

Sunday January 1, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*PRELUDE Hymn #40 "Joy to the World"

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens.

**You have taught children and infants
to tell of your strength...**

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—
the moon and the stars you set in place—

**what are mere mortals that you should think about them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

Yet you made them only a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You gave them charge of everything you made,
putting all things under their authority—**

the flocks and the herds
and all the wild animals,

the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,
and everything that swims the ocean currents.

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN #469 "Morning Has Broken"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
When we reduce Christmas to one day a year,
When hardness of heart keeps us from loving our enemies
When the wars around us are of no concern,
When our caring is not extended to action,
When your presence with us is given no thought,
Move us to seek forgiveness and grace.**

**Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your
gift of love.**

Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

**And hear us now as we individually come before you to
confess our sins... pause...**

In Jesus name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF READINESS

**Generous God, you have chosen to make yourself known to
us in so many ways. We see you in the beauty of your
creation, in Jesus the Word made flesh, in your written Word
given to teach us, in the lives of your people surrounding us
in community. As we open up the Scriptures now, open our
eyes to your generous ways so that we can see you more
clearly. Help us to live generously in response to your love.
We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

SERMON

Rev. Gregg Meserole

"Learning to Live Hopefully:
Practicing the Presence of God"

Scripture Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 28:20b

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

RESPONDING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

To share a joy or concern: Click [HERE](#) or use the QR code.

OFFERING

To give online: Click [HERE](#), or use the QR code.

SONG: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Deb Swain

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE Instrumental

*We are delighted to welcome Rev. Gregg Meserole as our
guest preacher.*

Pastor Pat Smith, pat@erpc.org

Don Watson, Music Director, Don@erpc.org

Cathy McGee, Executive Administrator, office@erpc.org

