



December 13, 2020
GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Larry Baumgartner

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: As we light our third Advent candle,

People: we pray for hope, peace, and joy.

Leader: Come now, O child of Mary.

People: Come now, O Prince of Joy.

Leader: We ask God to keep us faithful in hope, praying for peace, and waiting in joy so that we may stand with confidence and await the coming of Christ our redeemer.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord; again, rejoice!

People: Be gentle to all: the Lord is near.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are our light and our salvation.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you.

Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence will end and all your children may live in peace, serving one another with joy. In the name of Christ our Savior we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Hymnal 129

**RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM
GOD AND EACH OTHER**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

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.)* **Your love is good news for the oppressed,**

O Lord, and you bind up the brokenhearted. Forgive us, O

God, when we think that your good news is only for us.

Forgive us, O God, when we twist your gospel into something that fits comfortably into our lives. By your light, let us see you leading us beyond ourselves and into the world you love. By your grace, forgive us, and free us to try again.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

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HEARING THE WORD

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 126

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

John 1:6-8, 19-28

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

SERMON

Where We Belong ~ Homecoming

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

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Hymnal 144

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Announcements

The prayer deacon this week is Elizabeth Hobbie, lizhobbie@hotmail.com You can email her any prayer requests that you'd like Piper to mention during the pastoral prayer.

Wednesday Night Bible Study will meet on Zoom this week at 6:30 p.m. for our last session. We will take a break until the new year.

The children and youth will meet in the Sanctuary at 1pm today to practice for the Christmas pageant. Please remember your mask!

For our **virtual Christmas Eve** worship service we would like to have pictures of the congregation holding lit candles. We will scroll through the pictures as we hear and sing Silent Night at our homes. If you live locally you received a candle in your Advent bag; if you don't live in Alaska any candle will do. Will you please take a picture of you and/or your family holding a lit candle and email it to liveministries@erpresbyterian.org ? You may also text it to Piper or email it to the office.

Families, please send pictures of your children's Advent coloring pages or Advent wreath kits-we would love to post them on the church Facebook page and website!

Update from the Food Pantry: The Food Pantry continues to be busy and is always appreciative of food/monetary donations as well as volunteer time. Please visit the ERPC website's "Serve" tab for an interesting testimony by a young volunteer.

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.
- 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.

