

August 16, 2020  
GATHERING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God has forgiven us and drawn us close, reconciling us through Jesus Christ, who has lavished upon us the fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit.

**People: With glad and grateful hearts, let us praise the Lord!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lord Jesus, Son of God, your blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross. Strengthen us to trust in your mercy, reach out for your healing, and receive your reconciliation. **Amen.**

HYMN “In Christ There is No East or West” Hymnal 318 v.1,3,4

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM  
GOD AND EACH OTHER

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins without fear to the One who yearns to embrace us, forgive us, protect us, and bless us.

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.)*

**Holy One, there is much we must confess: When we discount another’s pain or overlook neighbors in distress, forgive us. When we choose callous words over compassionate impulses, forgive us. When we think others less deserving of grace and ration kindness as if it could be exhausted, forgive us. Have mercy upon us, Lord, and heal our brokenness so that every word and deed that proceeds from our hearts might glorify you.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Our God blesses us with kindness, forgiving our sins, preserving our lives, and restoring our souls through the abundant provision of our Lord Jesus Christ. Receive now that for which faith has hungered: you are forgiven and healed in the name of Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 67

SCRIPTURE

verses from Genesis 45, 46, and 50

Matthew 15:21-28

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

SERMON

*Stories of Creation: Creative Forgiveness*

*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

“Amazing Grace”

Hymnal 649

CHARGE AND BLESSING

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Announcements

The prayer deacon this week is Paige Saylor. You can email her any prayer requests that you’d like Piper to mention during the pastoral prayer.

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Please join the Sunday School kids in a **blueberry-picking hike** at Arctic Valley on Sunday afternoon. We’ll meet at 1 pm in the parking lot at the top of Arctic Valley Road. Bring bug spray, buckets for the blueberries, and your own snacks and drinks. It’s supposed to be a beautiful weekend – come and spend an hour or two outside with your ERPC family!

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The **session** will meet on Zoom this Monday evening at 7:00 pm.

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**Front Porch Visits:** If you'd like a visit, please contact 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!

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We are **harvesting vegetables** from the church garden on Saturday mornings at 11 am and Monday and Thursday evenings at 7 pm. Please contact Brent Koenen if you would like to help. All produce goes to the Chugiak-Eagle River Food Pantry. The Sunday School kids will be helping to harvest vegetables from the garden on Thursday evening, August 27th, at 7:00 pm. Wear a mask and be prepared to get a little soil under your fingernails!

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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.