

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: If you ask the sky who God is,
People: the sky will tell you of God’s reach.

Leader: If you ask the day who God is,
People: the sun will tell you of God’s warmth.

Leader: If you ask the night who God is,
People: the moon will tell you of God’s comfort.

Leader: “The heavens are telling the glory of God” Are you listening?
People: We are listening!

Leader: We will sing of God’s glory.
People: Let us worship Holy God.

*HYMN “Amazing Grace” Hymnal 649

*PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm, the voice of truth spoken over us, and love without walls. Jesus is justice for the weary, healing for the hurt, and welcome for the stranger. Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend – with me on the mountain and beside me in the valley. Jesus is a star in the night, and the love that knows my name. Amen.

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM
GOD AND EACH OTHER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers. Forgive us for losing sight of you. Some days we are quick to trust your blessings – trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference. Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in. Forgive us for

losing sight of ourselves. We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace. Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader : Friends, whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat – God will always listen with love and mercy. So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith – you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven. Speak that good news with confidence.

All: Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE **Psalm 19**
Matthew 16:13-20

MESSAGE *Pastor Blake Severson*

*HYMN “Jesus Loves Me!” Hymnal 188

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.

Pastor: Let us pray...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Hymnal 643

GOING INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

* “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Hymnal 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING POEM IN UNISON - “Praise the Mount”

I have stayed quiet before.

I have held my tongue while passing mountains.

**I have slipped my hands deep into pockets,
despite the music that invites me to dance.**

**I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love
and have acted as if it was something other than a complete, God-given miracle.**

But not today. Not today.

Today I will dance.

Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven’s gates.

Today I will point out every shade of gold and periwinkle that we pass.

**Today I will talk about my faith like we talk about the weather —
early and unprompted, comfortable and unashamed.**

**Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with freckles, willow trees,
and your entire being.**

And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction.

I will not swallow my praise.

I have stayed quiet before, but not today.

Today I will sing.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able please stand*





Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

March 3, 2024

Weekly Walk

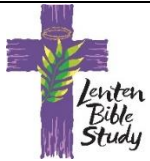
Sunday	9:00 AM	Choir rehearsal
Sunday	10:00 AM	Worship
(No children's Sunday school on Communion Sunday)		
Sunday	11:15 AM	Handbell rehearsal
Tuesday	6:00 PM	Greater Eagle River Garden Club
Tuesday	7:30 PM	Deacons meeting – in person
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Coffee hour at church
Wednesday	10:30 AM	Zoom Bible study
Wednesday	7:30 PM	In-person Bible study

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 43

Year to Date Regular Income ----- \$38,834.77

Year to Date Regular Expenses ----- \$39,295.65

Greater Eagle River Garden Club will be meeting here monthly, beginning this Tuesday at 6 PM. Meetings are open to the public, and they usually have an educational component after the business meeting. Topics planned for this year include iPhone photography, composting, fruit tree grafting, and more. For additional information, there is flyer on the bulletin board by the front door.



Bible study is meeting every Wednesday during Lent. There are two options: on Zoom at 10:30 AM and in-person at 7:30 PM. It's not too late to join! There is a devotional on the table in the Narthex.

A Presbyterian seminary student will be coming to Anchorage this summer to complete a chaplaincy internship at Providence. An ERPC member will be housing him; however, he will need reliable transportation for the summer), since he'll be driving to Anchorage almost daily. If anyone has an extra vehicle available, please contact the office. Thank you!



Based on Matthew 16:13-20

From the Artist | Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

I don't know if this was a moment of clarity for Peter, if he was regurgitating the answer he thought Jesus wanted to hear, or if he was trying to convince himself that dropping everything and following this man was worth it, but I imagine this was a breakthrough for Peter.

I wanted to capture this as a moment of seeing and being seen. Jesus sees him as more than Simon, a fisherman and son of Jonah, and renames him Peter, the blessed foundation through which his ministry would take root and continue to grow. Jesus sees Peter through the eyes of God.

Peter sees Jesus as more than a teacher and companion. He sees through the veil of confusion concerning Jesus' identity. He doesn't see him as the reincarnation of a former prophet, or another contemporary baptizer pointing the way. He names Jesus as the "anointed one," the one his people have so desperately longed for. Peter proclaims Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God.

In this image I wanted to create a kaleidoscope of perception, imaging the ways Jesus is perceived in the context of this passage, like light broken down into a myriad of shapes and colors. In the gold rays of light Jesus' form is obscured by the metallic shine of God's glory. In the gray and earth-tone rays he is seen in monochrome. Each of the earth-tone rays holds a pattern on Jesus' clothing which represents a misunderstanding of who Jesus is. Starting on the left, honey, locusts, and baptismal waters misidentify him as John the Baptist. Within the next ray to the right, ravens, an empty chair, rain, and fires from the heavens misidentify him as Elijah. On the right, scales of justice and plants being uprooted and planted misidentify him as Jeremiah.

Through the middle of the image, there is a ray of light where the image comes into full color that holds this moment of clarity where Jesus and Peter truly see one another. In this ray, Peter's clothing holds symbols of his new identity: a rock upon which the Church will be built and keys to the kingdom. Jesus' clothing holds imagery – an oil jar and the light of the sun – representing the way Peter sees him as the Messiah and Son of the living God.

