

Presque Isle Congregational Church, UCC
November 21, 2021

Gathering Music

*Draw the Circle Wide*¹

Jim Strathdee

The Call of the Bell

Introit

*Be Still My Soul*²
Silent Prayer and Reflection

Allison Clarke

Call to Worship

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love O God;
that we may rejoice and be glad all of our days.

Opening Prayer³

Our little lives, our big problems—these we place upon Your altar!
Pour out upon us whatever our spirits need of shock, of life, of release
That we may find strength for these days—courage and hope for tomorrow.
In confidence we rest in Your sustaining grace which makes possible triumph in defeat,
gain in loss, and love in hate. We rejoice this day to say:
Our little lives, our big problems—these we place upon Your altar!

Opening Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*⁴

Responsive Prayer of Confession

God of Compassion, we turn toward you now. We rend our hearts. Hear us we pray.
Forgive our selfishness and obsession with comfort as so many struggle...
Forgive our narrowness of our vision that sees only us and them...
Forgive us for so for the ease with which we pass judgment on others...
Forgive us for wasting the gifts of life and love while pursuing lesser things...
Trusting in your mercy we pray:

**“Create in me a clean heart, O God. And renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence. Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of my salvation, and grant a willing spirit to sustain me.”**

Two Minute Message

The Sacrament of Baptism Elizabeth Cora White

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.
The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

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3 Howard Thurman
4 Text: Charles Wesley - 1707-1788; Tune: Rowland Pritchard - 1811-1887. Permission to stream granted by The Hymnal Project.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Mark 1: 4- 11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Hymn

I Have Called You By Your Name, You Are Mine⁵

Proclamation

Voices and Visions

Susan MacAlpine-Gillis

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (*sins...sinners*)

Closing Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God⁶

Benediction

**May love and strength be in your hands.
May love and courage be in your hearts
May love and wisdom...**

Ring the Bell

Today, we celebrate the Baptism of Elizabeth Cora White
daughter of Justin White and Jennifer Gillis-White.

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6 Virtual Choir Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City. Patrick Kreeger at the organ; Directed and Edited by Ryan Jackson. Used with permission. Music is also covered by OneLicense #726652.