



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, April 13, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Grace Ward

Leader: Today is Palm Sunday, the day that the people shouted:

“Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Yet on Friday, they will shout: “Crucify! Crucify Him!”

With this in mind, let us reflect on our own lives, as we remember this sacred day.

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

Worship Songs - **“Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)”**
“Jesus Messiah”

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 21:1-11

Video

“Hosanna!”

from “The Chosen”

Sermon

“Risking Rejection, Serving Others”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - **“Hosanna (I See The King Of Glory)”**

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: We thank you, O God, for your generous Spirit and for Christ’s gift of love. You walk with us in weakness and surround us with grace. Receive these gifts as signs of our thanks for the love that heals and makes us whole. Amen.

Closing Song – *“The Heart Of Worship”*

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, Mel Matchett 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: Chad & Shannah Vergote, and our snack volunteer.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, April 13, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“A Palm Sunday Calypso”* arr. by Hayes

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Today is Palm Sunday, the day we remember Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Today, the people shout: “Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Yet on Friday, they will shout: “Crucify! Crucify Him!”

With this in mind, let us gather together today and reflect on our own lives, as we remember this sacred day.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Ginny Dorner

Leader: On this Palm Sunday, may we remember that
All honor, praise, and glory belong to God,
now and forever!

**People: In celebration today, we join the crowds of old,
waving branches, giving honor to the Messiah.**
(Wave palm branches!)

Leader: Together, we cry out Jesus’ honor and praise!

People: Alleluia! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: Hosanna in the Highest! Shout God’s praise!

People: Alleluia! Amen!

Leader: Yet, our celebration is bittersweet,
for our story doesn’t end here.

People: We know the pain of what lies ahead.

Leader: Today anticipates the rest of the story—

**People: a story of betrayal and death,
a story of hope and resurrection.**

All: On this day, let us come and worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

Ginny Dorner

All: Loving God, Foundation of our faith, your Son humbled himself on the back of a colt. Then he entered Jerusalem in lowly estate to bring joy to the hearts of children and all who followed Him. Forsaking his place at your side, Jesus emptied himself of prestige and power to become a servant to all. On this day of joy and remembrance, sing in our hearts once more, that we too may dance with the children—for to such belong the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

Opening Hymn 197 – ***“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”***

Prayer of Confession

Ginny Dorner

All: Lord Jesus, we confess that we are quick to follow you when it is easy, but we are also quick to turn away when it is hard. We sing "Hosanna" with the crowd one day, yet fall silent in the face of challenge on another. Forgive our weakness and fear. Strengthen us to walk with you, gracious Lord, not only in joy, but also in times of suffering. Give us courage to follow you faithfully, today and every day. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Ginny Dorner

Leader: In Jesus our sins are forgiven, and our salvation is at hand.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord! Amen.

Passing the Peace

Ginny Dorner

Leader: May the peace of Christ fill you this day, for Christ is the source of our joy and gladness.

Please share a joyful sign of Christ's peace with those near you, by 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 – ***“Mercy's Promise”*** by Drennan

Scripture Reading – Matthew 21:1-11

Video

“Hosanna!”

from “The Chosen”

Sermon

“Risking Rejection, Serving Others”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 215 – ***“What Wondrous Love is This”***

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

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Offering Prayer

All: We thank you, O God, for your generous Spirit and for Christ's gift of love. You walk with us in weakness and surround us with grace. Receive these gifts as signs of our thanks for the love that heals and makes us whole. Amen.

Closing Hymn 196 – “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

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 Christine Dewey for playing flute today!

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Don Reynolds and Dave Nussdorfer, and our snack volunteer.

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.



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

Easter Plants - Reservations Due Today

Easter plants are 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). Flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

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!

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!

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.

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 or use the link:

<https://volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html> Thanks for your willingness to help out!

This Week's Activities

Sun. 4/13 – Palm Sunday

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth - LH
10:00 a Parent's Sm. Grp. – AEd
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 4/14

9:00 a PEO – FHall
5:30 p Parenting Dinner – FHall
6:00 p Parenting Class – AEd
7:00 p Personnel MT – Conf

Tues. 4/15

10:00 a Women's Sm Grp – AEd

Wed. 4/16

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
4:30 p Endowment – Conf
6:30 p Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 4/17 – Maundy Thursday

7:30 a Men's Sm Grp – AEd
6:00 p Soup Supper – FHall
6:45 p Service & Communion – FHall

Fri. 4/18 – Good Friday

10:30 a Choir
12:00 p Tenebrae Service – Sanc.