



One 10:30 AM Service • Sunday, December 29, 2024

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Gospel Nativity Carol”* arr. by Curry

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And hope to every discouraged heart.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And peace to every conflicted soul.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And joy to every downcast spirit.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And love to everyone.

All: Let us sing praises to our God. Let us offer this light against the darkness.

Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

All: Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love.

A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. Amen.

Opening Hymn 134 – *“Joy to the World”*

Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

All: God of all ages, who from generation to generation has heard the cries of your children humbly seeking forgiveness, and has welcomed sinners back into your embrace, hear the thoughts of our hearts, examine our motives, and forgive us our faults. We ask this through your Son who died and rose that we might know the true cost of forgiveness.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

LeRue Werner

Christ died for our sins. He made a full atonement for us. We are forgiven and we have the promise of eternal life. Feel that forgiveness in your heart. We are His children. Amen.

Anthem – *“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”* arr. by Dilworth

Scripture Reading – John 1:1-14

Sermon

“God with Us: Living Hope”

Kyle Ripley

Responsive Hymn 135 – ***“There’s a Star in the East”*** (African Gospel)

Anthem – *“Hurry Now to Bethlehem”* by Gray

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.
Please place your financial gift, Connection Card, or Prayer Card in the Offering Box in the narthex.

Closing Hymn 136 – ***“Go Tell It On the Mountain”***

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 – *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you Willie Dahl for playing trumpet this morning!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Randy & Peg Asmus, 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 First Presbyterian Church building was dedicated in September 1878.

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

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. 12/29
10:30 a One Service

Mon. 12/30
Office Closed

Tues. 12/31 – New Year's Eve
Office Closed

Wed. 1/1 – New Year's Day
Office Closed

Thurs. 1/2
Office Closed

Fri. 1/3
10:30a Choir Rehearsal – FHall