

The Presque Isle Congregational Church



United Church of Christ

March 17, 2024

Prelude

Barbara Merryman

Welcoming Music

Words of Welcome

Jennifer Gillis-White

Lenten Liturgy

Introit

Seek Ye First the Kingdom

PIUCC Choir

Call to Worship

New life rises!

That which rises, must first fall and die.

Single grains merely remain as they are unless they are released to the ground.

The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and nourish.

Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the Living God.

And God will raise us up anew. Amen.

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of grains and grace, we gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus. The path he chose for his disciples was one of service and it requires of us that we lay down our desires, our ambitions, and serve you with our whole heart. May our worship this day inspire our dying and rising with you as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. May it be so. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Two-Minute Message

Jennifer Gillis-White

Choral Anthem

Christ, We Do All Adore You

PIUCC Choir

Scripture Reading

John 12:20-33

See Insert

Reflection

Meg Hegemann

Prayer of Transformation (Unison)

God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others with our lives. Our false self is driven by our lack of trust in you to provide for our every need. We rely on our own strength. But, our true self can let go and be formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways and transform us and raise us to new life. Amen..

Reflective Music

Create in Me a Clean Heart

PIUCC Folk Group

You are invited to come forward and leave whatever you need to let go of in the baptismal waters.

Words of Grace

Friends, Jesus reminds us that those who serve him will have the assurance of his presence with them. Trust that you are forgiven, that new life rises, and that Jesus abides with you. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Blessing of our Gifts

As yeast rises to create bread, so do the rising of our gifts multiply the love of God in the life of the world. Give of your treasure, whatever it may be, however large or small. And trust God will use it for the building of the kingdom of God that is emerging among us *Pause while the offering plate is brought forward.* Together let us bless our gifts...

Response: O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down to you the abundance you have given us and allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to give life to your world. May it be so. 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

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

Community News and Announcements

Benediction

God's people, go out and nurture this world so that new life will rise. Let go of that which binds you to distraction and isolation. And look towards your days with the hope of a single grain multiplying into the abundance of God's joy and love. 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.

Pastoral Care Contact

Pastor Diane's Phone Number: 386-847-0883

Jesus teaches about his death

²⁰ Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²² Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. ²⁴ I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.

²⁷ “Now I am deeply troubled. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this time’? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

²⁹ The crowd standing there heard and said, “It’s thunder.” Others said, “An angel spoke to him.”

³⁰ Jesus replied, “This voice wasn’t for my benefit but for yours. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world’s ruler will be thrown out. ³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.” (³³ He said this to show how he was going to die.)