



December 6, 2020  
**GATHERING TO WORSHIP**

PRELUDE  
WELCOME

*Larry Baumgartner*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: As we light our second Advent candle,

**People: we pray for the holy peace of God.**

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.

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

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord!**

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

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our paths straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we wait for our Messiah, that everyone would see your coming reign of peace and love. **Amen.**

HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Hymnal 93

**RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM  
GOD AND EACH OTHER**

CALL TO CONFESSION

God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance. Therefore, let us confess our sins, for God's salvation is at hand.

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.)*

**Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HEARING THE WORD**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 85

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

2 Peter 3:8-15a

MESSAGE *Where We Belong ~ Home in the Wilderness*

*Rev. Piper Cartland*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the Confession of 1967)

**God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized. Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He**

**gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.**

### **BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
MINUTES FOR MINISTRY  
OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

### **CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Hymnal 88, v.1-4

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (we say *sin*)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER

### **GOING INTO THE WORLD**

HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Hymnal 88, v.5-7

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

---

## **Announcements**

The **prayer deacon** this week is Paige Saylor. You can email any prayer requests that you would like Piper to mention during the Pastoral Prayer.

---

**Wednesday Night Bible Study** will meet this week at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We are continuing our Advent study called *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. If you'd like to join us, please email the office and we will send you the curriculum.

---

**Update from the Food Pantry:** November and December have been very busy. We have increased our opening times to accommodate more appointments. Food and monetary donations are welcome!

---

Please remember to visit the "**Ways to Give**" tab on the church website: [www.erpresbyterian.org](http://www.erpresbyterian.org)

- 1) Donate online with a credit card by clicking the link from our website.
- 2) Visit your local bank or your bank's website and set up a recurring electronic payment.
- 3) Checks can be mailed to PO Box 771337 Eagle River, AK 99577-1337.

