

One 10:30 AM Service • Sunday, December 22, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Violet Denherder

Leader: Rejoice and be glad! God is at work in our midst even while we wait
and hope and pray for God's peace to come upon the earth.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Songs - **"The First Noel"**
"Away in a Manger"
"What Child is This?"

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!)

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Nate & Kelly Peck Family
Adaline, Kady, & Fynn

Leader: Rejoice, for God is here!

People: God is our strength and our light.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: We will sing praises for all the earth to hear!

Leader: On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of light and hope.
(Light first candle.)

Leader: The second candle symbolized God's presence and nearness to us.
(Light second candle.)

Leader: The third Sunday, the candle reminded us that Jesus came for all people everywhere.
(Light third candle.)

Leader: Now we light the fourth candle to remind ourselves that believing in Jesus means
sharing with others.
(Light fourth candle.)

Opening Prayer

Nate & Kelly Peck Family
Adaline, Kady, & Fynn

All: God of love and joy, thank you for your presence in our lives.

During this time of worship, draw us closer to you and to one another.

May we grow in our love for you and for our neighbor.

May we lay aside our worries, trusting that you hear what lies in our hearts.

May we dwell in your peace and be guided by the One who came into the world so long ago and promises to come into our lives today--- your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In His name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:1-18 (NLT)

Children’s Pageant
“Mary Did You Know”
“Joy To The World”

Directed by Tara Denherder

Responsive Song - “**Little Drummer Boy**”

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Jim Porter

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 – “**Joy To The World**”

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.

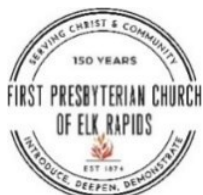
Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Peggy Bushnell, Shelia Conrad, and Becky Kleyn, 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.



Did You Know...

The rocks for the foundation of the church were collected by volunteer labor from the field and lakeshore.

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

A Gift for Children – After the service this morning, please pick up a Nativity sticker activity book for each child in your family ages 3 to 10. We hope this will encourage further discussion of birth of Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas from the adult education ministry.

Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 & 7:00 PM

Join us on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. for our Contemporary Service or 7:00 p.m. for our Traditional Service. Candle lighting will be included in both services and nursery will be available. Invite your friends and family and celebrate Christmas Eve with us!

ONE Service at 10:30AM on Sunday, December 29

Join us on the last Sunday of the year, Sunday, December 29 for ONE Service at 10:30 a.m. Kyle Ripley, our Contemporary Worship Director, will be sharing the message, and Cheryl Knight, our Music Director, has planned a great selection of gospel music to celebrate the Birth of Christ. End your year by worshipping with us!

Coming in January! A New Sermon Series: “The Gift”

The Gifts of God’s Love, Hope, and Joy that we celebrate at Christmas don’t stop on Christmas Day. They are meant to be received and shared throughout the year.

Join us in January as we explore the journey of the wise men and the gifts they brought to Jesus (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh). What do these strange gifts teach us about our relationship with Jesus today and what do they mean? Come, find out! Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 or 10:30 a.m. This series begins on January 5!

2024 Annual Reports Due Monday, January 6 – Ministry Teams and Group Chairpersons, now is the time to begin putting together your Annual Report, covering the activities of your group or ministry team for 2024. Please try to keep your report to one page, put it in a Word document, and email it to the office (info@erfpc.org) by Monday, January 6, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Merillat at the church office (231-264-8167).

YOUR Stephen Ministry – There are times when we experience 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 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. 12/22

10:30 a One Service & Children’s Pageant

Mon. 12/23

Tues. 12/24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 p Contemporary Service
7:00 p Traditional Service

Wed. 12/25 – Christmas Day

Office Closed

Thurs. 12/26

Office Closed

Fri. 12/27

10:30a Choir Rehearsal – FHall
Office Closed