

The Presque Isle Congregational Church



United Church of Christ

November 26, 2023

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Welcoming Music

You Are Welcome Here

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Diane Langworthy

Introit

Gather Us In

Gary Sanfacon

Call to Worship (from Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is she who made us, and we are hers.

We are God's people, the sheep of her pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to God; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; her steadfast love endures forever.

God's faithfulness is from generation to generation. Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God who cares. We flourish in your compassion. You search for us and find us. You, Holy One, surround us with the power of your abundant love and utmost care. Be present among us as we praise your name, bring our burdens, and give thanks for all that you are and all that you do. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign

vv1,3,5

Children's Moment

Rev. Dr. Diane Langworthy

Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Response: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: May our hearts hear and our lives respond!

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Diane Langworthy

Time of Silent Prayer

For what do you offer thanks? What do you grieve? For what do you seek forgiveness? Where do you need help? Where is there a call to act? Invite the Spirit's guidance.

We Meet at Christ's Table

Rev. Dr. Diane Langworthy

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

And with love in their hearts, the people of God said,

Yes! Yes! Yes!

Sharing Our Joys, Concerns, and Sightings of the Holy Spirit

Closing Hymn

Some Glad Morning, I'll Fly Away

Community News and Announcements

Charge and Benediction

Friends, go forth from this place and seek the face of Christ.

Seek Christ's face in every person you meet:

the least, the greatest,
the remarkable, the ordinary,
the sacred, the profane.

Seek Christ's face outside yourselves:

outside these walls
outside your daily routines.

Seek Christ's face in people who are vulnerable,

trusting that when they look into your eyes,
they, too, will see Christ's face looking back.

And as you go:

May the grace of Christ enfold your heart,
May the love of God sustain your soul,
And may the holy mischief of the Spirit disrupt your life
And bring you home to Christ's Sovereign, joyful Kingdom!
Alleluia. Amen.