

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

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

WELCOME

MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader 1: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins."

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace. Peace not just in our time, but for all time.

Reader 3: We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather to worship and glorify God. Amen.

People: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

PRAYER OF INVITATION

*HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymnal 88, v.1,4,5

**RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM
GOD AND EACH OTHER**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

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.

*DECLARATION 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: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6:1-12

Pew Bible p.130

Isaiah 39:5-40:11

Pew Bible p.511

MESSAGE

Pastor Blake Severson

*HYMN "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" Hymnal 87

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

* "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Hymnal 82

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

**Those who are able please stand*

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.



ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES are available. Please request one from the Sound Tech at the sound desk.

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



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*Eagle River Presbyterian Church
December 10, 2023*

The December communion table flowers are sponsored by Patti and John Malecha.



Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

December 10, 2023

Weekly Walk

Sunday	9:00 am	Choir rehearsal
Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	10:15 am	Sunday school, k-6 th grade
Sunday	11:15 am	Handbell choir rehearsal
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Session meeting on Zoom
Wednesday	9:00 am	Women's coffee hour @ church
Wednesday	Noon	Zoom Advent Bible study
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Advent Bible study @ church

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 57
 Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$197,314.93
 Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$201,865.80

We are still accepting **poinsettia** orders, in memory or in honor of loved ones. They will adorn the sanctuary next Sunday, and a list of honorees will be published in the bulletin. Please use the form on the back of this page if you would like to order one or more.



Next Sunday we will have a **No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant**, similar to last year, if you were here for that. Everyone is invited to participate! There will be costumes available in the back of the sanctuary.



There will be **two Christmas Eve services** on Sunday, December 24, at **10:00 am and 7:00 pm**. We will have communion and candlelight at both services.



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On December 17th, poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary and names of honorees will be published in the bulletin. Poinsettias can be taken home on December 24th.

I/We (Name) _____
 would like to purchase #(_____) poinsettia(s).
 Cost of each poinsettia is \$12.



Please note the honoree name(s) below:



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