

9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, April 6, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Alice Cannon

Leader: God turns our tears to shouts of joy. Christ turns our weeping into laughter.

(Psalm 126)

All: Come, let us worship the living God! Amen.

Worship Songs - ***“Your Love O Lord”***
“Pour Out My Heart”

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 – Luke 22:14-27

Sermon **“Risking Friendship, Loving Others Anyway”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***“The Blessing”***

Celebration of Communion

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, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.

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.

Offering Prayer

All: Loving God and dearest Friend, Jesus, You chose a path of suffering to reach out to us in our suffering. Use us and our gifts to extend your love and comfort to reach people in places of loss and grief. Use us and our gifts this day to bring hope and compassion to those who weep, that they may know your miraculous power and your fullness of life. Use us and our gifts to bring shouts of joy to those who weep with bitter tears. Amen.

Closing Song – *“In The Secret”*

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.**

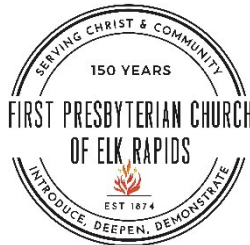
*For anyone desiring special prayers today, Shelia Conrad will be at the front of the sanctuary to pray for you.
Please come forward after the service.*

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Jerry & Felicia Blight, and our snack volunteer.

Thank you to our communion servers: Hannah Barraw, Judy Husby, and Mel Matchett.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, April 6, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“I Will Call Upon the Lord”*

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

God turns our tears to shouts of joy. Christ turns our weeping into laughter. (Psalm 126)

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

People: Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

Leader: Come and let us worship God with joy!

People: Let us drop the things of the past which have weighed us down!

Leader: God is about to do something new in our lives!

People: Let God’s power and purpose become strong in our lives today.

All: Come, let us worship the living God! Amen.

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

**All: We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts.
Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us
to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In
Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 250 – *“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”*

Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

All: Patient Lord, we find it easy to blame others and other circumstances for the things which happen in our lives. We hear the words “if only” and wonder why things didn’t happen differently for us. Too often we want you to be a “magic” presence which will, with the wave of a wand, cure our ills, give us success and happiness; but we don’t necessarily want to take responsibility for our attitudes and actions. Life is hard. Things happen which we didn’t plan for and events swirl around us over which we have no control. But to place blame on others and not to find ways in which we can work through the challenges we face in life is detrimental to everyone, especially ourselves. Forgive us when we are so busy placing blame that we don’t recognize your presence and love for us. Free us from placing our own desires first and foremost. Help us to look at the many ways in which you are working in the world for peace and justice, and enable us to be part of your work in the world today. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Betty Tezak

Leader: Let go of your fears. God has forgiven you and offered to you God’s healing love. Accept this free gift, for it is given for you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Betty Tezak

Leader: As we receive God’s love and grace at work in our own lives, let us also share God’s love and grace with others. Please greet those around you with the words: “Peace be with you,” responding, “And also with you.”

[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 – *“Cup of Sorrow”* by Berry

Scripture Reading – Luke 22:14-27

Sermon

“Risking Friendship, Loving Others Anyway”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 510 – *“We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name”*

Celebration of Communion

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Closing Hymn 192 – *“Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining”*

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, Jan Shurte 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: Corey, Jennifer & Tabitha Pritchard, and our snack volunteer: Ginny Dorner.

Thank you to our communion servers: Betsy Argo, Peggy Bushnell, Ginny Dorner, and Betty Tezak.

Special Lenten Gift: As you leave the service today, be sure to pick up a “Caring Cross” made from olive wood from the Holy Land and prayer card to carry with you through your Lenten journey this year.

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.

Family Worship Service – Today at 5:00 PM at the Lighthouse

Greetings Friends and Family! We are excited to invite you and your family to our upcoming Family Worship Night, taking place on April 6th at 5:00 PM at the Lighthouse. Come and enjoy a delicious FREE dinner followed by an hour of uplifting and encouraging worship music in the upper room of the Lighthouse. Children are welcome! This is a wonderful opportunity to unite with our community and celebrate our faith together.

“Parenting the Love and Logic Way” – Class begins Monday, April 14

All families are invited to join us for a 6-session program, “Parenting the Love and Logic Way,” beginning on Monday, April 14. We’ll provide a light kid and adult-friendly meal at 5:30 p.m., with class running from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. The workbook is \$10, and child care will be provided. This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately with kids of all ages. You’ll learn how to avoid un-winnable power struggles and arguments, stay calm when kids do incredibly upsetting things, set enforceable limits, and much more. **To register, call the church office at 231-264-8167 by April 9. Class size is limited to 20 people, so reserve your spot today!**



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13
 9:00AM Contemporary Service
 10:30AM Traditional Service

Maundy Thursday, April 17
 6:00PM Soup Supper – Fellowship Hall
 6:45PM Service & Communion – Fellowship Hall

Good Friday, April 18
 12:00PM Tenebrae Service – Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 20
 9:00AM Contemporary Service
 10:00AM Kids Easter Egg Hunt – Meet in Fellowship Hall following Service
 10:30AM Traditional Service

Maundy Thursday Service & Communion – April 17 at 6:00 PM

Join us on Maundy Thursday, April 17, for a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by the service and communion at 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Make plans now to attend this special service! If you would like to bring soup, bread or dessert, please sign up at the Activity Center in the narthex. See you at supper!

Good Friday Tenebrae Service – April 18 at 12:00 PM

Join us on Good Friday, April 18, for a brief but powerful Tenebrae Service at 12:00 p.m. This timeless and profound service captures the emotional journey from the triumph of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem to the deep sorrow of his crucifixion on Good Friday through scripture readings, music and the extinguishing of candles. Plan to attend this 30-40 minute service as you prepare for Easter!

Kids Easter Egg Hunt – Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:00 AM

All kids are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:00 a.m. (immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service). Please gather in the Fellowship Hall and we’ll all proceed to the egg hunt together. Don’t miss this fun event!

Easter Plants - Reservations Due Sunday, April 13

Easter plants are once again available for \$10 per plant to remember or honor a special loved one, and decorate our sanctuary for Easter. To reserve your plants, fill out the form next to the Easter Plant Order Box located at the Activity Center and return it with your donation to the box by Sunday, April 13. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church (Easter Memorial). Please pick up your flowers after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

Free Community Dinner – April 28 from 5:00-6:30PM

You’re invited to join us for our final spring Free Community Dinner on Monday, April 28 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chef Jeremy will be preparing a delicious dinner each month. Invite your friends and family and don’t miss this excellent meal!

Vacation Bible School 2025 Volunteers Needed – June 23-27

We are providing a 5-day Vacation Bible School for all children in Elk Rapids and the surrounding area and we need your help! If you can volunteer in any way during the week of June 23-27 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. please contact Tara DenHerder at denherdeta@tcaps.net or 231-590-5346. Save the dates and plan to bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors!

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! Scan the QR code to the left or use the link: <https://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html> Thanks for your willingness to help out!

Community Cupboard Needs Paper & Plastic Bags – The Community Cupboard Food Pantry is in need of paper and plastic grocery bags. They can be dropped off in the donation box in the Fellowship Hall or the brown outdoor box outside the Cupboard entrance. Thank you!

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 3 ways: In the lower left church mailbox slot near the 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 drop donations in the brown box too! 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. 4/6

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Parent's Sm. Grp. – AEd
10:30 a Traditional Service
5:00 p Family Worship – LH

Mon. 4/7

Tues. 4/8

10:00 a Women's Sm Grp – AEd

Wed. 4/9

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 Trustee – FHall

Thurs. 4/10

7:30 a Men's Sm Grp – AEd

Fri. 4/11

10:30 a Choir