

The Presque Isle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
October 15, 2023

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Welcoming Music

You Are Welcome Here

Words of Welcome

Jennifer Gillis-White

Introit

Dona Nobis Pacem

Call to Worship

Leader: Let's thank God, for God is good.

People: God's love endures forever.

Leader: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of God or fully declare God's praise?

People: Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Our God is worthy of our Praise!

Leader: Remember us, O God, when you show favor to your people that we may enjoy your blessings.

All: Let us worship our good God, who blesses us with infinite love and abundant grace. Amen!

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Lord Jesus, we gather to worship you today with hearts full of joy and appreciation for the beauty of your diversity and extravagant welcome. We invite your Holy Spirit to this space to celebrate your goodness and presence in our gathering time together. Prepare our hearts to receive what you have for us today. Amen!

Opening Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy

Responsive Living Psalm 23¹

The Lord guides me, and I lack for nothing.

God grants me rest in pastures verdant; God guides me to calming waters.

My soul finds wholeness and healing. With God, I walk the paths of justice and righteousness.

Even when I face great battles and fierce enemies, I am not fearful.

Evil has no power over me. For God is with me. God's strength and guidance comfort me.

A feast is set for me in the presence of those who hate me.

I flow in the power of the Spirit; I am overflowing with love and mercy.

Covenant Loyalty and acts of loving-kindness chase me and overcome me every day of my life. I will live in God's presence forever.

Two-Minute Message

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Words of Confession:

Leader: We ask your forgiveness, O God, for not being truthful in acknowledging that we have failed you and those you entrusted in our care.

People: **We know that we have a long way to go, O God, we ask that you open our hearts to be receptive to your Holy Spirit.**

Leader: We ask you to transform our hearts within so that we will be renewed in our commitment to be the beloved community you are calling us to be.

Moment of Silence....

ALL: **Hear our prayers for forgiveness, O God, that we may know your mercy and compassion.**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 25:1-9

Jewish Study Bible

25 O Lord, You are my God; I will extol you. I will praise Your Name for You planned graciousness of old, counsels of steadfast faithfulness. ² For you have turned a city into a stone heap, a walled town into a ruin, the citadel of strangers into rubble, never to be rebuilt. ³ Therefore a fierce people must honor You, a City of cruel nations must fear You. ⁴ For You have been a refuge for the poor man, a shelter for the needy man in his distress—shelter from the rainstorm, shade from heat. ⁵ The rage of strangers like heat in the desert, You subdued the heat with the shade of clouds, the singing of the tyrants was vanquished. ⁶ The Lord of Hosts will make on this mount for all the peoples a banquet of rich viands, a banquet of choice wines—of rich viands seasoned with marrow, of choice wines well refined. ⁷ And He will destroy on this mount the shroud that is drawn over the faces of all the peoples and the covering that is spread over all the nations. ⁸ He will destroy death forever. My Lord God will wipe the tears away from all faces and will put an end to the reproach of His people over all the earth—for it is the Lord who has spoken. ⁹ In that day they shall say: This is our God; We trusted in Him, and He delivered us. This is the Lord, in whom we trusted, let us rejoice and exult in His deliverance.

Reflection

The Beat Goes On

Daniel Jackson

Reflective Hymn

In Sorrow We Remember

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Melissa Vance

Reception of Offering and Congregational Response

Take our offerings and tithes, O God, bless them that they may be used to share your love and blessing in our community and the world. May these offerings provide for the least of these needs and the proclamation of your word to those seeking hope. Amen!

Community News and Announcements

Closing Hymn

Abide With Me

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.