



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, November 24, 2024

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Stella Barraw

Leader: All human leaders will one day disappoint and fail us. God alone is faithful. Today, let us renew our faith and trust in God as we gather to worship Him.

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

Worship Songs - ***“Sanctuary”***

***“All Creatures Of Our God And King”***

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 – John 18:33-37

Sermon

“Christ, the King!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***“Gratitude”***

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.**

Minute for Stewardship

Rachel Hunter

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)”***

As we sing our closing song, if you haven’t already turned in a pledge for 2025, we invite you to come forward at this time and place your pledge card in the basket on the communion table as an act of worship today. We thank God and all of the friends and members of this congregation for your generous support of the work and ministries of this church.

*(Please note: all of our guests and visitors today need not feel obligated to give. Our worship service is always a gift to you, our community.)*

## Prayer of Dedication for Offering and Pledges Made for 2025

**All: God has shown us the meaning of generosity  
In the beautiful diversity of creation,  
In the overflowing love of Jesus Christ,  
In the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**God has abundantly blessed us and calls each one of us  
To be a community that honors one another,  
And serves others with joy,  
Through our willingness to share both our love and material possessions.**

**Let us be faithful stewards of our time, talent, and treasure,  
And may these gifts and pledges presented here today  
Be used in the building of God's kingdom here on earth,  
And for enriching the lives of all people,  
For the glory of God and the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
both now and forevermore, Amen.**

## Charge and Blessing

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

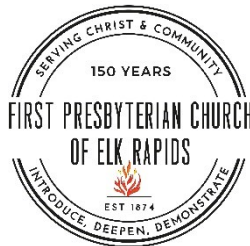
**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;  
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;  
and demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.**

*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, November 24, 2024**

## Order of Worship

### Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “We Thank You Lord” by Besig

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

### Invitation and Centering Words

All human leaders will one day disappoint and fail us. God alone is faithful. Today, let us renew our faith and trust in God as we gather to worship Him.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

## Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the goodness of God.

**People: God has blessed us with God's great love.**

Leader: Let us come to this time, letting go of our worries.

**People: Let us come to this time praising God.**

Leader: I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

**People: I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

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

## Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

**All: Holy God, we come this day, rejoicing, in the presence of the King of Kings, Jesus, who is the Christ. At his birth the angels proclaimed his name to be Emmanuel, God with us. Today in this place, in this time of worship, may we truly feel the power and presence of Christ in our lives. May our hearts and spirits be warmed and challenged to proclaim with our lives, "Jesus is Lord!" Amen.**

## Opening Hymn 367 – *“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”*

## Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

**All: Loving God, this day we are called to recognize Jesus Christ as the King of our lives, our sovereign ruler. His kingdom is based on the laws of love--- loving God as God has truly loved us and loving our neighbor as we ourselves want to be loved. Yet that love extends beyond the borders of our lives, into a world in which there is fear and alienation, hunger and disease, hopelessness and darkness. Jesus, our Sovereign Ruler, our Master and Guide, calls us to reach out to feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked, visit the sick and those imprisoned; welcome the stranger. These words are not unfamiliar to us, yet somehow, we have treated them as nice words but not an active part of our life of faith. Forgive us, Lord, for the meagerness of our faith and the weakness of our witness. Rule in our lives again with your powerful love, that we might truly be worthy disciples of yours. Help us to find the forgiveness which you have given to us and to do your will in all things. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

## Assurance of Pardon

LeRue Werner

Leader: Even though we have often failed to do as our Lord Jesus has asked, there is eternal forgiveness in Him and always a new chance to follow again his ways. Be assured, dear friends, that the love of Jesus Christ will never leave you. Be his witnesses throughout the world. Amen.

## Passing the Peace

LeRue Werner

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 – *“Give Thanks and Glorify His Name!”* by Larson

## Scripture Reading – John 18:33-37

## Sermon

“Christ, the King!”

Rev. Jim Porter

## Responsive Hymn 655 – *“What Shall I Render to the Lord”*

## 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. *(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. Please note: Pledge cards may be placed in the offering plate at this time as well.)*

### 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.**

### Prayer of Dedication for Offering and Pledges Made for 2025

All: God has shown us the meaning of generosity  
In the beautiful diversity of creation,  
In the overflowing love of Jesus Christ,  
In the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit.

God has abundantly blessed us and calls each one of us  
To be a community that honors one another,  
And serves others with joy,  
Through our willingness to share both our love and material possessions.

Let us be faithful stewards of our time, talent, and treasure,  
And may these gifts and pledges presented here today  
Be used in the building of God's kingdom here on earth,  
And for enriching the lives of all people,  
For the glory of God and the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
both now and forevermore, Amen.

### Closing Hymn 643 – ***“Now Thank We All Our 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, 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 Christine Dewey for playing flute today.

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Dave Nussdorfer, and our snack volunteer: Betty Tezak.

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...**

The railroad came to Elk Rapids in 1872.

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

## ***Building a Future with Hope***

Today, November 24, is Consecration Sunday when we celebrate God's blessing and dedicate our pledges. We have received 51 pledges to date. If you've already made your pledge, thank you! If you haven't already made your pledge, please bring it today and help grow our giving tree for 2025!

Last Sunday, youth members Reese Fosdick and Halle Misico and Deacon Lynne Sheldon provided testimony about their stories at First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids, highlighting the ministries for which our pledges provide. Excerpts from their testimony are below. (You can also go to the website and listen to Sunday's service for their full stories):

### **Reese Fosdick (Contemporary Service)**

*After growing up attending Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and youth groups, I have grown my own faith and deepened the faith of others. During the youth trip to Alaska, I got to meet so many people and organizations that contribute to their community and it was so fun to be a part of that...I'd like to thank everyone who has given not only money but their time and service to provide ways for not only youth but all of our members to get more involved and deepen their faith.*

### **Halle Misico (Traditional Service)**

*I have attended this church since I was born. This year I became a member through confirmation. Confirmation class was awesome. I will become a Deacon in January! ...Being out of town and attending other churches makes me understand just how much it feels like home here. The people, community and families are unique and special. I know how special this church is, and I feel blessed to be a part of it.*

### **Lynne Sheldon (Traditional Service)**

*I've always believed that God puts you where you need to be, and He puts people in your life that you need. ...The Deacons had a very busy year serving at six funerals. It's an honor and a privilege to organize luncheons and help families going through difficult times. ...We have a great team - women, men, young and not so young – who all work together efficiently. We trust in God to guide us and serve as Jesus has taught us.*

Your pledges support this foundational work described in the testimony we have heard this month. We will dedicate all pledges received on Sunday.

Thank you for your pledge. 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*

## **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.

### **Christmas Concert – Saturday, December 7 at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary**

Everyone is invited to a community Christmas Concert in Elk Rapids on Saturday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary, and at Church of the Hills in Bellaire on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. We're excited to have 60 local singers, with music directors Dorothy Clore and Cheryl Knight. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this special concert!

**The Flower Fund** – The flower fund for the Deacons was started by Helen Buttars and used to purchase flowers or plants for the altar table, unless someone orders flowers for a special occasion. The Deacons want to continue this tradition, but unfortunately the fund is negative. One way you can help is by ordering a poinsettia from the Deacons for Christmas in honor or memory of someone. Watch for details and order forms 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. 11/24 – Consecration Sunday**

9:00 a Contemporary Service

10:00 a Help with Christmas Decorations – FHall

10:00 a SS & Youth – LH

10:30 a Traditional Service

##### **Mon. 11/25**

9:00 a Bulletin Items Due

1:00 p Help Decorate for Christmas

##### **Tues. 11/26**

9:00 a Help Decorate for Christmas

##### **Wed. 11/27**

6:30 a Breakfast Club – LH

2:00 p UpNorth Group – AEd

##### **Thurs. 11/28 – Thanksgiving Day**

Church Office Closed

##### **Fri. 11/29 – Day After Thanksgiving**

Church Office Closed