



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, March 17, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs - ***“Everlasting God”***
“Here I Am To Worship/The Call”

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Readings – 1 Corinthians 13
Philippians 2:1-11

Sermon “Love Came Down”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“Reckless Love”***

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 – ***“Stand In Your 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, Jan Burns 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: Gary & Jan Burns, and our snack volunteer.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, March 17, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“The Heart of Jesus”* by Hayes

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

God has written the law of love on your heart. Gaze deeply and find God within.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent, as we continue our journey with Jesus to Jerusalem
And remember His sacrifice on the cross.

People: Be with us, Lord, as we take this step.

Leader: This requires the willingness to give all of your life to the Lord.

People: Be with us, Lord, as we commit our lives to you.

Leader: Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.

People: Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day.

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

All: Lord, be with us today as we commit ourselves again to being your disciples. Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us always, no matter what challenges we may face. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Hymn 19 – *“God of Great and God of Small”*

Prayer of Confession

Sandi Gray

All: Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives--- heart, mind, and soul--- yet too often, we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Sandi Gray

Leader: Even though the future is clouded; God is with us, guiding, healing, comforting, restoring. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and healed. Amen.

Anthem – *“Mercy's Promise”* by Drennan

Scripture Readings – 1 Corinthians 13

Philippians 2:1-11

Responsive Hymn 727 – ***"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"***

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: With hearts washed clean and with spirits made new, we celebrate the joy of your salvation, O God. May the tithes and offerings we share this day reflect the law of love you have written on our hearts. May these gifts bear the fruit of your Spirit, and may they bless those who need it most. Amen.

Closing Hymn 716 – ***"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"***

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, Ginny Dorner will be at the front of the sanctuary to pray for you. Please come forward after the service.

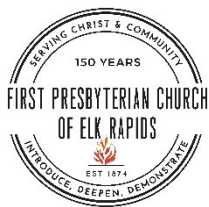
Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Pam Coleman & Ken Kohlman, and our snack volunteer: Pam Coleman.

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...

Our member, Adam Schuler, shared part of “the rest of the story” regarding the two sheds for horses and buggies: My grandfather, Adam, purchased one of the sheds and moved it south about half a block, and used it to house his vehicles. About 1953, my father, Mert, moved this same shed to Evergreen Bay Drive to be used as a garage. I still use it for my car and lawn mower. The only change was to replace the four sliding barn doors with two roll-up doors.

Free Community Dinner – Monday, March 18 from 5:00-6:30PM

You're invited to join us for our Free Community Dinner on Monday, March 18 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chef Jeremy will be preparing a delicious dinner of meatloaf, roasted red skin potatoes, green beans, and dinner rolls. Remington Shively is making a delectable carrot cake with cream cheese frosting for dessert. Invite your friends and family and don't miss this excellent meal!

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday, March 24
9:00AM Contemporary Service
10:30AM Traditional Service

Maundy Thursday, March 28
6:00PM Soup Supper – Fellowship Hall
6:45PM Service & Communion – Fellowship Hall

Good Friday, March 29
12 noon–3:00PM Self Guided Time of
Personal Reflection – Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 31
9:00AM Contemporary Service
9:30-11:00AM Easter Brunch – Fellowship Hall
10:00AM Kids Easter Egg Hunt – Lighthouse
10:30AM Traditional Service

Easter Plants - Reservations Due Sunday, March 24

Easter plants are once again available for \$10 per plant to remember or honor a special loved one, and decorate our sanctuary for Easter. To reserve your plants, fill out the form next to the Easter Plant Order Box located at the Activity Center and return it with your donation to the box by Sunday, March 24. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church (Easter Memorial). Please pick up your flowers after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

THESE DAYS devotional booklets for April through June 2024 have arrived and are on the Welcome table in the narthex. Stop and pick up your copy today!

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. 3/17

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

Mon. 3/18

5:00 p Free Community Dinner - FHall

Tues. 3/19

Wed. 3/20

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
7:00 p Session Meeting - FHall

Thurs. 3/21

9:00 a Reports for Session Due
7:00 p 40 Days Small Group – AdEd

Fri. 3/22

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall