

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
September 24, 2023

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| Prelude | | Barbara Merryman |
| Welcoming Music | You Are Welcome Here | |
| Words of Welcome | | Jennifer Gillis-White |
| Introit | Come Touch our Hearts | |

Call to Worship

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

Many: Great is our God and greatly to be praised.

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

Many: This generation will tell the next generation so they may tell the next generation of the Holy One's magnificent and mighty acts.

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

Many: We declare the abundant goodness, gracious righteousness, and holy love of our God. Praise the Holy One!

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Mighty God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name. Amen.

Opening Hymn For the Fruits of All Creation

Two-Minute Message Rachel Dobbs

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of abundance, forgive us for embracing a worldview that capitalizes on scarcity. Help us to know that you have given us enough for our journey. You have created us wonderfully and uniquely. Forgive us for comparing ourselves with our neighbor when we are called to love them. Help us to embrace how you have made us as individuals who may bring our singular gifts to our common life.

Assurance of Pardon.

Beloved, you are enough. God loves you as you are for who you are. We, collectively, have enough and may share in a common life where all may flourish and live in harmony as our Creator intended and designed. You are forgiven and free to embrace the life that is uniquely yours.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 20: 1-16

Common English Bible

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard. “Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ And they went.”

Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing

nothing all day long?' "Because nobody has hired us,' they replied. "He responded, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.' When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 'These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.'

"But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn't I agree to pay you a denarion? Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I'm generous?' So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last."

Reflection

Rachel Dobbs

Reflective Music

Barbara Merryman

Blessing of Gifts

Call: Philippians 1:2 encourages us to "Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel." May we live generous lives that reflect the fullness of the gospel, unity of the spirit, and faith in our God and God's church.

Response: Great God, please receive our gifts for the glory of your name and the blessing of your people. May we be dedicated stewards of your abundance and use these gifts for the benefit of your kindom. Amen.

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

**Please use whatever name is most familiar/comfortable when you pray to God.*

Closing Hymn

All Are Welcome (Let us Build a House)

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.