



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, April 21, 2024

Order of Worship

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING And Filling “Empty Bowls” Sunday

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Scripture Reading – Psalm 95:6-7

Grace Ward

“O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!”

Worship Songs - **“Great Are You Lord”**
“Goodness Of God”

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Luke 24:36-53

Sermon

“Living in the Power of the Resurrection:
Jesus Meets Us Where We Are”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – **“Way Maker”**

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

- Special Offering – ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING and EMPTY BOWLS Janice London
An extra opportunity to give today
- 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 – **“Defender”**

Bless and Send with Gratitude and Love – Shawn Pollack

Charge and Blessing

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

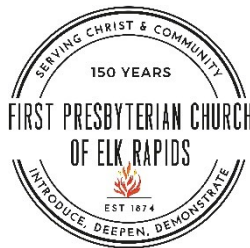
**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
and demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.**

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: Christine Dewey.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, April 21, 2024

Order of Worship

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
And Filling “Empty Bowls” Sunday

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “*We Will Glorify*” by Schrader

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

The truth of Easter is not something to be argued, reasoned out, or simply contemplated. It is something to be experienced, enjoyed, and marveled at. Easter is meant to be lived... Every Day!

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: As we gather for worship today, let us give thanks to God!

People: Let us proclaim God's goodness and blessing throughout all the world.

Leader: Let all of us, whether we are gathered here or worshiping from home, celebrate God's abundant and never-ending love.

People: Let us offer our lives in service to others.

Leader: Thanks be to God for the blessings which have been poured out upon us.

**People: Lord, enable us to use the gifts that You have given
to serve You in your world this day and always.**

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

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

All: Lord, as we gather here, on this day of sharing, remind us that you have already shared with us your most precious gift, the gift of your one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Help us to model our lives after his message of love, compassion, and service to You and to all your world. In Christ's name, we offer this prayer. Amen.

Opening Hymn 265 – ***“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”***

Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

All: God of mercy and patience, be with us this day as we celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing. Help us to remember that the gifts we give, go to help many people in need around the world. Remind us again that our lives are meant to be gifts to others, for healing, hope, comfort, peace and love. Forgive us when we get so caught up in the details of our own lives that we neglect to help others. Enlighten us again with your Spirit and your words of healing love. Remind us once again that caring and sharing are the hallmarks of discipleship with Jesus Christ. Heal and forgive us. Give us hearts for joyful caring and sharing; for it is in Jesus’ name, we offer this prayer. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Betty Tezak

Leader: Let God’s love and mercy wash over you as the spring rains wash over the earth, bringing promise of new life and hope. Be at peace. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

Anthem – ***“Lest I Forget Thy Love”*** by Courtney

Scripture Reading – Luke 24:36-53

Sermon

**“Living in the Power of the Resurrection:
Jesus Meets Us Where We Are”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 291 – ***“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”*** (vs. 1 and 4)

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

- Special Offering – ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING and EMPTY BOWLS Lynne Elmore
An extra opportunity to give today
- 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.

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: As Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for his sheep, may we, too, strive to serve our neighbors. Whether next door, across town, or around the world, may God bless our prayers, our gifts, and our ministries. In Christ’s name, we present these gifts. Amen.

Closing Hymn 269 – ***“Lead On, O King Eternal”***

Bless and Send with Gratitude and Love – Shawn Pollack

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, LeRue Werner 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: Don & Sandy Davids, Beth Brolick, and our snack volunteer.

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.

Thank you. The past two months have been filled with grief with the passing of my mother-in-law and the sudden death of my beloved wife Pam. But through all the pain, I have the overwhelming support of my church family here at ERFPC. The many cards, calls, and visits have helped considerably to get me through these difficult times. Bless all and thank you, Don Reynolds

Thank you. Betsy and Jimmy Argo want the congregation to know how deeply we appreciate your warm thoughts and prayers while Betsy was in the hospital and in Rehab at Kalkaska fighting the terrible bacteria that tried to consume her. We know that God has felt your support and heard your prayers and has brought Betsy back to health.



Did You Know...

The Session met in the Session Room of the new Church for the first time on March 2, 1878. At this meeting only Rev. Hall and Andrew LaForge were present – a condition that existed for several years. Most Session business revolved around the acceptance of new members and the administration of the Sacraments.

From [Celebrate the Journey](#) by Stan Holzhauser. If you would like a copy of the book, please contact the church office.

Do you believe in the Power of God?

Our new sermon series, “We Are Easter People: Living in the Power of Christ’s Resurrection Today,” starts today.

The joy and power of the Resurrection is not limited to just one day, but something we are called to live into every day! We invite you to join us every Sunday in April and May as we explore together Living in the Power of God!

What does Resurrection mean to you? Sharing our Stories - We are looking for people who are willing to share part of their faith story, focusing on Resurrection. How have you experienced the power of Christ’s resurrection in your own life and how does that shape how you live today?

We would like to highlight different resurrection stories as a part of our Sunday morning worship during this new series. Questions and doubts are okay to share too! Contact Pastor Jim or the church office, and let us know if you have a story to share. We would love to hear what resurrection means to you!

Help Combat Food Insecurity in Our Area & the World – Special Offering Today

We are taking a special offering today to help with efforts to combat food insecurity in our area and the world. The local initiative, Empty Bowls, raises money to buy healthy food that is distributed to nearly 80 local food pantries, emergency meal sites, and food programs. The worldwide initiative, One Great Hour of Sharing, supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will have bowls available after each service for donations. If you would like to donate to one of these efforts, please make your check payable to the First Presbyterian Church and put either Empty Bowls or One Great Hour of Sharing on the memo line. If you are unable to be here, you can mail your donation or put it in the offering box at your convenience.

Free Community Dinner – Monday, April 22 from 5:00-6:30PM

You're invited to join us for our Free Community Dinner on Monday, April 22 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chef Jeremy is preparing BBQ pulled chicken sandwiches, potato salad and a Greek orzo salad, with cookies baked by Remington Shively for dessert. Invite your friends and family and don't miss this excellent meal!

Wired Word – Beginning Again May 1 & 15

We meet at the Dam Shop on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6 PM-7PM. Has the news been making you anxious lately? Do you find it harder and harder to decide what, if anything, you can do about it? Then, Wired Word is for you. Come and discuss today's latest topics and view them from a Christian point of view. Current topics are sent in an article with suggestions for discussion and Bible references. If you do not receive the articles currently, just email Klaus Lehrer at klauslehrer@yahoo.com and he will send you the articles. We will see you Wednesday, May 1st. Join us for a beverage or a meal and enjoy an evening with fellow church members.

Vacation Bible School 2024 Volunteers Needed – June 24-28

We are providing a 5-day Vacation Bible School for all children in Elk Rapids and the surrounding area and we need your help! If you can volunteer in any way during the week of June 24-28 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. please email Marcy Potter at marcytpotter@gmail.com. Save the dates and plan to bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors!

Buttars Flower Fund – The Deacons use the Buttars Flower Fund to supplement the cost of the flowers we use to keep our facility looking beautiful during the different seasons (especially flowers at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas). If you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of flowers, please write Buttars Flower Fund on the memo line of your check.



STEPHEN
MINISTRY

Did You Know... Your Stephen Ministry has been sending to church members, families, and friends the Journeying through Grief, a set of four short books to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one. Each book focuses on what the person is likely experiencing at that point in grief, offering comfort, guidance, and hope. The books are also available in Spanish. The books are sent along with a letter offering comfort and contact information if further help is wanted. If you know of anyone who would be in need, please contact the office at 231-264-8167 or one of the Stephen Ministers.

150th Anniversary Picnic – Sunday, July 28, 2024

Following worship we will celebrate our 150th anniversary--we want to include our entire family of faith and also people who are and have been important to our ministry over the generations.

You can expect an invitation soon, but for now, please save the date.

AND if you can think of people in our community and beyond who should be included (think former members, staff members, pastors, students, etc.), please send a note to info@erfpc.org with the names and addresses by May 15.

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. Use this link: <https://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html> or scan the QR code.

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. 4/21

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School & Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 4/22

5:00 p Free Community Dinner – FHall

Tues. 4/23

11:30 a 150th Team Meeting – StaffConf
7:00 p Endowment MT – Conf

Wed. 4/24

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. 4/25

Fri. 4/26

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall