

GATHERING TO WORSHIP: LESSONS AND LAUGHTER

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP: "WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY?"

Leader: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear –

All: God is in our joy.

Leader: God is in this room.

All: We have reason to celebrate.

Leader: We have a reason to sing.

All: Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

*HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" Hymnal 611

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Joyful God, You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children. Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight? In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit, this often seems easier said than done. Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good. Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy. We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives. Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray, amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*HYMN "I Come with Joy" Hymnal 515 v.1,5

HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1: LISTEN FOR JOY

Luke 2:10
Isaiah 9:2-3

Pew Bible p.725
Pew Bible p.489

SING WITH JOY "Angels We Have Heard on High" Hymnal 113

"Joy to the World" Hymnal 134

PRACTICE JOY: CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE LESSON 2: LISTEN FOR JOY

Matthew 2:10
Psalm 148
Pew Bible p.682
Pew Bible p.448

SING WITH JOY "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Hymnal 133

PRACTICE JOY: JOY IS FOUND IN COMMUNITY

Leader: Friends, the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us live out our joy and peace with one another as we share that peace and joy in community.

SCRIPTURE LESSON 3: LISTEN FOR JOY

Psalm 126:1-3
Isaiah 55:12-13
Pew Bible p.441
Pew Bible p.525

SING WITH JOY "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Hymnal 119

PRACTICE JOY: JOY FOUND IN PRAYER AND GIVING

On the provided paper squares, write three prayers of gratitude for things that bring you joy. When you are finished writing, we encourage you to come forward and place your joys in or near the bowl. We also encourage you to place your tithes and offerings in the plates on the Communion table. If it is better for you to remain seated, raise your hand and an usher will collect your prayers and offerings.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING INTO THE WORLD

SING WITH JOY “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” Hymnal 136

*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.



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 communion table flowers for December are sponsored by the Spencers.



*Eagle River Presbyterian Church
December 29, 2024*

