

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

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

WELCOME AND MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ecc. 3:1-13)**

Leader: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

**People: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

Leader: a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

**People: a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;**

Leader: a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

**People: a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;**

Leader: a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

**People: a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.**

Leader: What gain have the workers from their toil?

**People: I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.**

Leader: He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

**Everyone: I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.**

**\*PRAYER OF INVITATION**

**\*HYMN** "Joy to the World" Hymnal **134**

## RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**In this moment of reflection, we acknowledge the ways in which we have fallen short of Your perfect standard. We confess the times when we allowed fear to override our faith, when we spoke words that hurt rather than healed, and when we neglected opportunities to extend love and compassion. Forgive us, Lord, for the moments when our priorities were misplaced, when we allowed the busyness of life to drown out Your still, small voice. Forgive us for the times when we doubted Your goodness, failed to trust Your plan, and relied on our own understanding.**

**As we enter a new year, we lay before You our sins and shortcomings. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us. Grant us the strength to turn away from the paths of disobedience and to clothe ourselves daily with grace, mercy, and love. Amen.**

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader : God has removed our sins from us as far as the east is from the west. In the eyes of our savior, they never existed at all. Be free from guilt and shame. You are forgiven. Amen.

**People: Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE	Colossians 3:1-17	Pew Bible p.834
	Revelation 21:1-6	Pew Bible p.878

MESSAGE Rev. Blake Severson

**\*HYMN "Change My Heart Oh God" Hymnal 695 -sing twice**

## 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

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*HYMN "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" Hymnal 700

POSTLUDE

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*\*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.

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

*Eagle River Presbyterian Church*  
*December 31, 2023*



## Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

*December 31, 2023*

### Weekly Walk

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	10:15 am	Sunday school for k-6 <sup>th</sup> grade
Monday	Office closed - <b>Happy New Year!</b>	
Wednesday	9:00 am	Women's coffee hour @ church

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On January 14, right after worship, there will be a **congregational meeting**. We will receive the annual report, elect new officers, and vote on bylaws changes.

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Sigrid Severson  
Christine Holzberger  
David Arlington  
John Anderson  
Kelsey Davidson  
Ross McCarthy  
Carol Pool  
Peter Hobbie



Matthew & Elizabeth Hobbie.....December 9  
John & Patti Malecha.....December 16  
Rick & Susan Clack.....December 19  
Jamie & Whitney Lewis.....December 21  
Gary & Jean McCarthy.....December 27  
Jim & Kim Arlington.....December 30

