



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, February 25, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs - ***“This Is Amazing Grace”***
“A Thousand Hallelujahs”

Message to the Children

Rev. Jim Porter

Scripture Readings – Isaiah 40:28-31
1 Corinthians 13

Sermon “Learning Patience, Learning to Love”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“In Christ Alone”***

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving Back to God

- Our Offering- Your gifts honor God and help provide financial support of the ministries and mission of this church.
- Our Service- Get connected! Fill out a Connection Card to get more involved in the life and ministries of the church.
- Our Prayers- How can we help you in prayer today? Fill out a prayer card and let us know.
Please place your financial gift, Connection Card, or Prayer Card in the Offering Box in the narthex.

Closing Song – ***“You Are My King (Amazing Love)”***

Charge and Blessing

Leader: In the coming week what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
and demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.**

*For anyone desiring special prayers today, Shelia Conrad will be at the front of the sanctuary to pray for you.
Please come forward after the service.*

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers, and our snack volunteer.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, February 25, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Holy Ground”* by Larson

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Jesus said, “Today, I give you a new commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you.” Lord, grant to us a new understanding of the fullness of your love and grace, that we may in turn share your amazing love with others.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all of your mind.”

People: Let us come today and worship God, the One we love.

Leader: Jesus also taught, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

People: Let us open our hearts to all God’s children.

All: Today, as we continue our Lenten journey together, let us worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

All: God of power and might, turn our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. For only in learning how to love can we lead lives worthy of your gracious calling. Grant us the courage to live with all people in the light of your abundant love. And fill us with your grace and peace, that we may know the richness of eternal life in your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 749 – *“Come! Live in the Light!”*

Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

All: Loving God, Divine Companion, You meet us every day, in the ordinary moments of encounter, in the common hungers of life. Yet, how often we miss You, failing to look deep within, failing to stay long enough, failing to hear your voice speaking to us today. We confess to setting up narrow boundaries, maintaining established prejudices, refusing to shift our perceptions, and thus missing the new thing that You long to do in our lives.

In this season of Lent, send your living water to wear away our rocklike defenses. Let our thirst for truth take us to the heart of God, to the healing river of God’s love. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon (Luke 10)

Betty Tezak

Leader: Eternal life is ours when we love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and when we love our neighbor as ourselves.

Anthem – *“Keep Me Near the Cross”* by Sterling

Scripture Readings – Isaiah 40:28-31
1 Corinthians 13

Sermon “Learning Patience, Learning to Love” Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 316 – ***“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*** (vs. 1, 3, 5)

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving Back to God

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Doxology – ***“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”***

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Offering Prayer

**All: Bountiful God, your love bears the fruit of hope and grace; your ways lead to fullness of life.
May today’s offering, of both these gifts and our lives, bear fruit in our world, that your love may cause old hatreds to cease, old wounds heal, and old divisions mend. Amen.**

Closing Hymn 286 – ***“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”***

Charge and Blessing

Leader: In the coming week what does God call us to do?

**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
and demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.**

Benediction

Benediction Response – ***“Let There Be Peace On Earth”***

*For anyone desiring special prayers today, Ken Kohlman will be at the front of the sanctuary to pray for you.
Please come forward after the service.*

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Kevin & Kim Hoch, and our snack volunteer: Phyllis Staley.

Thank you for your generous giving during this challenging time! Your gifts support all of the work and ministries of the church, as we continue to do the work of Christ in the world today. You can mail your

pledges to the church at: First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids, 404 Spruce Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629, give through online giving at www.erfpc.org (click on the Giving tab at the top right), or set up a one time or recurring donation by contacting our Treasurer, Mike Husby, at finmanager@erfpc.org. Again, we thank everyone for their continued support of the ministries and mission of the church!

Nursery – Qualified caregivers welcome infants and children during the service.



Did You Know...

The foundation stones were collected by volunteer labor from the fields and lakeshore. Stones found along the beaches of Elk Lake and Grand Traverse Bay were poled by raft to a place where they could be picked up.

From Celebrate the Journey by Stan Holzhauer. If you would like a copy of the book, please contact the church office.

Baked Potatoes & Bingo – Sunday, February 25 at 5:00PM

This Sunday we will be hosting a church-family event in the Fellowship Hall starting at 5:00 p.m. We will be providing a baked potato bar with all the fixins followed by several rounds of BINGO where the prizes will be candy. Please join us for fun and fellowship!

Free Community Dinner – Monday, February 26 from 5:00-6:30PM

You're invited to join us for our Free Community Dinner on Monday, February 26 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chef Jeremy will be preparing a delicious dinner of oven roasted pork loin with mustard cream sauce, parsley/herb carrots, macaroni & cheese and applesauce. Remington Shively is providing homemade dinner rolls and the MAD Club girls (Making A Difference, an after school program for middle school girls led by Marcy Potter) are providing desserts. Invite your friends and family and don't miss this excellent meal!

Lenten Series – 40 Days of Love

There's still time to join a small group! As Lent approaches, take your own spiritual pilgrimage by investing one and a half hours a week for the next 5 weeks. You will be glad you did.

If you have not signed up for a 40 days small group yet today is the day. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex and you just sign your name. If you want a study guide there are guides on the table. Please pay your group leader on your first session. They are \$5 each. Do not miss this opportunity to study Christ's message of love for the children of God.

Wired Word – Wednesdays, February 28 at 6:00PM

We are changing the dates and the venue for Wired Word this month. We will be meeting in the front room of the Foundry restaurant this month at 6 PM to discuss the Wired Word articles. The date is Wednesday, February 28. Mark your calendars so you can join in the lively conversations with fellow church members to discuss current events with an emphasis on how they relate to the teachings in the Bible. If you would like to get the articles via email please contact Klaus Lehrer at klauslehrer@yahoo.com.

Capturing our Stories to Mark 150th Anniversary

In 2024, First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids will celebrate our sesquicentennial anniversary (that's 150 years!). The Anniversary Task Force, headed by Laura Asiala and Jim Lagowski, is seeking youth and young adults who would be interested in interviewing senior members of our church family to capture stories, memories, and oral histories in celebration of that milestone. Training and workshops will be provided. Contact Laura Wonacott Asiala at (989) 430-4644 or LEAsiala@gmail.com if that sounds interesting and you'd like to learn more.

Discovery Survey – Learn where your talents and interests match the needs of our Ministry Teams by taking the Discovery Survey! The survey is designed to find where you might enjoy lending a hand, as well as pointing our teams to who they can contact when support is needed. The survey only takes a few minutes and is fun to do! Just scan the QR code or use this link: <https://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html>



Community Cupboard – Community Cash is back! Save Village Market receipts **dated between September 1, 2023 and May 30, 2024** and turn them in one of three ways: In the lower left corner mail slot near the church office, in the box labeled “Community Cash” in the left corner of the brown box outside the Community Cupboard or mail them to Elk Rapids Community Cupboard, PO Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Thank you for your continuous support.

The Community Cupboard is open every other Tuesday and Friday with a "shop for yourself system" for those in need. Check out the website: <https://www.elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com>. Call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information or to set up an appointment. Plus, the Community Cupboard is accepting donations in a drop box outside the cupboard entrance on Chippewa Street or by mail to ERCC, Box 572, Elk Rapids MI 49629.

This Week's Activities

Sun. 2/25

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth-LH
10:30 a Traditional Service
5:00 p Baked Potatoes & Bingo – FHall

Mon. 2/26

5:00 p Free Community Dinner – FHall

Tues. 2/27

Wed. 2/28

6:30 a Breakfast Club – LH
9:00 a Bulletin Items Due
3:00 p UpNorth Group – FHall
6:30 p Praise Team Practice
7:00 p Session Meeting – FHall

Thurs. 2/29

7:00 p 40 Days Small Group - AdEd

Fri. 3/1

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall