

The Presque Isle Congregational Church



United Church of Christ

January 21, 2024

**Prelude**

Barbara Merryman

**Welcoming Music**

*Walk With Me*

**Words of Welcome**

Jennifer Gillis-White

**Introit**

*Come, We Who Love God's Name*

PIUCC Choir

**Call to Worship**

One: Silence your scattered thoughts and lay down your distractions. God calls us here to worship.

**Many: We are here to worship.**

One: Drop your nets and leave your boats. God is with us. Jesus calls us.

**Many: We are here to worship. Let us worship God together.**

**Opening Prayer (Unison)**

God of Many Seasons, we enter into your presence with joy and thanksgiving. We acknowledge all the ways that you meet us as we gather in your name. May our songs and prayers be a sweet sound in your ears. May we demonstrate our trust in you through both praise and lament. May our hearts yearn, our spirits stir, and our souls wait in holy hope and expectation. Amen

**Opening Hymn**

*Lord of the Dance*

**Two-Minute Message**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

God of mercy, we confess that we too have settled down in Nineveh. We are comfortable living under systems of injustice and exploitation. We confess our discomfort in speaking truths that unmask idolatries. Make us ready to follow Jesus, ready to repent, and eager to change our hearts and lives. Call to us again, and show us your mercy. Let us hear your good news again. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

God desires relationship with us, and reconciliation for all of creation. Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and transformation. Receive the good news of God's grace: We are forgiven!

**Musical Offering**

*Abide With Me*

PIUCC Choir

**Scripture Readings**

Jonah 3:1-5

The Lord's word came to Jonah a second time: "Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and declare against it the proclamation that I am commanding you." And Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the Lord's word. (Now Nineveh was indeed an enormous city, a three days' walk across.) Jonah started into the city, walking one day, and he cried out, "Just forty days more and Nineveh will be overthrown!" And the people of

Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on mourning clothes, from the greatest of them to the least significant.

Mark 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!" As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." Right away, they left their nets and followed him. After going a little farther, he saw James and John, Zebedee's sons, in their boat repairing the fishing nets. At that very moment he called them. They followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers.

**Proclamation**

Meg Hegemann

**Reflective Music**

Barbara Merryman

**Blessing of our Gifts**

**Call:** Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator's abundance. Let us bring forth our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give. *(Pause for the offering plate to be brought forward.)* Please join together in asking for God's blessing on these gifts..

**Blessing: Eternal God, magnify these gifts that we return in gratitude and for your glory. Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer 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**

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

**Community News and Announcements**

**Benediction**

The God who called us here today is calling us out from this place and into the world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us follow where Jesus leads, sharing God's love and grace with a world that is groaning for Redemption.

As we go, may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of our parent God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, today and always. Amen.

**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.