



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, January 5, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Adaline Peck

Leader: What gift shall we bring to treasure and honor the Lord Jesus, who honors us with the gifts of love and grace?

All: Come, let us worship the living God, made known in Jesus Christ!

Worship Songs - ***“Rest On Us”***
“You Are My King (Amazing Love)”

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 2:1-12

Sermon

“Follow that Star!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***“Kindness”***

Invitation to Communion

Leader: Arise; shine, for the light of Christ is shining upon you! Come, gather around this table and receive the gifts of God’s love and grace. For this precious gift of God is meant for all people.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, followed by 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.

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice.

*****After partaking of the elements, please pick up a star with a word of faith and hope printed on it as you return to your seat by the side aisle.**

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.

Offering Prayer

All: Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for the gifts of Christmas. Thank you for inviting us to bring gifts of your love into the world. Bless the gifts we bring, that they may become vessels of Christ's light and love in the world. Amen.

Closing Song – “My Lighthouse”

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: Lorraine Berak & Shelia Conrad, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Lorraine Berak, Shelia Conrad, Judy Husby, and Mel Matchett.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, January 5, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – Soloist: Cheryl Knight

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

What gift shall we bring to treasure and honor the Lord Jesus,
who honors us with the gifts of love and grace?

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: Bring your gifts and bring your love to honor the King of love.

People: Today, we bring our worship, love, and praise to pay homage to Christ Jesus, our King.

All: Come, let worship the living God, made known in Jesus Christ!

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

All: Gracious God, we come into your presence with joy and praise, grateful for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives. As we celebrate this gift in our worship today, fill our hearts once again with Christmas joy and our spirits with the gift of your Holy Spirit. With joy and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 150 – *“As With Gladness Men of Old”*

Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

All: Christ Jesus, we yearn for your grace to fill our lives. We yearn to accept your love so fully that our hearts might overflow with love for your world. Gift us today with an openness and confidence to receive your gifts of love and hope. Shine through our hearts, our lives, and our actions, that others may find in us generous friends of grace and peace. May our prayers and our actions bring your light and love to the world. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Betty Tezak

Leader: In Christ's grace, we can boldly embrace God's love. In Christ's mercy, we can confidently proclaim that God's love is enough. In Jesus, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Betty Tezak

Leader: May we share signs of peace and love to sustain us in this New Year and in the years to come.

[Please greet those around you saying: "Peace be with you." Responding, "And also with you."

Also, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad at the end of the pew and pass it along to those sitting beside you.]

Anthem – Return of the Wisemen

Narrator: Betty Tezak

Three Wisemen: Tom Wiltse, Jeff Whittaker, Kyle Ripley

Wise Men: *“Following the Star,”* Music by Tom Fettke

Scripture Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

“Follow that Star!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 142 – *“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”*

Invitation to Communion

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Prayer of Thanksgiving, followed by The Lord's Prayer

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Offering Prayer

All: Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for the gifts of Christmas. Thank you for inviting us to bring gifts of your love into the world. Bless the gifts we bring, that they may become vessels of Christ's light and love in the world. Amen.

Closing Hymn 151 – ***“We Three Kings of Orient Are”***

Charge and Blessing

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**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;
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Benediction

Benediction Response – *“Let There Be Peace On Earth”*

For anyone desiring special prayers today, Ken Kohlman 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: Norm & Mary Anne Frey, & Dave Nussdorfer, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Laura Asiala, Ken Kohlman, Don Reynolds, and 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 (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.

New Sermon Series Begins Today: “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!

Take Down Christmas Decorations—Monday, January 6 & Tuesday, January 7

We will be taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations on **Monday, January 6 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. and Tuesday, January 7 from 10:00 a.m.- 12 noon**. Everyone is welcome to help and it should be fairly quick if we have many volunteers. Just show up! If you have any questions please contact Anne Conrad at 231-492-5129.

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).

Church Officer Training – Saturday, January 11 at 9:00AM

This training is offered for all church officers (both new and ongoing Elders, Deacons, and Trustees) on Saturday, January 11 from 9-12 noon in the Fellowship Hall, and all are encouraged to attend. This will be an in-person meeting, but a Zoom option will be available for those who cannot be there. We will be talking about spiritual leadership and discerning God’s will, what it means to be Presbyterian, and the roles and responsibilities for church leaders at First Pres., ER. Don’t miss this important meeting!

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. 1/5

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth-LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 1/6

Tues. 1/7

Wed. 1/8

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

Thurs. 1/9

1:30 p Worship MT – Conf
7:00 p Trustees – FHall

Fri. 1/10

10:30a Choir Rehearsal – FHall

Sat. 1/11

9:00 a Officer Training – FHall