

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: God loves the field mouse. God loves the crows that
take flight when church bells ring.

**People: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew. God
loves the child who rocks and claps.**

Leader: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.
God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

People: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

Leader: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing
strong over all of us.

**People: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the
earnest.**

Leader: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

All: So let us worship this good-news God! Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

It sounds like welcome and feels like home.

It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.

It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,

so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

I have seen it alive in the world.

**And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one
who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.**

**I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and
inspired those around him.**

**I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*HYMN "Open My Eyes, That I May See" Hymnal 451

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:

**God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your
land, do not mistreat them." Holy God, we confess, we have
mistreated the immigrants in our land. Jesus said, "Blessed
are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of
God." We confess, we have clung to guns and war more
than we have pursued peace. God said, "When you gather
the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it
shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow." We
confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care
for our neighbors. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me,
and do not stop them." We confess, we have gatekept the
good news in unfair ways. Fortunately for all of us, God
also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have
called you by name; you are mine." By God's grace, despite
our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed,
forgiven, and loved. May this good news change our lives!
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-29

Pew Bible p.735

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Pew Bible p.142

MESSAGE

Pastor Blake Severson

*HYMN "The Days Are Surely Coming" Hymnal 357

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER
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

*HYMN "This Is My Song" Hymnal 340

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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 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 March are sponsored by Lucy Witt.



*Eagle River Presbyterian Church
March 8, 2026*



Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

March 8, 2026

Weekly Walk

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	10:15 am	Children's Sunday school
Wednesday	9:30 am	Coffee hour at church
Wednesday	Zoom Bible study canceled this week	

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 38

Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$63,990.52

Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$54,868.88

The **fellowship committee** is still looking for individuals who are willing to help organize events such as game night, picnic and Chinooks game, chili cook-off and more. Please contact Linda Homan if you are able to take the lead on organizing, or if you have ideas for new events!

We are collecting **candy for the egg hunt** on Easter Sunday, April 5. If you would like to donate, please provide individually wrapped candies small enough to fit into plastic eggs. Bring to the office this week or leave in the basket on the pew by the office door. Thank you!

March 17: Prayer meeting, 10am

March 25: Eat at Jersey Mike's to benefit Special Olympics

March 30: Providing dinner for Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (please sign up on the board if you can help)

March 31: Prayer meeting, 7pm



The office will be closed beginning this Friday, March 13, through March 24. Emails and voicemails will be monitored.

Cover artist's statement (Carmelle Caldwell, pg.35 of devotional):

At the center of this work is a drawing made by my five-year-old niece, Angelina. I watched her joyfully scribble it in under three minutes, churning out drawing after drawing and handing each one to me with an eager smile. In this piece, she first drew a self-portrait (her wearing a crown), then graciously decided to include me (taking some creative liberties in giving me a third arm!). I imagine the scene in Matthew 19: toddlers wailing, little ones slipping from their parents' arms, parents offering apologetic glances toward the frowning disciples as the scene around Jesus grows increasingly disorderly and loud. Those of us who've participated in group infant baptisms and baby dedications (when one cries, the chain reaction begins!), have led children's sermon moments with restless kids squirming about, or had the joy of watching our little ones participate in a kids' choir performance that goes delightfully rogue, can easily relate. The disciples, feeling the weight of being seen as serious leaders alongside their rabbi, Jesus, may have tried to preserve a sense of reverence by shooing away the parents bringing their children to him. Yet here, Jesus reorients his disciples (and us) away from the illusion of control and reminds us that it is the joyful, unruly, sincere presence of a child to whom the kingdom truly belongs. Just a chapter earlier, in Matthew 18, Jesus tells his followers that unless they become like little children, they will not even enter the kingdom. Surely the disciples thought Jesus couldn't mean that literally – right? While I've been busy making art, Angelina has been busy being an artist. I surely could learn a thing or two from her about inheriting the kingdom.

