



December 20, 2020  
**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

PRELUDE

*Josh Saylor*

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: As we light our fourth Advent candle,

**People: we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.**

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.

**People: Come now, O Prince of Love.**

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look! The young woman is with child;

**People: She will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.**

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

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of grace, your Word came to us when Mary placed her life in the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming that we may receive his kingdom for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all. We pray in his mighty name. **Amen.**

HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Hymnal 121

**RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM  
GOD AND EACH OTHER**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

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.)*

**An angel spoke to Mary: "Do not be afraid!" And yet, O Lord, we find ourselves paralyzed by fear of what we do not know. Forgive us of our sins, O Lord, and give us the faith of Mary to respond to your grace with lives of grateful praise. Let us hear the good news that she first heard: Light is breaking. Love is coming. The world is about to turn!**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**HEARING THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:26-38

Romans 16:25-27

SERMON

***Where We Belong ~ Finding Home***

*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

"Angels We Have Heard On High" Hymnal 113

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## Announcements

The prayer deacon this week is Nancy Davis. You can email her any prayer requests that you'd like Piper to mention during the pastoral prayer.

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**Wednesday night Bible** study is taking a break until January. We will resume on January 13th with a four-week study on Great Themes of the Bible. This is a great way to begin our new year together! If you'd like to join us let the office know and we will email you the curriculum.

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Covid-19 has obviously changed our Christmas Eve worship plans. This year we'll have two services: an outside one at 7 p.m. and an online service that will be posted on Facebook at 8 p.m.

The brief **outside service** will take place in the church parking lot. The weather forecast for Christmas Eve is for morning snow showers with temperatures in the mid-20's - perfect for an Alaska Christmas Eve service! Please wear a mask and stay physically distant from anyone not in your family bubble. The bulletin and hymn words will be on the church website and we'll have candles ready for Silent Night.

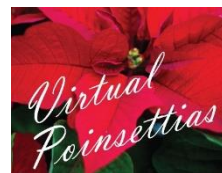
The **livestreamed service** will have hymns, chime anthems, and the Christmas story told through a Living Nativity by our children and youth. Please join us for either or both services! As always, the online service will remain on our Facebook page.

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For our **livestream 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. Please take a picture of you and/or your family holding a lit candle and email it to [liveministries@erpresbyterian.org](mailto:liveministries@erpresbyterian.org) You may also text it to Piper or email it to the office.

Families, please send us 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!

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**Contributions to the Food Pantry have been given in honor and remembrance of the following:**

*Betty & Ralph Klokkevold*

*William & Doris Davidson* (Donna/Dean Davidson)

*Robert Waring* (the Hobbie family)

*Mary, Ian, and Hamish MacKenzie*

*Mac & Eileen McCarthy* (Jean /Gary McCarthy)

*Ada Flake* (Scott Bailey)

*Howard and Ellen Gifford*

*Donna Mikolajczyk*

*Kathleen Forrester*

*Bill Carpenter* (the Musick family)

*Jay Osslander* (Debbie Osslander)

*Tom Darnall* (Pam Darnall)

*Ray & Wilma Johnson*

*Eugene & Ann Malecha*

*Don DeArmoun* (Patti/John Malecha)

*C. Lloyd Baisinger*

*Sherley Baisinger*

*Gary Baisinger*

*Ardill Davis* (Nancy/Bruce Davis)

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.