

The Presque Isle Congregational Church



United Church of Christ

October 29, 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

One: The Holy One has been our hope and our home.

Many: God has been with us from generation to generation.

One: We flourish and fade, bloom and renew in God's time.

Many: Our lives are temporal and precious and glorious.

One: May the compassion and favor of the Holy One be with us.

Many: May we be glad and prosperous in our work for our God!

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Righteous God, your law is love. Your message is love. Your presence is love. May Love fill our atmosphere and our interactions as we gather together in your name. May Love transform us, renew us, and revive us. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Two-Minute Message

Meg Hegemann

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, forgive us for the paths we seek that steer us away from you. We confess that we have embraced animosity over understanding, self-righteousness over grace, hopelessness over empowered action.

Demonstrate the power of love to us anew. Help us to be loving agents of your kingdom for your glory and the restoration of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, know that your path evolves and the Creator cuts through the wilderness to make the rough ways smooth. The Holy One is Companion and Guide gently and firmly encouraging us to the path of righteous love, justice, and peace.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" He replied, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.* This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" "David's son," they replied. He said, "Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, *The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool'*? If David calls him Lord, how can he be David's son?" Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.

Reflection

Meg Hegemann

Reflective Music

Barbara Merryman

Blessing of Gifts

Call: Sharing of the abundance we receive is a tangible way to love our neighbor as ourselves. May we give with generous and empathetic hearts stirred to compassion and to companion to meet the needs before us.

Response: Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your kingdom through generosity. 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*Come, Christians, Join to Sing***Community News and Announcements****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.