

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

Leader: In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)  
In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come” (Mark 13:35).  
We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.  
**People: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.**

\*PRAYER OF INVITATION

\*HYMN                      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”                      Hymnal 88,v.1-3

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM  
GOD AND EACH OTHER

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:  
**God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out— against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our**

**tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new.**  
\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS  
Leader: The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!  
**People: Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE	<b>Mark 1:1-8</b> <b>Isaiah 64:1-12</b>	Pew Bible <b>p.707</b> Pew Bible <b>p.531</b>
MESSAGE		<i>Pastor Blake Severson</i>
*HYMN	“Change My Heart, O God”	Hymnal <b>695</b>

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
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

## 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              “The Days Are Surely Coming”      Hymnal 357

\*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 located at the rear of the sanctuary, by the doors. 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 the narthex if your children wish to stay in the sanctuary.



*Eagle River Presbyterian Church  
December 3, 2023*



## Eagle River Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2023

### Weekly Walk

Sunday	9:00 am	Choir rehearsal
Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	11:15 am	Handbell choir rehearsal
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 ----- 52

Year to Date Regular Income ----- \$195,028.93

Year to Date Regular Expenses ----- \$196,586.71

---

It's not too late to join the **Advent Bible study**! We are using an Advent devotional published by Christianity Today as a guide — copies are in the narthex. Please take one if you haven't already, whether you plan to participate in the study or not.



---

We are beginning to take **poinsettia** orders! The poinsettias may be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones. They will adorn the sanctuary and narthex on December 17, 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.

---

Each year during Advent, our congregation participates in the special denominational offering, **Christmas Joy**. Please see the insert for a description of where the offering goes. If you would like to contribute, please write "Christmas Joy" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope.

---



---

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.



Each year we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias purchased by the congregation **in memory or in honor of loved ones**. If you wish to order a poinsettia, please attach money or a check to this order form and drop it in the offering plate or by the Church Office.

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

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



Please note the honoree name(s) below:

---

---

---

