



The Presque Isle Congregational Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation
United Church of Christ



World Communion Sunday



October 1, 2023

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

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Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Welcoming Music

You Are Welcome Here

Words of Welcome

Calvin Hall

Introit

Gary Sanfacon

Call to Worship

Calvin Hall

One: We gather as God's people to celebrate the beauty of our diversity.

All: Let us love each other as God loves us beautifully and wonderfully made in God's image.

One: We give thanks for who we are, Beloved of God.

All: Let us open our hearts to God's spirit of love and unity.

One: We celebrate the gifts of all gathered here today.

All: Let us worship God with all we are and celebrate the beauty of all God's creation.

Invocation

Creator God, open our eyes to see the beauty in each person we meet. Help us freely share your love with all your creation. We give thanks for beautifying your creation and for making a diverse world. Help us to be kind, compassionate, and loving to all. We thank you, O God, for allowing us to grow in our welcome and learn about other cultures as we share your amazing grace and love with each other and the world. Amen!

Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Recognition and Blessing of Our Pastoral Support Team

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

Meg Hegemann

Daniel Jackson

Rev. Dr. Diane Langworthy

Two Minute Message

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Melissa Vance

If you wish, as you sing along, please feel free to change the pronouns to be more inclusive.

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we confess we have been dishonest in our walk with you. We have not treated others with respect and acceptance and have not cared for the least of these as you have called us to do. We acknowledge that too many times, we have taken the effortless way to our benevolence and have mistreated those in need and with judgment. We ask your forgiveness for all we have done that is not pleasing to you, Oh Lord. We ask your mercy on us. Amen!

Moment of Silence

(Each person can take this moment to confess those things to God; they need to surrender to God privately.)

Words of Grace

Jesus has already paid for your transgressions, and we are free because Jesus Christ, our Savior, has made His grace accessible to us. People of God, your sins are forgiven. Amen!

Reading of Scriptures

Romans 12:1-8

The New Life in Christ

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Message

Bring Many Names

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Calvin Hall

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.*

Choral Anthem

Come to the Table

PIUCC Choir

Holy Communion

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

Invitation to the table
Words Institution
Communion Prayer
Sharing the Elements
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessing of Gifts

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

Holy One, we ask that you bless these offerings and tithes so they can multiply to be a blessing for our community, our mission, and worldwide. Accept our offerings and tithes, O God, as a testimony of your goodness in our lives. Amen!

Closing Hymn

Bring Many Names

vv 1,2,3 and 6

Barbara will play through the hymn once before we sing.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

Parting Song

Barbara will play through the parting song once before we sing.

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.