

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Please take a moment during the Prelude to silence your cell phones and quietly prepare yourself for worship.

WELCOME AND MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND CANDLELIGHTING

Leader: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

All: Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

Leader: Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

Leader: May it be so!

All: Amen.

*PRAYER OF INVITATION

Leader: John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?" Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

All: In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say: Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world. Instead, hold fast to hope. Roll up your sleeves. Feed the hungry. Tend the garden. If you have two coats, give one away. Do the good that is yours to do. In doing so, you will see God. For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference. Amen.

*HYMN "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Hymnal 95 x 3,
(quiet to start, building each time)

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM
GOD AND EACH OTHER

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Liberating God, there are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference. I ask myself, what could these two hands do? What could this one voice say? Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray. Amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name, surrounds us in grace, and invites us to begin again. Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do. Thanks be to God for this new beginning. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:1-16

Pew Bible p.726

Isaiah 58:1-12

Pew Bible p.526

MESSAGE

Pastor Blake Severson

*HYMN

"O For a World"

Hymnal 372

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER (we say *sin*)

GOING INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD
OFFERTORY

* "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN "Longing for Light, We Wait in the Darkness (Christ,
Be Our Light)" Hymnal 314

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able please stand*

WELCOME to worship - we are glad that you're here! If you are visiting today and would like to share your contact information, there are welcome cards in the pew pockets. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate. Everyone is invited to stay for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the narthex after worship.



LARGE PRINT HYMNALS with a black cover are on the small bookcase in the rear of the sanctuary.



Children up to Kindergarten age are welcome in the nursery. There are clipboards with coloring pages in the narthex if your children wish to stay in the sanctuary.

The communion table flowers for December are sponsored by the Spencers.



*Eagle River Presbyterian Church
December 15, 2024*



Third Sunday
of Advent

Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024

Weekly Walk

Sunday	9:00 am	Chancel choir rehearsal
Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	10:15 am	Children's Sunday school
Sunday	11:30 am	Handbell rehearsal
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Session meeting
Wednesday	9:30 am	Coffee hour at church

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 48
 Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$224,056.07
 Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$230,902.59

Next Sunday we will have our **No-rehearsal Christmas Pageant!** All children--and adults -- are invited to participate! There will be costumes available in the narthex.



There is still time to purchase **poinsettias!** Please use the form on the back of this page if you would like to order a poinsettia in memory in honor of a loved one.

During Advent, we are invited to contribute to the **Christmas Joy** denominational offering. Half of the gifts go to assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. The other half goes



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to help students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. If you would like to contribute, you may write a check to ERPC and indicate "Christmas Joy" on the memo line.



Each year we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias purchased by the congregation **in memory or in honor of loved ones**. If you wish to order a poinsettia, please include cash or a check to this order form and drop it in the offering plate or by the church office.

On December 22nd, poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary and names of honorees will be published in the bulletin. Poinsettias can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

I/We (Name) _____
would like to purchase #(_____) poinsettia(s).
The cost of each poinsettia is \$12.
Please note the honoree name(s) below:



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