

## 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 begin with tenderness. Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope. Let us begin with love.**

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

**All: May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone. May the truth in these lights help us begin again.**

Leader: May it be so!

**All: Amen.**

\*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Hymnal 82

## RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Gracious God, you paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, amen.**

\*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Friends, no matter what you hold onto, and no matter what you let slip through your hands, God is holding onto you. That good news will never change. So hear the good news of the Gospel: Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven. And the same will be true tomorrow. Thanks be to God.

**All: Amen.**

## HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible p.681

Luke 1:46-55

Pew Bible p.724

MESSAGE

*Pastor Blake Severson*

\*HYMN "My Soul Cries Out with A Joyful Shout" Hymnal 100 v1-2

## 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

"Hyfrydol"

*Handbell Choir*

\* "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymnal 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*HYMN “My Soul Cries Out with A Joyful Shout” Hymnal 100 v3-4

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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*\*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.

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

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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.

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





Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

December 22, 2024

Weekly Walk

Sunday	9:00 am	Choir rehearsal
Sunday	10:00 am	Worship & Christmas Pageant
Sunday	11:30 pm	Handbell rehearsal
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve service
Wed-Fri	Office closed - <b>Merry Christmas!</b>	

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Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 50  
 Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$227,871.28  
 Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$238,975.60

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The Christmas Eve candlelight and communion service will begin at **7:00 pm Tuesday** evening.

During Advent, we are invited to contribute to the **Christmas Joy** denominational offering. If you would like to donate, you may write a check to ERPC and indicate "Christmas Joy" on the memo line.



Joanne Banks will be hosting **Holiday Bunco** on Saturday, Dec. 28 at 2PM! If you would like to join, please RSVP to Joanne.

From First Presbyterian Anchorage: Thank you, ERPC, for your support of the **Emergency Cold Weather Shelter** for Families this year. Your commitment and prayers are making a difference! In the last two months, six families have gotten into their own apartments and several more hope to in January. We are grateful for the volunteers from ERPC who have been able to help either with evening or overnight hospitality. Thank you for being a part of the "Monday night team!"



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The poinsettias in the Sanctuary today  
are given in honor, or in loving memory,  
of:

*Eugene & Ann Malecha - Patti & John Malecha*  
*Ray & Wilma Johnson - Patti & John Malecha*  
*Charles Thomas Darnall - Pam Darnall*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Art Redfern - Pam Darnall*  
*Betty & Ralph Klokkevold - Donna Davidson*  
*Everette and Hazel Walters - Bill & Diane Walters*  
*Leo & Elaine Hantz - Bill & Diane Walters*  
*Dr. & Mrs. Sydney Bailey - Scott Bailey*  
*Albert & June Kocher - Karen Ague*  
*Jay Osslander - Megan & Myles Gobeille*  
*Moki Gheen - Lucy Witt*  
*Frank & Winnie Hermann - Banks family*  
*Ron & Vivian Banks - Banks family*  
*Temijun Ching, Carl Danielson, Aileen Lee,*  
*Matthew Langdale, Eirik Lee - Lewis family*  
*Maggie Ola Rush - Roz & Charlie Rush*  
*Ruby Russell - Roz & Charlie Rush*  
*Matthew & Helen Simar - Emily & Dale Berry*  
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