

July 12, 2020  
**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's creation delights and astonishes.

**People: Let the people pause and wonder!**

Leader: God, the Creator, has made it all. Let all creation shout and sing!

**People: Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy, and live according to it, that we may grow in faith and hope and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" Hymnal 286

**RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM  
GOD AND EACH OTHER**

CALL TO CONFESSION

In Christ there is no condemnation, for perfect love casts out sin. Let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Spoken and Silent (After the corporate Prayer of Confession, please take a few moments of silence to individually confess our sins to God.)*

**God the Sower, we confess that we do not always live as people who obey your law. Sometimes, we are like rocky ground. We welcome your word when life is simple. But as soon as we face challenge, we forget your teachings and our faith withers. Sometimes, we are a thicket full of thorns. We clamor for more and step over the needy. Your word is choked out of our hearts. Forgive us, Lord. Let your Spirit work within and among us; make us good soil. Weed out our resistance and water us with your grace, that your word might grow within us and we might bear fruit for the sake of your kingdom.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Brothers and sisters, when our sins overwhelm us, God forgives our wrongdoing. Be at peace, for God restores and strengthens you and waters your soul in its parched and hardened places.

**People: Thanks be to God for his forgiveness and grace!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HEARING THE WORD**

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 65  
SCRIPTURE Genesis 28:19-34  
Matthew 13:1-9, 10-18  
Romans 8:1-11

SERMON *Stories of Creation: Creative Work*  
*Rev. Piper Cartland*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER, followed by The Lord's Prayer (we say *sin*)

MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

HYMN "God of the Fertile Fields" Hymnal 714 v.1-3

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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**Announcements**

The prayer deacon this week is Emily Berry. You can email her any prayer requests that you'd like Piper to mention during the prayer time. Emily will also be watching the chat on the Sunday livestream and text any requests to Piper. Please remember that those comments are part of the live broadcast and visible to anyone watching.

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Rev. Cartland is taking a week of vacation from July 16-23. The session asks that you all join in virtual worship at **First Presbyterian in Anchorage**. They know you're coming and will welcome you warmly! We will email you the Facebook Live and YouTube links to their service next week.

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Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, will be our second **Prayer Gathering** in the church parking lot. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. for sharing and prayer. Please wear a mask, be ready to observe social distancing and bring something to sit on.

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Thank you to all **volunteers** who have helped in the building so far! The Trustees have a list of volunteer tasks that can be completed on your own time, or even at your home. Please contact the office or Dale Berry for the updated list.

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**Garden update:** We are still in need of eggshells and bags of coffee grounds from Starbucks.

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Here are some ways you can keep up with your financial stewardship:

- 1) Donate online with a credit card by clicking the link from our website: [www.erpresbyterian.org](http://www.erpresbyterian.org).
- 2) Visit your local bank or your bank's website and set up a recurring electronic payment. Your bank may require the church's account number. Please call the office for that information.
- 3) Checks can also be mailed to PO Box 771337 Eagle River, AK 99577-1337.

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**Congratulations** to Bruce and Nancy Davis on the birth of Nancy's daughter Rose's new baby boy. Mickey was born on Sunday, July 5 and weighed 9 lbs 6 oz!

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**Front Porch Visits:** One of the most difficult aspects about this prolonged period of being out of our building is the lack of contact with each other. The pastor, elders and deacons want to help alleviate that a little by starting Front Porch Visits. If you'd

like a visit, please call or email the church office and we will call you to arrange a time for Piper and an elder or deacon to come for a brief visit – on your front porch or in your yard, physically distant and masked – just to catch up. We are looking forward to seeing you!