

→ Joys and concerns & The Lord's prayer
Joys: "Thanks be to God" | **Response: "Halleluia"**
Concerns: "God in Your mercy" | **Response: "Hear our prayer"**

Holy communion: All are welcome at this open table.
*Invitation to the Table; The Great Thanksgiving; Epiclesis;
Breaking the Bread; Sharing the Bread and the Cup*

WE GO FORTH

*Closing hymn "Go Tell It On The Mountain" UMH #251

*Benediction

*Sending forth song "On Eagles Wings" (CCLI Song #3127)
It is the tradition of the Girdwood Chapel UMC to form a circle, hold hands, and sing 'On Eagles Wings.'

SERVICE NOTES

UMH: *United Methodist Hymnal*, TFWS: *The Faith We Sing*, Girdwood Chapel's CCLI Basic #: 11038417, CCLI Streaming License #: CSPL155734, CEB: *Common English Bible*.

This week's worship helpers—Greeter: Wendy, Tech Helper: Lynné/Betsy, Liturgist: Patty, Preacher: Pastor Hyunghee Kim
Next Week's Worship Helpers Sign-up
• Greeter: Jody, Tech Helper: Gus, Liturgist: Betty

Announcements:

- **Food Pantry:** First Sundays 2-4p.m., 2nd&4th Wednesday 4-6p.m.
*Dec.23(Tue) at 4-6pm
- **Longest Night Service:** Dec.22, 6:00 p.m. at Girdwood Chapel
- **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant:** 5:00 p.m. at Alyeska Resort
- **Christmas Eve Service:** 7:30 p.m. at Girdwood Chapel
- **Christmas Cookie Gifting:** Bring cookies on Dec. 14 or Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m. and join us as we assemble plates to bless community organizations. Contact Terry.

Subscribe our church newsletter, "Chapel Chatter,"
for the detailed announcements



Girdwood Chapel's Vision Statement:

Our vision is to be a heartbeat of Girdwood
connected in love and committed to Christ,
with faith that makes room for grace and honors differences.



*Our Church Mission:
Love God,
Love Others, and
Change the World!*

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

** Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit.*

WE GATHER

Welcome & Announcements (*back of bulletin*)

*Call to worship

One: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

Many: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

One: Mary said, "How can this be?"

Many: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

Many: So may we trust the Inviter.

One: May we heed God's invitation.

Many: May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.

One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

*Opening hymn "What Child Is This" UMH #219

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**All: Courageous God,
you invite us to live into our call.**

You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.

**Instead of responding with a resounding "yes,"
we often hide our face. We dig our heels in.**

We look for someone else to volunteer.

Spark courage in us.

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Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray, Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Family of faith, no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day.

So join me in declaring this good news:

All: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD

Prayer for illumination & Scripture reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10 & Luke 1:26-39 (CEB)

4 The Lord's word came to me:

5 "Before I created you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I made you a prophet to the nations."

6 "Ah, Lord God," I said, "I don't know how to speak because I'm only a child."

7 The Lord responded, "Don't say, 'I'm only a child.' Where I send you, you must go; what I tell you, you must say.

8 Don't be afraid of them, because I'm with you to rescue you," declares the Lord.

9 Then the Lord stretched out his hand, touched my mouth, and said to me, "I'm putting my words in your mouth.

10 This very day I appoint you over nations and empires, to dig up and pull down, to destroy and demolish, to build and plant."

26 When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, 27 to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!"

29 She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary.

God is honoring you. 31 Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. 33 He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son.

36 Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant.

37 Nothing is impossible for God."

38 Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

39 Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands.

One: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message "Even In Our Fear, We Are Called Forward"

*Hymn after the message "Lord of All Hopefulness"

TFWS #2197

WE RESPOND

Invitation to generosity: Offering baskets are available on the side/back of the sanctuary. Or Mail your check: PO Box 1068, Girdwood, AK 99587, or give online; *scan QR code*→



Offering prayer: Please join me in offering prayer

All: Holy and courageous God, you meet us in our fear and still call us forward. As you overshadowed Mary and touched Jeremiah's lips, overshadow us now with your Spirit. Take these gifts— our money, our time, our trembling yes —and use them to plant hope and uproot fear. May what we offer today become signs of your courage at work in the world. In Christ, who comes to us even now, we pray. Amen.

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Why We Say “in body or in spirit”

(Inclusive Worship Language)

In worship we say, “**Please stand in body or in spirit,**” because Christian worship is embodied— yet not every body moves the same way, and **every body bears God’s image.**

This phrase honors:

- children, elders, and all stages of life
- those with chronic pain, mobility challenges, or fatigue
- those who are neurodivergent or sensitive to sensory input
- those recovering from injury or surgery
- those carrying grief, trauma, or emotional heaviness
- the full dignity of every person present

This reflects a core belief:

Participation in worship is never measured by posture, but by the posture of the heart.

Standing in body is faithful. Standing in spirit is faithful.
Remaining seated is faithful.

Why We *Don’t* Say “if you are able”

The phrase “*if you are able*” can unintentionally suggest that standing is the *preferred* or *more faithful* posture, and that those who remain seated do so because they “cannot.”

This language can separate people into categories—“able” and “not able”—rather than honoring the many ways bodies show up in worship.

By saying “**in body or in spirit,**” we offer an invitation rather than a condition.

We affirm that:

- all forms of participation are equal,
- ability is not a measure of devotion, and
- every body is welcomed exactly as it is.

**This language is a practice of hospitality—
a way of saying:**

“You belong here as you are.

Your presence is a gift.

Your body is honored in this space.”

Why Our Worship Follows This Pattern

Understanding the Blue Headings in Our Liturgy

WE GATHER

Worship begins with God calling us together.

We enter into a holy rhythm of welcome, song, prayer, and confession.

This is the moment when we shift from the noise of the week into God's presence.

WE HEAR THE WORD

We pray for illumination and listen to Scripture.

Through the reading, preaching, and the Spirit's movement,

God speaks hope, challenge, and grace into our lives.

WE RESPOND

Hearing the Word changes us.

We respond with our gifts, our prayers, our confessions, our joys and concerns,

and with the sacred meal of communion.

Worship is not passive—it is participatory.

WE GO FORTH

Worship sends us back into the world as people of faith.

We receive a blessing and go forth to live out Christ's love in our daily lives, our community, and our world.

This fourfold pattern is followed by Christians around the world and reminds us that worship is not entertainment, but a sacred journey:

God gathers us, speaks to us, transforms us, and sends us out.

Why These Prayers? – A Guide for Advent Worship

Why These Moments Matter in Worship

Call to Confession

An invitation to honesty.

We are reminded that we can bring our real selves before God — with all our failures, fears, and hopes — trusting in God's compassion.

Prayer of Confession

A prayer we speak together.

We acknowledge where we fall short in love, justice, and faithfulness. Confession does not bring shame; it opens the way for grace.

Words of Forgiveness (Assurance of Pardon)

A declaration of God's mercy.

We hear the good news that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. Forgiveness is a gift we receive, not something we earn.

Prayer for Illumination

A prayer for understanding.

Before Scripture is read and preached, we ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten our hearts and minds. We trust that God still speaks through the Word today.

These moments guide us into worship with **honesty, grace, and openness**, helping us listen for God's presence in our midst.