

# The Presque Isle Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

November 13, 2022

**Prelude**

Barbara Merryman

**Gathering Music**

*O God, Our Help In Ages Past*<sup>1</sup>

Nathan Drake (*Instrumental*)

**Words of Welcome**

Jennifer Gillis-White

**Introit**

*God's Love Will Hold Us*<sup>2</sup>

**Call to Worship**<sup>3</sup>

One: Steadfast One, there is no wavering in you.

**Many: We come boldly, yet uncertain and unsure.**

One: Fountain of truth, you reveal what is true and what is not.

**Many: You help us to see and hear so we'll know which road to travel.**

One: Eternal Wisdom, your mind and heart are stayed on loving us.

**Many: We set our hearts and minds to love ourselves and others, the way that you do.**

**Opening Prayer** (In Unison)

**Unwavering One, we are thankful for the clarity found in you. You welcome us into your presence, even when we aren't sure of our approach to you. We delight in knowing that even when we come stumbling over ourselves, your love is sure to pick us up and steady us. Because you are love, you keep your promises to us. Help us walk unwavering in the love that helps us keep our promises too. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*<sup>4</sup>

**Prayer of Transformation** (in unison)

Susan Morrill

**Source of Grace, we confess that at times we can be indecisive, wavering, and even suspicious concerning you. Yet, you are loving toward us even when we are not. We know that you are trustworthy, so we yield our doubts to you. You are persistent in extending grace toward us because your compassion is ever-expanding. Thank you for this moment of transformation. We give you thanks for wholeness. Amen.**

**Words of Grace**

God is unwavering in mercy, and because we come from God, we know God's grace is sufficient no matter our condition. Grace and mercy are extensions of God's steadfast love and are present for us and in us. Amen.

**Two-Minute Message**

Jennifer Gillis-White

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<sup>1</sup> *O God Our Help in Ages Past* (Instrumental). Hymns of the Spirit. © Copyright 2018 by Nathan Drake. Reawaken Hymns arrangements, including chords charts, videos, and audio may be freely used by churches and individuals for worship.

<sup>2</sup> *God's Love Will Hold us*. Bryan Schiro. Permission granted to stream this music video is granted by an annual subscription to Convergence Music Project.

<sup>3</sup> Prayer resources from United Church of Christ "Worship Ways." *Make Up Your Mind: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost* were written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ.

<sup>4</sup> *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*. ©OCP. Words: Johann Jacob Schutz (1675); tr. by Frances Elizabeth Cox (1864 alt); Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART from Bohemian Bretheren's Kirchengesang, 1566; last stanza arrangement by Marilyn Biery. Performed by Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (Michigan) Virtual Choir. Permission to print/podcast this music is granted by One License #A-726652.

## Scripture Readings

### New Creation and New Jerusalem

Isaiah 65:17-25 (CEB)

Susan Morrill

Look! I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth: past events won't be remembered; they won't come to mind. Be glad and rejoice forever in what I'm creating, because I'm creating Jerusalem as a joy and her people as a source of gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad about my people. No one will ever hear the sound of weeping or crying in it again. No more will babies live only a few days, or the old fail to live out their days. The one who dies at a hundred will be like a young person, and the one falling short of a hundred will seem cursed. They will build houses and live in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They won't build for others to live in, nor plant for others to eat. Like the days of a tree will be the days of my people; my chosen will make full use of their handiwork. They won't labor in vain, nor bear children to a world of horrors, because they will be people blessed by the Lord, they along with their descendants. Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear. Wolf and lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but the snake—its food will be dust. They won't hurt or destroy at any place on my holy mountain, says the Lord.

### The Temple's Fate

Luke 21:5-19 (CEB)

Some people were talking about the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and ornaments dedicated to God. Jesus said, "As for the things you are admiring, the time is coming when not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished." They asked him, "Teacher, when will these things happen? What sign will show that these things are about to happen?" Jesus said, "Watch out that you aren't deceived. Many will come in my name, saying, 'I'm the one!' and 'It's time!' Don't follow them. When you hear of wars and rebellions, don't be alarmed. These things must happen first, but the end won't happen immediately."

Then Jesus said to them, "Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other. There will be great earthquakes and wide-scale food shortages and epidemics. There will also be terrifying sights and great signs in the sky. But before all this occurs, they will take you into custody and harass you because of your faith. They will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will provide you with an opportunity to testify. Make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance. I'll give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to counter or contradict. You will be betrayed by your parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, and friends. They will execute some of you. Everyone will hate you because of my name. Still, not a hair on your heads will be lost. By holding fast, you will gain your lives.

### Message

Meg Hegemann

### Choral Anthem

*The Gift of Love*<sup>5</sup>

PIUCC Choir

### Pastoral Prayer 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

*This Is A Day of New Beginnings*<sup>6</sup>

### Benediction

### Postlude

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<sup>5</sup> *The Gift of Love*. ©1972, 2018 Hope Publishing Company. Contributor: Hal Hopson. One License #A-726652.

<sup>6</sup> *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*. Text: Brian Wren; Music: BEGINNINGS, Carlton R. Young. ©1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Company. Permission: One License #A-726652.