

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

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

CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader 1: To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”(Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader 2: Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God’s kin-dom.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

CHORAL PRELUDE “Wonderful Counselor” Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice! I bring good news for all people. Unto us a child is born. Alleluia! Tonight the angels sing on earth. Glory to God in the highest! Behold! I bring good news for all people. Unto us a child is born this night, Christ the Lord, Our Savior.

Congregation: Let us worship Him in joy and peace.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Christmas Chimings” Handbell Choir

THE CHRISTMAS STORY ACCORDING TO LUKE

*HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Hymnal **121 v.1 and 4**

*HYMN “Hark The Herald Angels Sing” Hymnal **119 v.1 and 3**

CHRISTMAS ANTHEM “What Child is This” Chancel Choir

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY “Song of the Angels” Handbell Choir

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-5,18-22 Pew Bible **p.528**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5, 3:16-18 Pew Bible **p.750**

CHILDREN’S TIME

MESSAGE “Father, Do You Love Me?” *Pastor Blake Severson*

SPECIAL MUSIC “Oh Light” *Megan Severson and Connor Spencer*

COMMUNION SERVICE

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.

Pastor: Let us pray...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE *Using the center aisle, please come forward to the table; return to your seat by the outside aisle.*

SPREADING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***CANDLELIGHT CAROL** **“Silent Night, Holy Night”** **Hymnal 122**

Please pass the light down the rows, dipping the unlit candles to the lit ones.


***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**


***CANDLELIGHT CAROL** **“Joy to the World”** **Hymnal 134**

POSTLUDE

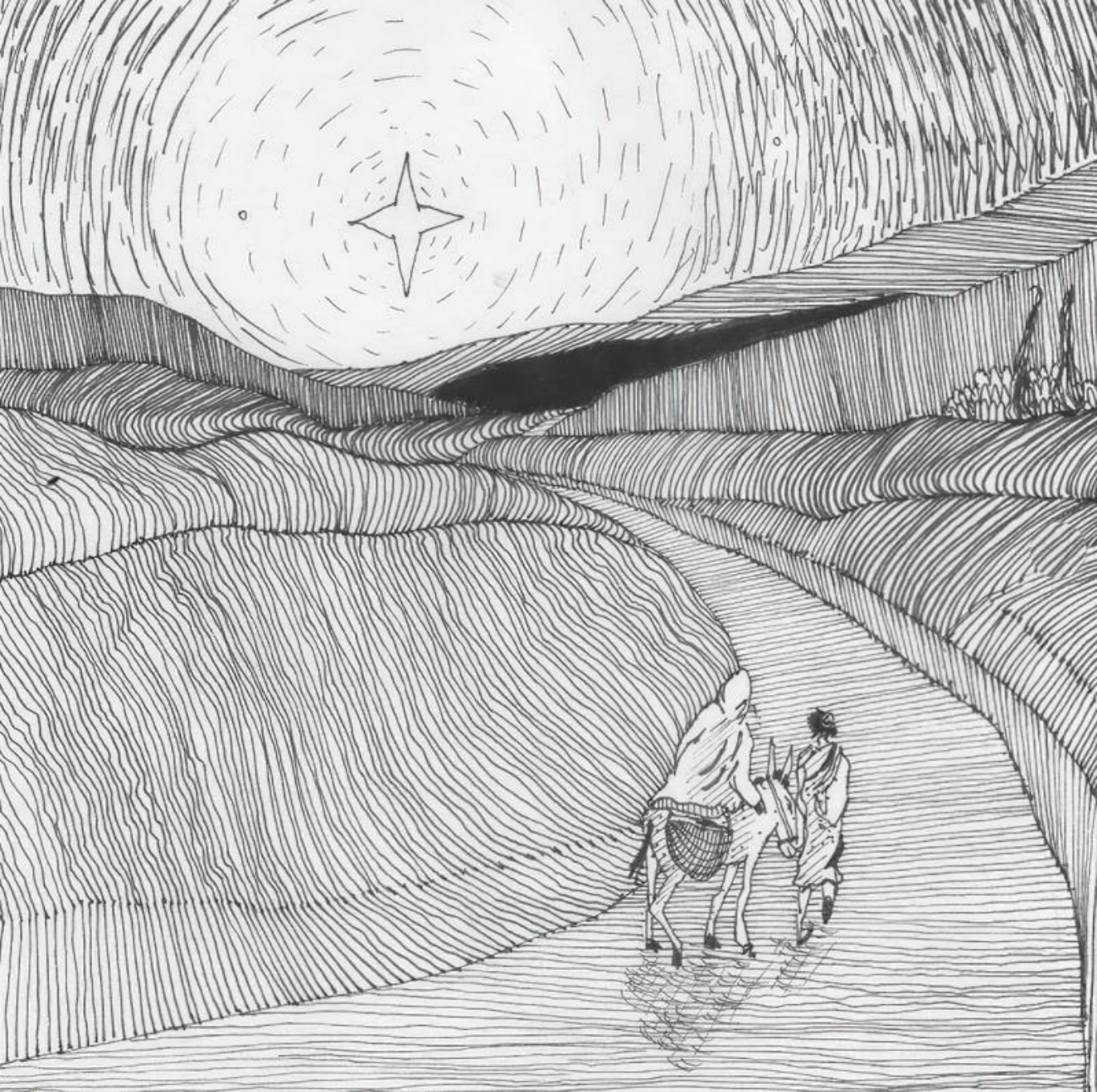
**Those who are able please stand*

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 24, 2023

