

The Presque Isle Congregational Church



United Church of Christ

November 19, 2023

**Prelude**

Barbara Merryman

**Welcoming Music**

*You Are Welcome Here*

**Words of Welcome**

Christine Standefer

**Introit**

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*

**Call to Worship** (Inspired by Psalm 90)

One: Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation. Before the universe exploded and the earth was without form, you have been with us.

**Many: Creator, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

One: We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

**Many: Mighty One, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

One: Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation for all your marvelous works and steadfast love.

**Many: Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.**

**Opening Prayer (Unison)**

Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honor, and to commune in your presence. Make yourself known among us, O God, make yourself known to us. Amen.

**Opening Hymn**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

**Two-Minute Message**

Meg Hegemann

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Merciful God, we confess that life is hard. We don't always make the best choices, and all too often we realize the options before us are lacking. We are overwhelmed with the enormity of the world's problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely. Sometimes, we respond thinking of our own best interests. Bitterness and resentment are easy guides. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace over shallow victories, material gain, and violence of the mind, body, or spirit. Bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbors and for your glory. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, God is merciful and journeys with us as we navigate uncertain terrain. God is still at work in us and through us that we might have flourishing and abundant lives in community with one another. Receive the grace God grants to begin anew when our journey stalls or diverts from the path of the kingdom. That grace is yours.

**Scripture Reading***(Please see attached page)*

Gary Sanfacon

**Proclamation**

Meg Hegemann

**Reflective Music**

Barbara Merryman

**Invitation to Generosity**

Christine Standefer

God trusts us with the resources necessary for all of us to be well and to have our needs met. The Holy One honors us by inviting us to participate in God's reign with the generous sharing of gifts. Let us offer our time, talent, and treasure to the kingdom of God.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

Christine Standefer

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***Take My Life, God, Let It Be***Community News and Announcements**

Claude Brissette

This morning our Stewardship Campaign officially begins. For the next few weeks, we will have a series of 10-minute presentations to acquaint all our church family members with the financial structure under which this church operates. It may be similar to churches you have previously attended or it may be a completely new concept. Everyone is a stakeholder in this church and transparency is our first premise. We ask that you think about the presentation, write down any questions you may have, put them in the plate next week so we can give due diligence to your questions and answer them when time is not a deterrent.

**Benediction**

As we go on our journey...

Christine Standefer

*Unison*

Trust in God

↓

Use our talents.

↓

Multiply the impact of our gifts.

↓

Enter the job of the Holy One!

**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.

<sup>14</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five valuable coins] and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey. <sup>16</sup> “After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money. <sup>19</sup> “Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’ <sup>22</sup> “The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’ <sup>23</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’ <sup>24</sup> “Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

<sup>26</sup> “His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed? <sup>27</sup> In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. <sup>29</sup> Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. <sup>30</sup> Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’

“People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.