

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
August 6, 2023

Prelude Barbara Merryman

Welcoming Music *You Are Welcome Here*

Words of Welcome Melissa Vance

Introit *By the Stream* Christopher Grundy

Call to Worship

The Holy One is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Holy One is good to all, with compassion for all God's creation.

The Holy One upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The Holy One is just in all ways and always kind.

The Holy One is near to all who call on God, to all who call in truth.

The Holy One fulfills the desire of all who are in fear and also hears their cry and saves them.

The Holy One watches over all who love the Divine Presence and will make wickedness no more.

All: My mouth will speak the praise of the Holy One, and all flesh will bless God's holy name forever and ever.

Invocation (based on Isaiah 55:1)

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and we who have need come, receive the abundance of substance provided freely for our bodies and souls. Incline our ears, and let us come to God to listen, so that we may live. Our Creator makes an everlasting covenant with us as God has with our ancestors. We ask for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in this sacred space, so we can recommit ourselves through word, love and action to our everlasting covenant with our God in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Opening Hymn *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Dear God, the creator of all things based on love, you created us in your image of love. There have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you but to each other and all of creation. We ask for your forgiveness, O God, and from you, present today, our siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ. We thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing love and grace and all we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture tells us if we are "kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, God in Christ has forgiven us". Rest assured, our sins are forgiven. Amen.

Two-Minute Message/ Hymn *My God Is So Big*

Scripture Reading

Feeding the Five Thousand - Matthew 14:13-21

CEB

¹³ When Jesus heard about John, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick. ¹⁵ That evening his disciples came and said to him, "This is an isolated place and it's getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, "There's no need to send them away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish."

¹⁸ He said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. ²¹ About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.

Reflection

Trace the Rainbow Through the Rain

Daniel Jackson

Reflective Music

Barbara Merryman

Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our *Creator*, who is in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your *Kin-dom* come, your will be done, on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our *faults*, as we forgive the *faults* of others. *Prevent* us and deliver us from evil. For yours is the *realm*, power, and glory, forever. Amen.

Community News and Announcements

Closing Hymn

Softly and Tenderly

Benediction and Response

We have been nourished in the love of God who created us, God who redeemed us, and God who sustains us. Go in peace, sharing the Good News. Amen.

God Be With You

For Compassion: Service Prayers for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Roberto Ochoa, the Minister for Ethnic Inclusion, & Congregational Support for Rural and Small Churches for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. He is a member of Mt. Zion Congregational UCC in Cleveland, OH.