

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
October 8, 2023

Prelude Barbara Merryman

Welcoming Music *You Are Welcome Here*

Words of Welcome Melissa Vance

Introit *Lord, Prepare Me To Be A Sanctuary* Gary Sanfacon

Call to Worship

One: We come from the East, the West, the South, and the North into this sacred space to worship the living God who walks with us.

All: O, God, we worship you for who you are, for loving and granting us your grace.

One: We lift our hands in praise to you and open our hearts to worship you in the fullness of who we are.

All: Let us worship the Lord our God with joyful and thankful hearts. Amen!

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Holy Spirit, we ask that You bless our time together, that we may hear Your words and apply them to our lives so that You will be honored and glorified. Allow your Holy Spirit to move through us so our faith grows and bears fruit. Amen!

Opening Hymn *This is the Day* Voices United #412

Two-Minute Message Meg Hegemann

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy One, we confess that we are people in need of forgiveness. We have neglected to do your will and love our neighbor as ourselves. We seek your wisdom and ask that your Holy Spirit create a pure heart that moves us to do what is right. We ask that your love overflow in us so we can live out our faith as a new creation to serve you and your people. Help us to strive towards a more just and kinder world for all. Amen!

Assurance of Pardon

People of God, "for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—"Your sins are forgiven.

Scripture Reading **Philippians 3:4-14** **Common English Bible**

We don't put our confidence in rituals performed on the body, though I have good reason to have this kind of confidence. If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more: I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews. With respect to observing the Law, I'm a Pharisee. With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church. With respect to righteousness under the Law, I'm blameless.

These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead.

It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. Brothers and sisters, I myself don't think I've reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus.

Reflection

Meg Hegemann

Reflective Music

Barbara Merryman

Blessing of Gifts

Call: We are invited to share our blessings generously with our church, community, and world. By sharing our gifts freely, God will be honored and glorified in our giving. We give with joy in our hearts from our blessings so that others may be blessed.

Response: We give thanks for each gift given. Bless them and multiply them so that others will be blessed, and your love will be shared to all. Amen!

Prayers 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

In The Midst of New Dimensions

NCH 391

Community News and Announcements

See Bulletin Insert

Benediction and Sung 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.