Church Where Love Lives⁵***Community News and Announcements****Benediction and Response***God Be With You*

*God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you.
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.*

⁴ Worship Resources for Open and Affirming Sunday by Rev. Derek Terry, Pastor <https://openandaffirming.org/worship/>

⁵ *When Jesus Set His Table* and *The Church Where Love Lives* are streamed with permission of the composer, Amanda Udis-Kessler from her website queersacredmusic.com.