

 **The Presque Isle Congregational Church**
United Church of Christ
March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday

Prelude		Barbara Merryman
Welcoming Music		
Words of Welcome		Jennifer Gillis-White
Lenten Liturgy		
Introit	<i>Morning Has Broken</i>	PIUCC Choir
Call to Worship		Melissa Vance

Look! The dawn is breaking. Morning is on its way. See, on the hillside the sun is beginning to rise!

Leave us alone and let us sleep. We want to forget about the terrors of the night. We want to shut out the darkness.

But look! The grave is empty. The stone is rolled away.

An empty grave? A vacant shroud? Then hope is reborn, and the dream is alive again. Death has been swallowed up in victory. Rejoice, for the day of resurrection has come at last. Alleluia!

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of endings and new beginnings, we come to worship and praise. We come to abandon our pretenses and offer up our hope and dreams, that you may breathe new life into them. Shake us from our slumber and awaken us to our own resurrections. Open our eyes to the new day dawning in our hearts. Let us rejoice and be glad, for life has triumphed over death! Alleluia! Amen (*Penelope J. Stokes*)

Opening Hymn *Christ the Lord Has Risen Today*

Two-Minute Message Jennifer Gillis-White

Choral Anthem *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven* PIUCC Choir

Scripture Reading **Mark 16:1-8; Acts 10:34-43**

Reflection Meg Hegemann

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of new awakenings, we confess that we would rather stay asleep. We are afraid to hope and have our hopes shattered. We are afraid to dream and find our dreams deferred. Break us open like the tomb so that new life may pour forth. Give us the faith to believe, to hope, to dream anew. Let us live as people of your resurrection. Amen.

Words of Grace

Christ has risen from the grave to bring us out of the shadow of death, to free us from all fear, to liberate our souls into newness of life. This is good news indeed! Thanks be to God

Offertory Sentence

Christ conquers death and leads us into the path of life. Let us live graciously, and give generously, as God has given generously to us.

Offertory Dedication

The gift of resurrection reminds us that all we possess comes to us by the grace of God. May these gifts and offerings serve as a token of our love and gratefulness. May they be used to further God's justice and love in the world. May we live in new life, and share that life with others. 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

Because You Live, O Christ

Community News and Announcements

Benediction

Video Liturgy

A Resurrection Light

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

Mark 16:1-8**Common English Bible**

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. ³They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) ⁵Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. ⁶But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.^[a] He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him." ⁷Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." ⁸Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Acts 10:34-43**Common English Bible**

34 Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. ³⁵Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! ³⁷You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. ³⁸You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, ⁴¹not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

All: **May our hearts hear and our lives respond!**