

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

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

WELCOME AND MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to worship because we long for mercy.

People: We long for community. We long for God.

Leader: We come to worship because we need a good word.

People: We need connection. We need moral reminders.

Leader: We come to worship because we are in between:

People: hope and grief, faith and doubt, joy and longing, curiosity and conviction.

Leader: So we come to worship and God meets us here.

All: Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle!

Amen.

*POEM OF INVITATION

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

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy. When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right. Again and again, bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us the way. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: When we fail to be righteous, God is merciful. When we fail to be merciful, God invites us to try again. Again and again, God moves closer to us. Again and again, God shows us the way. Thanks be to God for this unending love.

All: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:1-8

Pew Bible p.659

Luke 19:1-10

Pew Bible p.743

MESSAGE

Pastor Blake Severson

*HYMN

"O For a World"

Hymnal 372

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE *(Gluten-free bread is available on each tray, in a white cup.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Hymnal 525

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

*HYMN

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

Hymnal 100

*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.



Cover artist’s statement, by Rev. Lauren Wright Pitman:

I had a lot of fun discovering new layers to this familiar story. I learned that Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore fig tree, which was a food source for poor people because the fruit was bitter and generally undesirable. I had always imagined a fruitless tree, but the presence of fruit opened up interesting avenues to explore. The root word for sycamore tree is οὔκον, meaning “fig,” and as I did a study of other key words in the text, I noticed this same root word in συκοφάντω, or “defrauded,” which was used to describe what Zacchaeus did to his community. It was curious to me that the root word for “defrauded” was “fig,” so I dug deeper to find that the Greek word was from the phrase “fig-informer” or a person who would notify authorities if one was exporting figs from Greece without paying a tax. It seemed that these “fig-informers” would use the threat of exposure to extort money from fig farmers. This is where the word “sycophant” comes from, which evolved to more generally describe a “malignant accuser from love of gain,” which perfectly describes Zacchaeus. Jesus calls Zacchaeus out of his identity as “sycophant” into his new identity as “repentant host” who invites Jesus into his home and redistributes his ill-gotten wealth. Zacchaeus’s clothing holds a repeated pattern of four figs and halves of coins, referencing the fruits of his transformation. The area where Zacchaeus sat in the tree is fruitless and dying. His actions were destructive and op-pressive to his own community. The crowd is correct in grumbling about him; their anger is righteous, but Jesus offers mercy. In this visual metaphor, Jesus removes him from the tree so it has a chance to heal and nourish the whole community. Jesus’ clothing is patterned with suns, representing righteousness, and water, representing mercy, because it is through his merciful actions that righteousness for the community is achieved.



Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

April 6, 2025

Weekly Walk



| | | |
|-----------|----------|--|
| Sunday | 10:00 am | Worship (no children's Sunday school on Communion Sunday) |
| Tuesday | 11:00 am | Prayer group meeting |
| Tuesday | 7:00 pm | Session meeting |
| Wednesday | 9:30 am | Coffee hour at church |
| Wednesday | 7:30 pm | Zoom Bible study |
| Saturday | 5:30 pm | Potluck and Game Night |

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 48

Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$72,817.14

Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$70,755.51



Our **Potluck and Game Night** is this Saturday at 5:30 pm! The food theme is Italian-- a sign up is on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Bring a friend, a dish to share, and your favorite game!

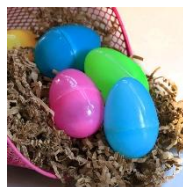


Please note the following change during Holy Week-- we will not be having a Maundy Thursday service at ERPC. Instead, we are encouraging the congregation to attend an ecumenical **Maundy Thursday service** on April 17, sponsored by the Chugiak-Eagle River Ministerial Association. It will be held at the **Chugiak United Methodist Church**; there will be a potluck dinner at 6 PM followed by 7 PM worship service.

The next **Prayer ministry meeting** is this Tuesday, April 8 at 11:00 am. We will also meet: April 25 at 10:30 am, May 6 at 7:15 pm, and May 23 at 10:30 am.

Candy donations are needed for the children's egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 20. Please bring small, individually wrapped candies that will fit into standard-sized plastic eggs.

Thank you!



Love Inc of Eagle River (Love in the Name of Christ) is looking for their next executive director. A job description is posted on the bulletin board by the front door.

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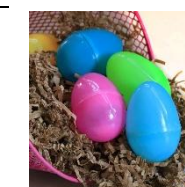


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