

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: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?
People: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they’re sorry, and when the church sings together.

Leader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.
People: Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news.
Leader: May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PRAYER OF INVITATION

*HYMN “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Hymnal 611

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM
GOD AND EACH OTHER

*CALL TO CONFESSION
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, “Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?” Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray, amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Family of faith, in our honesty, we are heard. In our worries, we are held. In our failings, we are forgiven. In our fear, we are not alone. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel! When we’re running out of hope, God is still at work.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:1-11 Pew Bible p.688
Isaiah 43:1-21 Pew Bible p.514

MESSAGE

Pastor Blake Severson

*HYMN “We Fall Down” Hymnal 368 x 3

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
INVITATION TO THE TABLE
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
THE LORD’S PRAYER
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE *(Gluten-free bread is available in a cup on each tray.)*
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GOING INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD
OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN “The Days Are Surely Coming” Hymnal 357

*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 with the office, there are welcome cards in the pew pockets. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate during the collection time. Everyone is invited to stay after worship for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the narthex.



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 Art, Artist’s statement: “Something in the Water” by Rev. T. Denise Anderson, Inspired by Isaiah 43:19-21 20”x20” Acrylic on canvas
Isaiah addresses a community that had been in exile for a while and had probably resigned themselves to their fate. But the prophet has the temerity to proclaim that God still has something in store and asks if they can “perceive” what it is. That word “perceive” would not let go of me. The Hebrew word can be translated as “know” or even “discern.” Christian churches don’t talk about this often, but one way ancient Israelite communities discerned God’s direction was through divination. The water imagery in this text is strong and shows up in contrasts (“rivers in the desert” and “waters in the wilderness”). The Holy One is making something out of nothing, providing life-sustaining water to a thirsty nation as God’s “new thing” “springs” forth. It’s also interesting to me that water itself is a tool of divination. To the extent the prophet is inviting the community to “discern” what God is doing, I was reminded of the practice of scrying or “seeing” – looking into a reflective surface like water to get clarity on what Spirit might be saying. Another translation of “perceive” is “feel.” Here I depict someone placing their hand in the water of God’s provision and direction. Is it God’s hand manipulating the water to send it forth, or is it the hand of someone trying to know/feel/discern the water? A sudden onset of water (like a flood or deluge) can be terrifying, but in this case water is coming to the rescue. What might be scary right now, but is actually coming to save us? How do the waters help us see God and ourselves? By claiming rest, what can we discern in the stillness when we divest from the cycle of fear and turn to the water?



*Eagle River Presbyterian Church
December 7, 2025*



*Second Sunday
of Advent*

Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

December 7, 2025

Weekly Walk

Sunday @ 10:00 am, Worship

(no children's Sunday school on Communion Sunday)

Sunday @ 11:30 am, New members class

Monday @ 7:30 pm, Zoom Advent study

Tuesday @ 7:00 pm, Session meeting

Wednesday @ 9:30 am, Coffee hour at church

Wednesday @ 6:30 pm, Advent Ecumenical potluck/service at CUMC

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 39

Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$228,733.91

Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$224,992.84

There is a **New Members class** today after worship, at 11:30 am. Anyone interested in learning about church membership is invited. There will be two additional sessions as well - after worship on December 14 and before worship on December 21.

The **Advent Zoom study** will meet for three more sessions, on Mondays at 7:30 pm. It's not too late to join! The devotional is available in the narthex or a digital version can be emailed to you.

The **white elephant gift exchange** has been rescheduled to this week's Wednesday coffee hour. Bring a gift under \$20 if you would like to participate.

This Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm, we are invited to participate in an **Advent Ecumenical service** at Chugiak United Methodist Church. There will be a potluck at



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6:30, followed by the worship service. There is a sign-up on the bulletin board for potluck items.



Each year we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias purchased by the congregation **in memory or in honor of loved ones**. If you wish to order a poinsettia, please include cash or a check to this order form and drop it in the offering plate or by the church office.

On **December 21st**, poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary and names of honorees will be published in the bulletin. Poinsettias can be taken home on December 24th.

I/We (Name) _____
would like to purchase #(_____) poinsettia(s).
The cost of each poinsettia is \$12.
Please note the honoree name(s) below:

Last Sunday’s cover artist statement (edited): **Zechariah and the Angel** by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by Luke 1:5-13, Paper lace & graphite drawing, backed with cyanotype print
“Within the political landscape of Herod’s time, hope was not on the horizon, and Elizabeth had been barren for many years. Here, the angel’s message is represented by the doves and the stars. Her message flows into Zechariah’s space with the same power that invoked his fear. In this image, I placed my paper lace over a cyanotype print, which is created using photosensitive paper, objects, and sunlight. The movement in the cyanotype is horizontal – perfect for the lateral conversation between the angel and Zechariah. These words, this unexpected and miraculous hope, are the focal point in the text and the art.”



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