

The Presque Isle Congregational Church



United Church of Christ

November 12th 2023

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Welcoming Music

“You Are Welcome Here”

Words of Welcome

Jennifer Gillis-White

Introit

“God of the Bible”

Call to Worship

One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

Many: We hear your Still Speaking voice. We come to you, Wisdom, seeking knowledge and understanding.

One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

Many: We remember your marvelous acts and faithful instruction. We come to you, Wisdom, as you have been near to us!

One: Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her.

Many: We trust in your guidance and place our hope in you through feast and famine. We come to you, Wisdom, to worship and to serve.

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Wisdom, your presence illuminates our path. Shine your light into dim spaces so that we do not stray from your teaching. Help us discern what you are calling us, your church, to do and be in this moment in time. Give us urgency to be good news in the world and for our neighbors. Let your glory reign among us and your Spirit lead us into truth, justice, and love. For your name and in your name, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

Two-Minute Message

Jennifer Gillis-White

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Wise God, we often seek counsel from so many sources while ignoring your guidance. Help us to navigate the tough choices we must make and to discern the circumstances of our world and our lives through your perspective. Your way is life and embodies care, compassion, and concern for all creation. May we follow your model for the flourishing of our human siblings and our home, the Earth. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, God gives good instruction and the grace to begin anew. You are empowered by God to choose the path of life everlasting and nudged by God when your journey strays. Know that every movement toward God is received with gladness and the full and welcoming embrace of the Holy One.

Choir

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*¹

¹ In recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the loss of the 129 crewmembers of the US Submarine *Thresher*, which sank on April 10, 1963, off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but didn’t bring oil for them. But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil. “When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.’

“Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.’ “But the wise bridesmaids replied, ‘No, because if we share with you, there won’t be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut. “Later the other bridesmaids came and said, ‘Lord, lord, open the door for us.’ “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore, keep alert, because you don’t know the day or the hour.

Reflection

Rachel Dobbs

Reflective Music

Barbara Merryman

Invitation to Generosity

As the people of ancient days said to Joshua, let us proclaim that we will serve the Holy One. Let us choose this day to serve with all the gifts and resources we have been given to the glory of God and in generous hope for the world.

Blessing of Gifts

Response: Discerning God, receive our offerings and gifts for your kingdom. Let them be a blessing to those in need of encouragement, material goods, and evidence of your presence among us. Magnify them beyond our imagining and grant us insight into the possibilities before us for ministry and witness. We are grateful to give. Amen.

Veterans’ Day Prayer

Cynthia Soto

A Moment of Recognition for Those Who Have Served**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

"Keep Awake, Be Always Ready"

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.