

**The Presque Isle Congregational Church**  
***United Church of Christ***  
**September 10, 2023**

**Prelude**

Barbara Merryman

**Welcoming Music**

*You Are Welcome Here*

**Words of Welcome**

Jennifer Gillis-White

**Introit**

*Open Our Hearts*

Gary Sanfacon

**Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 149)<sup>1</sup>**

One: Let our praise today be made new.

**Many: May we sing a new song, pray a new prayer, dance a new dance, and speak and hear a new word.**

One: Let the faithful delight in the Holy One's marvelous acts

**Many From the seats in the sanctuary to the couches in our homes.**

One: Let us glorify God with our voices, the work of our lives, and the joy of our souls.

**Many: Glory to God! Praise the Holy One!**

**Opening Prayer (Unison)**

God who journeys with us, we give thanks to be gathered in your presence. May we acknowledge you in the brightness of the day and in the stillness of the night. Provide us a vision of your reign on earth and in our lives. Make us your witnesses to a world in need of hope and peace. Infuse us with your love, and may this time gathered as your people transform us to reflect your goodness in the world. Amen.

**Opening Hymn**

*O Master, Let Me Walk With You*

**Two-Minute Message**

Jennifer Gillis-White

**Children's Hymn**

*The Butterfly Song*

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 18:15-20

Common English Bible

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you’ve won over your brother or sister. But if they won’t listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won’t pay attention, report it to the church. If they won’t pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”

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<sup>1</sup> Accountability: Service Prayers for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.  
<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-15a-september-10/>

**Reflection**

Meg Hegemann

**Reflective Music**

Barbara Merryman

### **Invitation to Communion**

#### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Holy One, we confess that accountability can be discomfoting, and we avoid discomfort. We seek the good enough, convenient, and easy over the good, possible, and hard. Hold us accountable to the gospel. Hold us accountable to our claim and commitment to follow you. Hold us accountable to your will. Help us to receive your grace and liberate us from shame in order to embrace accountability as a loving act of community.

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

Beloved, accountability from God is rooted in love, hope, and mercy. Know that your past actions and attitudes do not define your present nor limit your future. Through God's grace, you can grow, learn, and thrive.

#### **Receiving of Bread and Cup**

*God's table is open to all. Please stay seated while the bread and cup are passed to you. All will be invited to take communion together. Gluten free bread is available.*

**Communion Hymn**

*When Jesus Sets His Table*

Amanda Udis-Kessler

#### **Blessing of Gifts**

Call: Romans 13:10 tells us, "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law." Sharing of our time, talent, and treasure manifests our love in the world. Thanks to all who give generously to the ministry of this church from an abundance of love of God, neighbor, and self.

**Response: Gracious God, thank you for the gifts you give and allowing us to be gift givers as well. May our generous offerings bear fruit to nurture our community, our neighbors, and all creation.**

#### **Prayer of the People 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

**Closing Hymn**

*They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

#### **Community News and Announcements**

**Benediction and Response**

*God Be With You*

God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you.  
With a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.