# The Presque Isle Congregational Church United Church of Christ

September 25, 2022

## Proper 21

### Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Words of Welcome Jennifer Gillis-White

**Call to Worship** 

Come to this place and time of promise.

We are becoming the house of hope,

the field of sunflowers, the vineyard of great caring.

Come to a shared commitment to abundance possible for all people.

We are an earthenware jar, to keep safe the children of tomorrow.

Our security question is – the word of God, and our password is love.

**Opening Prayer** (In Unison)

God, we give you thanks that you make us redeemers, not just receivers of redemption. You bring us among friends and then ask for each one of our signatures to change your world. We hold the earthenware jar you call the church and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life** 

Melissa Vance

God, we have defaulted to un-hope in our lives and we have encouraged un-hoping in others. We have criticized plans before hearing them out and we have turned to family, church, friends, colleagues with our faces painted with the words, "We've tried that before and it didn't work."

Together we have laughed at new ideas and circulated only bad news.
Plant your promises deep in the field of our lives, and forgive us our presuming to define your future. Amen

# **Words of Grace**

God wipes pessimism from the open heart and sends others to affirm in us even the most fragile possibilities of the future. We are forgiven.

Two-Minute Message Where's God Melissa Vance

Scripture Reading Jeremiah 32:1-3,6-15

Diane Deschesne Common English Bible

Jeremiah received the Lord's word in the tenth year of Judah's King Zedekiah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar's rule. At that time, the army of the Babylonian king had surrounded Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined to the prison quarters in the palace of Judah's king. Judah's King Zedekiah had Jeremiah sent there after questioning him: "Why do you prophesy, 'This is what the Lord says: I'm handing this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will occupy it;

Jeremiah said, "The Lord's word came to me: our cousin Hanamel, Shallum's son, is on his way to see you; and when he arrives, he will tell you: "Buy my field in Anathoth, for by law you are next in line to purchase it." And just as the Lord had said, my cousin Hanamel showed up at the prison quarters and told me, "Buy my field in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for you are next in line and have a family obligation to purchase it." Then I was sure this was the Lord's doing.

So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. Then I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy, with its terms and conditions, and the unsealed copy— and gave it to Baruch, Neriah's son and Mahseiah's grandson, before my cousin Hanamel and the witnesses named in the deed, as well as before all the Judeans who were present in the prison quarters. I charged Baruch before all of them: "The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims: Take these documents—this sealed deed of purchase along with the unsealed one—and put them into a clay container so they will last a long time. The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims: Houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land."

**Reflection** "Faith Forward. Faith in the Future" Jennifer Gillis-White

Reflective Music Psalm 146 - "Praise the Lord" Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Melissa Vance

Closing Hymn "Be Thou My Vision"

#### **Benediction**

May you be as blessed as Jeremiah – with a word-of-God whisper when you are waiting, a glimpse of freedom when you are confined, a friend to show you the way forward, an earthenware jar of God's love in which your signature is precious.

Resources adapted for today's service are from "In an Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost" written by UCC Pastor Maren C. Tirabassi. Worship Ways ucc.org.

**The God of Jacob Hallelujah** (Psalm 146) Psalm Project: Shout for Joy. Contributor: Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan. Tune: © 2010, Augsburg Fortress; Text: © 2010, Augsburg Fortress. Permission to print/podcast/stream this music is granted by One License.Net under OneLicense #A-726652.