



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, November 17, 2024

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Words of Scripture

Violet Denherder

Leader: Today, we focus on Love. When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus responded: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

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

Invitation to Worship

Kyle Ripley

Leader: God has been our dwelling place in all generations.

**People: Before the mountains were brought forth,**

Leader: before the earth and sky were formed,

**People: God was from everlasting to everlasting.**

Leader: We come to worship this day,

**People: that God may gather us in.**

Leader: May we be close to God’s heart,

**People: and may we dwell in God’s grace.**

Leader: Let us love God fully,

**People: and let us love one another well.**

**All (Sung):**

**Christ has broken down the wall.**

**Christ has broken down the wall.**

**Let us join our hearts as one,**

**Christ has broken down the wall.**

**We’re accepted as we are.**

**We’re accepted as we are.**

**Through God’s power, all is reconciled;**

**we’re accepted as we are.**

Worship Songs - **“Your Love, Oh Lord”**  
**“Available”**

Greeting One Another in Christian Love

*(Before you sit down, please turn and greet your neighbor. Also, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad located at the end of each pew and pass it along to the person next to you. Thanks!)*

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

*(Children are invited to come forward at this time for the children’s message.)*

Scripture Reading – Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon

**“Do Unto Others:  
With Malice toward None and Charity for All”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - **“Abide In Me”**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Leader: We pray for your guidance, for ourselves and others.  
(Pause for prayers of intercession, silently or out loud.)  
Lord in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: We pray for the ability to hope against hopelessness, for ourselves and others.  
(Pause for prayers of intercession, silently or out loud.)  
Lord in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: We pray to grow in our spiritual capacity to love, for ourselves and others.  
(Pause for prayers of intercession, silently or out loud.)  
Lord in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: We pray for mercy when we fail, for ourselves and others.  
(Pause for prayers of intercession, silently or out loud.)  
Lord in your mercy, **HEAR OUR 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.**

## Minute for Stewardship

Reese Fosdick

### 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 – *“Graves Into Gardens”*

#### Charge and Blessing

Leader:                                 May the Holy One show you the way  
  to Do Unto Others with Love for all people.

  May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is  
  ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of God’s love.

  May the Spirit show forth through you  
in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the power to achieve.

  And may you know the peace that surpasses all understanding,  
  especially when it is difficult to understand.

  And the people said, **“Amen!”**

#### Sung Response:

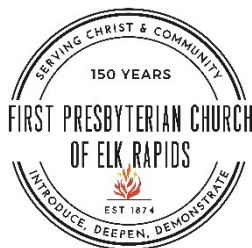
**We will tear down the walls.  
We will tear down every wall.  
God has called us one and all;  
Christ has broken down the wall,  
Christ has broken down the wall.**

*For anyone desiring special prayers today, Nancy Muhlig 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: Anne Conrad, Harry & Polly, and our snack volunteer: Shelia Conrad.



## 10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, November 17, 2024

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“I Love You, Lord”*

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: Today, we focus on Love. When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus responded: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

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

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Ginny Dorner

Leader: God has been our dwelling place in all generations.

**People: Before the mountains were brought forth,**

Leader: before the earth and sky were formed,

**People: God was from everlasting to everlasting.**

Leader: We come to worship this day,

**People: that God may gather us in.**

Leader: May we be close to God’s heart,

**People: and may we dwell in God’s grace.**

Leader: Let us love God fully,

**People: and let us love one another well.**

**All (Sung):**

**Christ has broken down the wall.**

**Christ has broken down the wall.**

**Let us join our hearts as one,**

**Christ has broken down the wall.**

**We’re accepted as we are.**

**We’re accepted as we are.**

**Through God’s power, all is reconciled;**

**we’re accepted as we are.**

Opening Prayer

Ginny Dorner

**All: Loving and Hope-filled God, we ask You to stay close in our lives as we move into an unknown future. Wrap us in your love, as You invite us to do likewise--- to “do unto others” in ways that build up your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. For we pray this in the name of Jesus, Lord of all, and in the power of the Holy Spirit that transforms our lives today. Amen.**

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

## Prayer of Confession

Ginny Dorner

**All: God of Mercy, we hear your command to love one another. These words are easy for us to say, yet so difficult to do. If only loving others could be as natural as our breathing, but it takes hard work and dedication. Even when we think we are following You, dear God, it is easy to get distracted and overwhelmed, even lost. Too often, we turn to the loud praise of the world, rather than the quiet whisper of your blessing. We do what is easy and least-resistant, and leave the difficult behind. Turn us around, God. Turn us back to you when we have wandered, when we have suffered, or when we bring suffering on others. Show us once more what your love looks like and send us into the world to try again. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

## Assurance of Pardon

Ginny Dorner

Leader: Even before we ask for mercy, God has already forgiven us. God sweeps away our mistakes and misdeeds and calls us home. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Passing the Peace

Ginny Dorner

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

[Please greet those around you with the Peace of Christ.

After the Passing of the Peace, please sign and pass the Friendship Pad

Located at the end of each pew to your neighbor.]

## Anthem – “Down to the River to Pray” by McDonald

## Scripture Reading – Matthew 22:34-40

## Sermon

“Do Unto Others:  
With Malice toward None and Charity for All”

Rev. Jim Porter

## Responsive Hymn 649 – “Amazing Grace” (vs. 1, 3, 5)

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Leader: We pray for your guidance, for ourselves and others.

(Pause for prayers of intercession, silently or out loud.)

Lord in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: We pray for the ability to hope against hopelessness, for ourselves and others.

(Pause for prayers of intercession, silently or out loud.)

Lord in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: We pray to grow in our spiritual capacity to love, for ourselves and others.

(Pause for prayers of intercession, silently or out loud.)

Lord in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: We pray for mercy when we fail, for ourselves and others.

(Pause for prayers of intercession, silently or out loud.)

Lord in your mercy, **HEAR OUR 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.**

## Minute for Stewardship

Lynne Sheldon & Halle Misico

## 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. *(The ushers will now come forward to receive this morning's offering. Please place your financial gift, Connection Card, and/or Prayer Card in the offering plate as it is passed along the pew.)*

## 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: Gracious God, you have given us mercy. You have given us love. Take now our hands and feet, O God, and use them for your purposes. Take now the offering of our hearts, minds, and souls. Transform them into your love, your mercy, and your everlasting grace for all the world. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn 824 – ***"There Is a Place of Quiet Rest"***

## 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

Leader: May the Holy One show you the way  
to Do Unto Others with Love for all people.

May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is  
ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of God's love.

May the Spirit show forth through you  
in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the power to achieve.

And may you know the peace that surpasses all understanding,  
especially when it is difficult to understand.

And the people said, **"Amen!"**

**Sung Response: We will tear down the walls.  
We will tear down every wall.  
God has called us one and all;  
Christ has broken down the wall,  
Christ has broken down the wall.**

## 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: Dave Nussdorfer, Norm Veliquette & Judy Brummeler, 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](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...

In 1874, Rev. Hall would walk 7 miles to Elk Rapids for an afternoon service after preaching at the East Bay (Yuba) Church on Sunday morning. Then he walked home that evening – he had chores to do.

Facts about the area and First Presbyterian Church from Adam Schuler.

## *Building a Future with Hope*

As we continue our annual stewardship campaign “building a future with hope”, we are grateful for the response received to date and see God’s work in growing our giving tree for 2025! During the services, Mel Matchett and Betty Tezak provided testimony about their stories at First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids and why this inspires them to pledge. Excerpts from their testimony are below:

### **Mel Matchett (Contemporary Service)**

*The mission statement of this church inspires Judy and I to give in service and other kinds of gifts. Start out with the phrase “First Presbyterian **does.**” Each statement of the mission statement is done every day at this church. Introduce to Jesus Christ– at any age, at any time and in unexpected ways. Deepen the faith – through small groups, prayer chain, one on one connections, Sunday school, youth activities, etc. Demonstrate Christ’s way of love – through Deacons, Trustees and Session and other volunteers who make the Church run behind the scenes and work in outreach services like the food pantry. We give to this church as it is our body of Christ and we cherish this church family and look forward to learning and growing together.*

### **Betty Tezak (Traditional Service)**

*This church has been a blessing to me since the day I was born. All of its different ministries are supported by your time, talents and tithes. The church has many programs that touched my life since I was young and many people who made that possible – music programs, Sunday School – and it continues today. It is through the time, talent and tithes of the people here and those before that make this possible. There are many types of pledges that reach people within and outside our church building so let’s continue to be a blessing to those around us.*

We continue to receive your pledges for 2025 and are so grateful for your commitment to building a future with hope! Join us by turning in your pledge card. All pledges received will be dedicated Consecration Sunday - November 24.

All pledges are welcome-and necessary-and we are grateful to the giver and to God for the blessings He continues to bestow on this congregation.

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” Jeremiah 29:11-13*

### **New Member Class - Monday, November 18 at 6:00 PM**

Would you like to join the church? Are you wondering what it means to be Presbyterian? Then, we invite you to join us on Monday, November 18, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. as we talk about what it means to join the church. Pizza and Refreshments will be served. Please sign up at the Activity Center in the lobby or email ([info@erfpc.org](mailto:info@erfpc.org)) or call (231-264-8167) the church office if you would like to attend.

**Library Bookshelf** – There is a tall, 8’ wide bookcase between the sign up table and the temporary construction wall that is looking for a new home. If you are interested in taking possession of this custom made bookcase please contact Don Davids at (231) 944-3866 or [ilovesadie2@icloud.com](mailto:ilovesadie2@icloud.com) by November 19th. The shelving and hardware is near the coat racks.

## Help Decorate Our Church for Christmas – Sun., 11/24, Mon., 11/25 & Tues. 11/26

Please join a fun crew to help decorate our church for the Christmas season. There are three opportunities to help:

1. Sunday, November 24 after the Contemporary service (10:15am). We will quietly move bins and other decor out of the basement storage area and stage it for Monday.
2. Monday, November 25 from 1:00-3:30pm. Please feel free to drop in at any time during those hours and we'll gladly put you to work.
3. Tuesday, November 26 from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon. Please feel free to drop in at any time during those hours and we'll gladly put you to work.

Call or text Anne Conrad at 231-492-5129 with questions.

**Advent Candle Lighting/Devotional:** Each Sunday morning in Advent a family/group/ or individuals light the Advent candles on the Advent Wreath in the Sanctuary and read a short devotion (provided by Pastor Jim). Would you consider being part of this for one of our Worship Services? Children are most welcome to be participate. Sign-up sheets can be found at the Activity Center.

**The Flower Fund** – The flower fund for the Deacons was started by Helen Buttar. The Deacons want to continue to honor this tradition, but unfortunately the fund is in the negative. This fund is used to purchase all seasonal flowers or plants for the altar table, unless someone has ordered flowers for a special occasion. The Deacons also purchase poinsettias at Christmas. A way the congregation can help is to order a poinsettia from the Deacons. This plant will be placed in the sanctuary to honor or in memory of someone, and can be taken home after the holidays. Order forms will be available in the Narthex as we get closer to the holidays.

**Women's Retreat 2025** – We are beginning to plan for our Women's Retreat in 2025. If you are interested in helping to plan this retreat contact Judy Brummeler at 231-838-4941.

**YOUR Stephen Ministry** – There are times when every one of us experiences difficulties: loss of a loved one, cancer, hospitalization, disability, discouragement, loneliness, and others. God never intended for us to go through these experiences alone. Stephen Ministers are members of your congregation who have received 50 hours of care giving training to minister to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or simply going through a tough time.

Did you know that over the years, 72 people have completed the training for Stephen Ministry and 21 people have completed the training to be Stephen Ministry Leaders. Your church family has been blessed with caring members who have studied and completed this training.

**Take the Survey!** Not sure where your gifts and talents lay? Or where you might be best suited to



serve? Then, take our Volunteer Accelerator Survey! It's fun, informative, and easy to do! Just scan the QR code to the left or click on the link:

<https://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html> Thanks for your willingness to help out!

**Community Cupboard – Community Cash is back!** Save your Village Market receipts dated between Sept 1, 2024 and May 30, 2025 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. You can mail or drop donations in the brown box too! Due to your generosity the Elk Rapids Community Cupboard came in 2nd place this year receiving over \$3000.00 from the Village Market. 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.

### This Week's Activities

#### Sun. 11/17

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

#### Mon. 11/18

6:00 p New Member Class – FHall

#### Tues. 11/19

#### Wed. 11/20

6:30 a Breakfast Club – LH  
9:00 a Bulletin Items Due  
2:00 p UpNorth Group – AEd  
3:00 p Service at Autumn House  
6:30 p Praise Team Practice  
7:00 p Session Meeting – FHall

#### Thurs. 11/21

#### Fri. 11/22

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FHall