



December 27, 2020

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us sing God's praise with creation!

People: Praise God, sun and moon! Praise God, shining stars!

Leader: Come, let us sing with Simeon and Anna!

People: Our eyes have seen salvation, God's gift for all people!

Leader: Come let us sing God's praise together

People: and worship the Christ-child born for us!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you, for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, born of your handmaid Mary. In his face we behold your glory, for in his life as in his death is your gift of your salvation. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that we may give as we have received. Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you, God of love and peace. We pray in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!" Hymnal 121

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins with boldness, for God's light has come to shine in our darkness and remove the shadow of our sins.

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.)*

O God, in Christ you were born a humble child, love-made-flesh, God-with-us. Forgive us when we fail to follow in your way of humility, love, and peace. Free us to see your Light reflecting in the faces of friends and family, neighbors and strangers, enemies and friends, and make us shine forth with your love.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Sisters and brothers, receive the good news: the light of Christ shines in our darkness, to bring light and life to all. By the gift of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Praise God for our victory in Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 148

Isaiah 52:7-10

Luke 2:22-38

Galatians 4:4-7

SERMON

Where We Belong ~ Home Is Where the Heart Is

Rev. Piper Cartland

HYMN

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Hymnal 128

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

LITANY OF FAITH

Leader: In our looking into 2021,

People: may the God of hope be with us.

Leader: In our lamenting the losses of 2020,

People: may the God of peace be with us.

Leader: In our celebrations of Christmas,

People: may the God of joy be with us.

Leader: In our caring for the world,

People: may the God of love be with us.

Leader: In our living of life in all its fullness,

People: may we know that God is with us always.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER, followed by The Lord's Prayer (we say *sin*)

ANTHEM "Little Drummer Boy" Chelsea Berry

MINUTES FOR MINISTRY
OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Hymnal 123

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Announcements

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

The church office will be closed from **December 29 - January 3**. We will check messages during the week. If there is an emergency please call Personnel Elder Ellen Koenen at 907-306-5450 and she will direct you to the help you need.

On Sunday, January 3, the session asks that you please worship virtually with **First Presbyterian Church in Wasilla** at 10 am (www.firstpreswasilla.org) or at 11 am with **First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage** (www.firstpresanchorage.org).

If you would like to donate to the annual **Christmas Joy** offering, it's not too late! Please send your contribution to the church office. The Christmas Joy offering funds denominational efforts to help retired pastors and spouses and leadership development in communities of color. Thank you!

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.

The January/February **Upper Room** devotionals are available. They are on a cart outside the office door.

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.



Cy Kiehl 1-Dec
Andy Kmak 6-Dec
David Arlington 15-Dec
Brooke Freimuth 22-Dec
Evie Gibson 24-Dec
Kelsey Davidson 25-Dec
Ross McCarthy 25-Dec
Carol Pool 28-Dec
Peter Hobbie 28-Dec
Kaitlin Kelly 28-Dec
Tony Petroccia 31-Dec

Matthew and Elizabeth Hobbie....December 9
John and Patti Malecha....December 16
Jamie and Whitney Lewis....December 21
Wayne and Linda Armstrong....December 23
Gary and Jean McCarthy....December 27
Jim and Kim Arlington....December 30

