



5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service • Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship
and Presentation of the Christ Child

Polly Conrad
Ben & Nora Vergote

Leader: "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Songs - *"O Holy Night"*
"King of Kings"

Greeting One Another in Christian Love

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

Advent Candle Lighting

Jeff & Karen Seiple Family
Addie & Garrett

Leader: A miracle happened long ago in a stable in Bethlehem.
It seemed like an ordinary event--- just a baby born to a peasant couple.

People: Yet, it was an extraordinary event!

Leader: Angels announced it. People searched for it.

People: Joseph and the animals witnessed it. Mary pondered it.

All: God had sent His Son into the world!

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

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

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

Leader: The fourth candle reminded us that believing in Jesus means sharing with others.
(Light candle.)

Leader: Tonight, we light the Christ candle. Christmas is here! Christ is here! Tonight, we
celebrate with joyful and wondrous praise, our Savior's birth!
(Light the Christ candle.)

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Jeff & Karen Seiple Family
Addie & Garrett

All: Gracious God, out of the darkness You send a light; out of a lifeless stump You call forth a new shoot; out of the discord of our lives You proclaim a vision of peace. May your Spirit rest upon this night, and always; and may the hope which You inspire be lived out in our lives today. We pray this in the name of the One whose birth we celebrate, Jesus, Son of God, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

“The Gift of God’s Love”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“Angels We Have Heard On High”***

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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

- 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 – ***“Silent Night”***

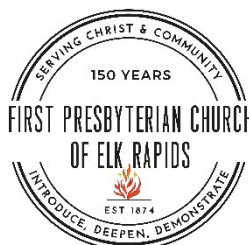
(The lighting of candles with the light of Christ passed throughout the congregation.)

Benediction

Postlude



Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Greg & Jennifer Snyder, Autumn & Peter.



7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service • Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Order of Worship

Prelude – *“The Music of Christmas”* by Martin

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words and Presentation of the Christ Child

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Come, let us worship the One whose birth we celebrate this night!

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Advent Candle Lighting

Andy & Sara Bogard Family
Fisher, Noah, & Corbin

Leader: A miracle happened long ago in a stable in Bethlehem.
It seemed like an ordinary event--- just a baby born to a peasant couple.

People: Yet, it was an extraordinary event!

Leader: Angels announced it. People searched for it.

People: Joseph and the animals witnessed it. Mary pondered it.

All: God had sent His Son into the world!

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

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

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

Leader: The fourth candle reminded us that believing in Jesus means sharing with others.
(Light candle.)

Leader: Tonight, we light the Christ candle. Christmas is here! Christ is here! Tonight, we
celebrate with joyful and wondrous praise, our Savior’s birth!
(Light the Christ candle.)

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Andy & Sara Bogard Family
Fisher, Noah, & Corbin

All: Gracious God, out of the darkness You send a light; out of a lifeless stump You call forth a new shoot; out of the discord of our lives You proclaim a vision of peace. May your Spirit rest upon this night, and always; and may the hope which You inspire be lived out in our lives today. We pray this in the name of the One whose birth we celebrate, Jesus, Son of God, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Opening Hymn 133 – *“O Come All Ye Faithful”*

Prayer of Yearning

LeRue Werner

All: Loving God, as we celebrate the birth of your Son, we yearn for light, joy, and peace to fill our world and our lives. We long to see your love for all people in the joy of this holy night. May we have faith like Mary and Joseph, who said “Yes” to this wonderful, yet challenging, promise from God. May we have faith like the shepherds, who heard God’s unexpected message and went to see God’s gift with their own eyes. May we have faith like your people throughout history, who have longed to see the glory of Jesus made manifest this holy night. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Words of Assurance

LeRue Werner

Leader: Beloved people of God, Jesus Christ has been born for us. He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The baby lying in a manger is the promise of God's peace and favor, given to all.

Passing the Peace

LeRue Werner

Leader: The heavenly host cry out, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace!" Let us share God's peace with one another.

(Please greet those around you with the words, "Peace be with you." Responding "And also with you." Also, take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad located at the end of the pew and pass it along to your neighbor.)

Anthem – "O Holy Night" arr. by Leavitt

Soloist: Cheryl Knight

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

"The Gift of God's Love"

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 124 – "*Still, Still, Still*"

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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

- Our Offering- Your gifts honor God and help provide financial support of the ministries and mission of this church.
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- 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.

Candlelight Hymn 122 – "*Silent Night*"

(The lighting of candles with the light of Christ passed throughout the congregation.)

Benediction

Postlude 134 – "*Joy to the World*" (Verses 1-2)



Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Mel & Judy Matchett, and Janice London.

A Gift for You. As you leave this evening, please pick up a copy of "A Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas" by Max Lucado for your family. Please add this to your Christian library at home. This is our gift to you from the adult education ministry team.

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!

Did You Know?

The decorated tree displayed in the Narthex is called a Chrismon Tree.

A Chrismon Tree is an evergreen tree which symbolizes eternal life. White lights are used to symbolize Jesus as the light of the world. The handmade gold and white ornaments convey the life of Christ and were made by members of our church in the 1970's. In recent years, a dedicated team including Phyllis Staley, and Gloria Wheeler have decorated this tree for Advent.

Look for these ornaments on our tree: The cross, dove, shepherd's staff, crown, star, lamp, shell, candle, keys, angel, and more!

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!

Sunday School & Youth Group – 10:00AM at the Lighthouse

If you have children through the 5th grade or youth, make plans now to bring them to Sunday School and Youth Group each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at the Lighthouse. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions.

Community Cupboard – Community Cash is back! Save your Village Market receipts dated between September 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, P.O. 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.

Poinsettias—To Honor & Remember

Asiala, Baumgarten & Valdivieso Families	In remembrance of Michael R. Asiala
Asiala, Elmore & Wonacott Families	In remembrance of Stanley & Emily Elmore
Asiala, Elmore & Wonacott Families	In remembrance of Marjory Veliquette
Asiala, Elmore & Wonacott Families	In remembrance of George & Barbara Wonacott, Sam & Virginia Pfeiffer, and Sam & Grace Polony
Jerry Blight	In remembrance of Albert & Mary Blight
Felicia Schulte-Blight	In remembrance of Alfred & Helen Gillish
Judy Brummeler	In remembrance of Dorothy Dowd
Judy Brummeler & Norm Veliquette	In remembrance of Bob Brummeler, and Marjory Veliquette
Pam Coleman & Ken Kohlman	In remembrance of Bud & Fern Kohlman
Conrad Family	In remembrance of Roger Conrad
Ron & Ellen Dunbar	In remembrance of Jim & Della Dunbar, and Chester & Ruth Buttgen
Don & Renee Fedrigon & Family	In remembrance of Don & Marge Fedrigon, and Madeline & Henry Manby
Gary & Edna Hubbell	In remembrance of Tammy Hubbell Papp
Mike & Judy Husby	In remembrance of Don & Barb Bellinger, and Derold & Jean Husby
William & Sandra Sinclair	In remembrance of Norm & Peggy Wareing, and William & Fern Sinclair
Garry & Marcia Sumerix	In remembrance of Jeff Sumerix
Les & Joanne Teague	In remembrance of our dear friend and neighbor Marlene Reinhardt, and our parents Lester & Doris Teague Sr., Vic & Betty Schwenke, & Vic Schwenke III
Betty, Adam, & Andy Tezak	In remembrance of Robin Tezak, Jack White, and John White
Gloria Jean Wheeler	In remembrance of Jack & Scott Wheeler, Owen & Viola Wheeler, and Glenn & Millie Miller
Doug & Kathy White	In remembrance of Marge Farnham, and Ellen White
Chris & Sarina White, Amy White & Pete Boet	In remembrance of Vern White
Susan & Tom Wiltse	In remembrance of Virginia & Bill Mendenhall, and Ross & Gladys Wiltse
Dorothy Wonacott & the Asiala, Elmore & Wonacott Families	In remembrance of Robert G. Wonacott, MD

