

**The Presque Isle Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**January 1, 2023 - First Sunday After Christmas**

**Prelude**

Barbara Merryman

**Gathering Music**

*You Are Welcome Here*<sup>1</sup>

**Welcome**

Melissa Vance

**Call to Worship**

Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

**The rhythms of life praise the Everlasting God through the markings of time.**

Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

**The flowers, land, and trees praise the Divine Gardener through rest and renewal.**

Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

**Living creatures praise the Spirit of God through our breathing, living and being. Praise God!**

**Introit**

**Psalm 8 Video Liturgy**<sup>2</sup>

**Opening Prayer** (In Unison)

(inspired by Revelation 21:1-6)

Speak to us, Giver of Life, and make us new. We thirst for the waters of eternal life, we yearn to know ourselves as Resurrection People. Send your Holy Spirit upon us this day, and create in us your new heaven and new earth. Speak to us words of comfort and hope, words of challenge and courage.

Come: move among us, we pray.<sup>3</sup>

**Opening Hymn**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

**Two-Minute Message**

**Scripture Reading**

**Revelation 21:1-6a**

Common English Bible

**New Heaven and New Earth**

**21** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.<sup>2</sup> I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.<sup>3</sup> I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God."<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."<sup>5</sup> Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring.

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<sup>1</sup> *You Are Welcome Here*. Contributors: Trish and Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan. Text: © 2009, Worldmaking.net Permission to stream via OneLicense #A-726652.

<sup>2</sup> Permission to stream Psalm 8 Visual Liturgy is granted by paid subscription to The Work of the People.

<sup>3</sup> Service Prayer: Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott.UCC Worship Ways Archive; [re:Worship Blog](https://www.worshipways.org/).

**Choral Anthem**

*Listen Here. Listen Here*<sup>4</sup>

PIUCC Choir

**Reflection**

Meg Hegemann

**Service of Holy Communion**

**Communion Hymn**

*Bread of Life, Feed My Soul*

**Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon** (Responsive - On Screen Display)

**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.*

**Community News**

**Closing Hymn**

*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*<sup>5</sup>

**Benediction**

*New Year's Hope*<sup>6</sup>

**Postlude**

Barbara Merryman

**Remembering In Our Prayers**

The Family of Reverend James Fletcher - His wife Paula and Children Christopher and Peggy and their families

Richard Murphy, who will be undergoing surgery in Boston. Richard and Eva are surrogate parents to their grandchildren and Eva will greatly need prayerful support during this time. Richard and Eva are friends of David and Ishmael Morton and Melissa and Steven Vance.

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<sup>4</sup> The Choral Anthem *Listen Here. Listen Here* is not approved for streaming by One License. Only the in-person congregation will see and hear the choir. Online viewers will see a screen but will have no sound. At the conclusion of the anthem, streaming will resume.

<sup>5</sup> Permission to print/podcast/stream all congregational singing hymns is granted by One License.Net via OneLicense #A-726652.

<sup>6</sup> New Year's Hope video produced by Motion Worship. Purchased with Streaming Rights from [skitguys.com](http://skitguys.com).