



## 9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, January 19, 2025

### Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Maya & Jane Larsen

Leader: God's steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 36) There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more, and there is nothing you can do to make God love you any less. That is the gift of grace!

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

Worship Songs - ***"In The Secret"***  
***"O Praise The Name (Anastasis)"***

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 Readings – Matthew 2:11

John 1:1-5, 14-19

Sermon

**"The Gift of Frankincense and Jesus,  
Our Connection to God"**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***"As The Deer"***

Pastoral Prayer 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.*

Offering Prayer

**All: God of steadfast love and faithfulness, thank You for the gift of your love and the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Thank You for the gifts we return to you, this day and every day. Help us share as generously with others as You have shared with us, that your love might be known throughout all the world. Amen.**

## Closing Song – *“Trading My Sorrows”*

### Charge and Blessing

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

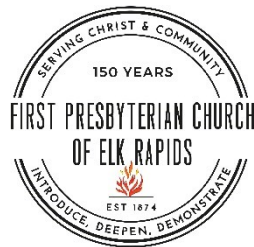
**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;  
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;  
and demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.**

*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: Judy Husby.



**10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, January 19, 2025**

## Order of Worship

### Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Crown Him King of Kings”* arr. by Parks

### Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

### Invitation and Centering Words

God’s steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 36) There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more, and there is nothing you can do to make God love you any less. That is the gift of grace!

### Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

### Call to Worship

Ginny Dorner

Leader: Welcome to worship today!

**People: There is joy in this place!**

Leader: God's steadfast love extends to everyone.

**People: God reaches out to us all in forgiveness and compassion.**

Leader: Thanks be to God for all the wonderful blessings we have received.

**People: Let us celebrate God's joyful love for and with us!**

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

### Opening Prayer

Ginny Dorner

**All: Lord, open our hearts to the surprising ways in which you offer to us your love and your presence. Help us to truly believe in the wondrous ways that You work in our lives, and give us hearts and spirits of care and compassion for service to You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn 744 – ***“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”***

### Prayer of Confession

Ginny Dorner

**All: Lord, how we must try your patience! We often doubt, when we should place our faith in your abiding presence. We think that we have to have all the answers, and judge others who fail to live up to our expectations. Too often, we think that we are the one thing that matters most in life; so we place ourselves at the center of our own universe. Forgive us when we show how shallow our faith is. Help us to really understand the miraculous ways in which you have already worked in our lives and will continue to work through us as we journey in faith. Bring to us the Light of Joy, and let it flood through our whole beings, that we may be transformed into people of joyful service and faith. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

### Assurance of Pardon

Ginny Dorner

Leader: God's love is continually poured out for us. Drink from the cup of God's forgiveness and compassion, dear ones. In Jesus' name, we are forgiven! Amen.

### Passing the Peace

Ginny Dorner

Leader: As you greet those around you, look at each person and offer these words from Isaiah: “You are precious in God's sight.”

[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 – *“He's My Friend”* arr. by Parks

### Scripture Readings – Matthew 2:11

John 1:1-5, 14-19

### Sermon

“The Gift of Frankincense and Jesus,  
Our Connection to God”

Rev. Jim Porter

### Responsive Hymn 775 – ***“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”***

### Pastoral Prayer 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.*

### Offering Prayer

**All: God of steadfast love and faithfulness, thank You for the gift of your love and the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Thank You for the gifts we return to you, this day and every day. Help us share as generously with others as You have shared with us, that your love might be known throughout all the world. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn 839 – *“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!”*

### 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, Ginny Dorner 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 Veliquette & Judy Brummeler, 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.

### **New Book Study Begins January 20 –**

#### **“Caring Assertiveness: Relating Directly, Honestly, and with Respect”**

Join us on Monday afternoons, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the adult education room January 20 - February 10 as we discuss practical tools to communicate and relate with greater confidence and care. Sign up at the Activity Center today!

### **Free Community Dinner – Monday, January 27 from 5:00-6:30PM**

You’re invited to join us for our Free Community Dinner on Monday, January 27 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chef Jeremy will be preparing a delicious dinner. Invite your friends and family and don’t miss this excellent meal!

**Financial Update** – To the many members who completed a 2025 Pledge Card, Thank you! We have had a tremendous response. Yet we still have 16 members who pledged last year who have not submitted commitments to our Church for this year.

We are currently finalizing the budget for 2025 and would appreciate hearing from you. No matter how large or small, just knowing you are part of our family is a wonderful gesture of faith. If you have not had the opportunity to send in a pledge card for this year, we hope to hear from you soon.

-- Blessings, Mike Husby, Treasurer

### **Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 9**

Session Calls an All Congregation Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 9 in person and via Zoom immediately following worship at approximately 11:45 a.m. to (1) approve the minutes of the 2024 Congregational meetings as printed, or with additions and/or corrections, and receive the 2024 Ministry Teams’ and Committees’ Annual Reports, (2) approve the pastor’s terms of call for 2025, (3) receive the Session-approved 2025 operating budget, and (4) conduct any other business that needs to come before the congregation.

Non-members are welcome to attend. Members are asked to attend. Please remember that our bylaws require that 10 percent (31 people) of our active membership be present for a quorum.

**Help Needed Setting Up Coffee Central for 9:00 AM Service** – If you are willing to help set up for Coffee Central for the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service, please contact Lorraine Berak at 231-620-4869. Thank you!

**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? 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.elkrapscommunitycupboard.com>. Call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information or to set up an appointment.

#### **This Week's Activities**

**Sun. 1/19**

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

**Mon. 1/20**

3:00 p Book Study – AEd

**Tues. 1/21**

**Wed. 1/22**

6:30 a Breakfast Club – LH  
9:00 a Bulletin Items Due  
2:00 p UpNorth Group – AEd  
6:30 p Praise Team Practice  
7:00 p Session Meeting

**Thurs. 1/23**

**Fri. 1/24**

10:30a Choir Rehearsal – FHall