



GATHERING TO WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found, then you are in the right place.

People: If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow, then you are in the right place.

Leader: If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence, then you are in the right place.

People: God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives. So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.

Leader: With God's help, may it be so.

All: Let us worship our all-loving God.

TIME OF SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Jesus said, "Follow me." And I said, let me get ready. Jesus said, "follow me." And I said, just one minute! Jesus said, "Follow me." And I said, I'll be there soon! The invitation is simple, but the work is hard. Jesus, forgive my delay. I want to follow you. Turn my intentions into actions. Show me the way. Amen.

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Lent asks, "How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?" Regardless of what that journey looks like for us, regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings, we are not alone. We are seen and loved by God. We are held in grace. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:51-62

Pew Bible p.734

MESSAGE

Pastor Blake Severson

POEM

"For the Time of Necessary Decision"
from The Space Between Us by John O'Donohue

The mind of time is hard to read.

We can never predict what it will bring,
Nor even from all that is already gone
Can we say what form it finally takes;

For time gathers its moments secretly.
Often we only know it's time to change
When a force has built inside the heart
That leaves us uneasy as we are.

Perhaps the work we do has lost its soul
Or the love where we once belonged
Calls nothing alive in us anymore.

We drift through this gray, increasing nowhere
Until we stand before a threshold we know
We have to cross to come alive once more.

May we have the courage to take the step
Into the unknown that beckons us;
Trust that a richer life awaits us there,
That we will lose nothing
But what has already died;

Feel the deeper knowing in us sure
Of all that is about to be born beyond
The pale frames where we stayed confined,
Not realizing how such vacant endurance
Was bleaching our soul's desire.

THE ASHES AND SETTING OUR INTENTIONS

*HYMN

"Take my Life"

Hymnal 697

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Eagle River Presbyterian Church

March 5, 2025



