

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
March 12, 2023

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Gathering Music

You Are Welcome Here

Words of Welcome

Jennifer Gillis-White

Introit

As The Deer

Call to Worship

God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

We come before you weary from traveling through barren lands.

Holy One, you give water that sustains body and spirit.

You hydrate us when we need, how we need.

Miracle Worker, you caused a rock to crack and bring forth water.

Crack our hearts open and let your love flow from them like a spring.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that you are. Your presence is desired here. We take joy in knowing that you are as close to us as our next breath. We thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with your love. Amen

Opening Hymn

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

As we begin to reflect on the Samaritan woman, who chose to drink of the living water Jesus offered, we remember that too many people are still excluded from coming to the well. We know that the poor, those who struggle with mental health issues, people who have physical disabilities, and people in the LGBTQ and trans communities, are too often told that your living water is not for them. Forgive us if we have made anyone feel like they are not welcome to your love, and help us to continue sharing your living water with all who want to drink.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, it is wonderful indeed to know that no one is excluded from drinking the living water of life that Jesus offers. It is freely given, comes without cost, and becomes a living spring within that wells up into eternal life. We may all drink deeply from the fountain Jesus supplies. Amen

Two-Minute Message

Children's Hymn

Down to the River to Pray

He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar...Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink"..."Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water?"... Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water! Jesus said to her, "Go, get your husband, and come back here." The woman replied, "I don't have a husband."

"You are right to say, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus answered. "You've had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn't your husband. You've spoken the truth." The woman said, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You and your people worship what you don't know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth." The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us." Jesus said to her, "I Am—the one who speaks with you."

The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who has told me everything I've done! Could this man be the Christ?" They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus...

Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world."

Choral Anthem*My Song is Love Unknown*

PIUCC Choir

Proclamation

Meg Hegemann

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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 Thirsty Cry For Water, Lord***Community News and Announcements****Benediction****Postlude**

Barbara Merryman