

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Please take a moment during the Prelude to silence your cell phones and quietly prepare yourself for worship.

WELCOME AND MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing songs of loudest praise!

People: Hosanna!

Leader: Sing songs that are unashamed.

People: Hosanna!

Leader: Sing songs without being afraid.

People: Hosanna!

Leader: Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

People: Hosanna!

Leader: Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

*HYMN

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Hymnal 197

*PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who challenged Rome’s oppressive power with peaceful protest. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise. Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Holy God, we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines. Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route – whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious – Jesus marched for you. Jesus’ love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you. You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that. So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones: We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Go out trusting these words. Amen.

All: Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

John 12:12-16

MESSAGE

Pastor Blake Severson

*HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

Hymnal 826

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER, followed by The Lord’s Prayer (we say *sin*)

GOING INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymnal 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN

“Were You There”

Hymnal 228

*WORDS OF SENDING "Courage" poem by Rev. Sarah Speed

We summon every ounce of courage.
We give ourselves pep talks
and we call our friends.
We dig deep within.
We practice the words out loud,
rolling them around in our mouths,
imagining the response.
We deal out every "what if" card our brain holds on to
and spend absurd amounts of time
imagining all the ways it could go wrong.
And then finally, blessedly, we say it:
I love you.
To speak the truth of your heart takes courage.
It always has.
But please,
summon your courage,
join the parade,
and speak with conviction.
For God has been saying to the world since day one:
I love you.
What is your response?

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

WELCOME to worship - we are glad that you're here! If you are visiting today and would like to share your contact information, there are welcome cards in the pew pockets. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate. Everyone is invited to stay for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the narthex after worship.



LARGE PRINT HYMNALS with a black cover are on the small bookcase in the rear of the sanctuary.

Children up to Kindergarten age are welcome in the nursery. There are clipboards with coloring pages in the narthex if your children wish to stay in the sanctuary.



The March flowers are sponsored by Patti and John Malecha.



Eagle River Presbyterian Church
March 24, 2024



Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

March 24, 2024

Weekly Walk

Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship
Sunday	10:15 AM	Sunday school for k-6 th graders
Sunday	11:15 AM	Handbell rehearsal
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Coffee hour at church
Wednesday	10:30 AM/7:30 PM	Zoom/in-person Bible study
Thursday	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Communion service

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 35
 Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$55,823.42
 Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$65,530.31



Holy Week schedule: This Thursday is our Maundy Thursday Communion service at 6:00 PM. On Sunday, the Easter Sunrise service in the church parking lot pavilion begins at 7:00 AM, followed by hot drinks inside. The regular Easter worship service starts at 10:00 AM, followed by the children's egg hunt.

In our goal of seeking a new long-term pastor, the next step is to form a **Mission Study team**. This group will seek to answer three core questions about ERPC:

- 1) Who have we been?
- 2) Who are we now?
- 3) Who do we want to be moving forward?

Please prayerfully consider if you would like to be part of this team. For more information, please contact the office and/or Pastor Blake.

Next Sunday, we will join with churches worldwide to receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. The offering goes toward projects in more than 100 countries, that provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. If you would like to give through the church account, please write "One great hour" on the memo line.



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From the artist, Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

In the Matthew, Mark, and Luke versions of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, two unnamed disciples follow Jesus' orders to retrieve a colt. In these accounts, the disciples actively participate in the parade, laying down their cloaks and singing praise. In contrast, John's version of this story provides minimal details and the disciples are hardly mentioned at all. However, the text does a unique thing: it breaks the fourth wall to tell us something important:

"His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered" (John 12:16).

Is Peter at the parade? Does he lay down his cloak and follow the others? Does he sing songs of loudest praise? Or is he lost in the cacophony of the crowds, confused by and afraid of what is taking place? Maybe he is thinking about the blur of events in the days just before: Lazarus raised from the dead, Jesus anointed in Bethany, the crowds knocking down their doors, the plot to kill Jesus and Lazarus swelling like a darkened, fast-approaching sky.

They didn't understand at first, but then they remembered.

This image attempts to visualize these two locations in time and space. On the left, Peter looks out from the palm procession – his eyes glazed over as he watches Jesus riding into the city where he will surely meet his death. As the crowds sing "hosanna!" for a new, soon-to-be-killed-king, the dissonance of the scene causes Peter to tremble – like a guitar string snapped suddenly mid-tune.

In the top right is Peter's mirror image. In this mirage, we glimpse the future. Peter stands aghast at the empty tomb, waves of hope and relief rushing through him like a river of grace, the remembering happening all at once – like a childhood song plucked from memory, like the refrain of a chorus that won't let you go: *it's true, it's true, thank God it's true.*



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