



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, March 3, 2024

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs - ***“My Jesus”***  
***“Who You Say I Am”***

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Readings – Ephesians 4:1-18  
1 Corinthians 13

Sermon “Speaking the Truth in Love”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“Be Thou My Vision”***

Celebration of Communion

*For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice. After partaking of the elements, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.*

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 – ***“Goodness 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.**

*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.*

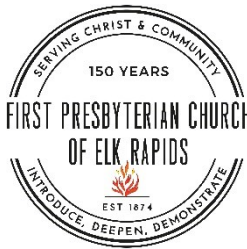
Postlude

### Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Judy & Mel Matchett, & Micah, Noah & Eli Niederquell, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Hannah Barrow, Shelia Conrad, Mel Matchett, and Lynne Sheldon.

**Chancel flowers** are placed by The Bogard Family in memory of their Mom and Grandma, Janet Brown.



## 10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, March 3, 2024

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Grace at the Cross”* by McKibben

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Be Thou our vision, O God. Be our eyes. Be our hearts. Be the grace that flows through our lives. Only with your eyes can we see rightly.

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: Dawn is breaking! Christ’s light is shining!

**People: The Light of the world shines in our lives.**

Leader: Put aside the cares of the night.

**People: In the Lord, we live in the light.**

Leader: Even in the darkest valley, God illuminates our path.

**People: Even in times of despair, hope shines forth.**

Leader: Sleeper, awake! Christ’s light is shining.

**People: The Light of the world shines in our lives.**

**All: Come, let us worship together the living God!**

Opening Prayer

Doug White

**All: Light of all lights, be our vision this day. Open our eyes to behold your glory. Open our hearts to the warmth of your love. Open our minds to the flame of your truth. Open our souls to the glory of living as children of light, that others may see You in our living and in the sacred mystery of your kingdom. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 401 – *“Here In This Place”*

Prayer of Confession

Doug White

**All: In our weakness, O God, we often fear what we do not understand. In our blindness, we fail to see others as You do. Yet, we long to see as You see and to perceive as You perceive. We yearn to cast aside the shadows of the night and live as children born anew in the light of your love. Help us behold your glory this day, that we might reflect your light for all to see. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd. The Light of God leads us through the darkest valleys anoints us with love, fills our cup to overflowing, and brings us goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.

Anthem – *“Come Away”* by Medema

Scripture Readings – Ephesians 4:1-18

1 Corinthians 13

Responsive Hymn 522 – **"I Am the Bread of Life"** (vs. 1, 3, 5)

## Celebration of Communion

*For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice. After partaking of the elements, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.*

## 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

- 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.  
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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 (from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm)

**All: Loving shepherd, gentle Savior, we give you thanks this day: for rest in green pastures, for refreshment beside still waters, for health and wholeness for our souls. As we rejoice in your goodness and mercy, we offer You our gifts this day. Through our offering, may others be blessed, as we have been blessed from the abundance of your hand. Amen.**

Closing Hymn 772 – **"Live Into Hope"**

## 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, Jan Shurte 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: Pam Coleman & Ken Kohlman, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Laura Asiala, Ken Kohlman, Betty Tezak, and John Werner.

**Chancel flowers** are placed by The Bogard Family in memory of their Mom and Grandma, Janet Brown.

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](http://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](mailto: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...

Originally there was a small fireplace on the north wall of the Sanctuary. Its chimney was also used for a wood or coal burning furnace. The chimney no longer projects above the roof.

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

**Thank You!** Many thanks to Pastor Jim, Robin Osterhaven, Ron Dunbar, Ken Kohlman, Lynne Sheldon and Wayne Potter for cleaning out the library in preparation for the temporary ramp installation for the Welcome Project. The books are temporarily housed in the Young Adult room, Adult Education room and the hallway leading to the Community Cupboard.

### 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 4 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 study guides are on the table. Please pay your group leader \$5 each guide on your first session. Do not miss this opportunity to study Christ's message of love for the children of God.

**Usher/Greeter Volunteer Opportunities:** If you are interested in helping out as an Usher/Greeter on Sunday mornings, we'd love to have you! Please sign up at the Activity Sign-Up Table, or contact Judy Matchett (231-631-4536) for more information. Looking forward to having you as part of the Usher Team at First Presbyterian!

### Capturing our Stories to Mark 150th Anniversary

We are celebrating our sesquicentennial anniversary this year (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 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 short 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. 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 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. 3/3

9:00 a Contemporary Service  
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth-LH  
10:30 a Traditional Service

##### Mon. 3/4

##### Tues. 3/5

7:00 p Personnel MT - Conf

##### Wed. 3/6

6:30 a Breakfast Club – LH  
9:00 a Bulletin Items Due  
3:00 p UpNorth Group – FHall  
3:00 p Service at Samaritas  
6:30 p Praise Team Practice  
6:30 p Deacons – FHall

##### Thurs. 3/7

7:00 p 40 Days Small Group - AdEd

##### Fri. 3/8

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall