

9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, April 27, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship

Marie Zendler

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. (Psalm 100: 1-2)

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

Worship Songs - ***"All Who Are Thirsty"***
"Come As You Are"

Opening Prayer

Kyle Ripley

All: Creator God, You formed the heavens and the earth and called them good. We give thanks for the beauty of creation: for the lakes and forests, the mountains and skies, the places where we encounter You in the wonders of the natural world. Help us to cherish and protect these gifts, that all may experience Your abundant provision. Amen.

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 5:1-15

Rev. Dr. Lois Aroian

Sermon

"Changing Our Lives"

Rev. Dr. Lois Aroian

Responsive Song - ***"Available"***

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Lois Aroian

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

Kyle Ripley

- 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

Kyle Ripley

All: Gracious God, Creator of all things, we bring our gifts before You today, grateful for the abundance You have given us. We offer these gifts as gratitude for Your abundance, and as a way to honor Your call to care for creation and each other. May these offerings support the work of Your church, to nurture faith, protect the earth, and share Your love with all people. Use these gifts to deepen our discipleship, and to further the work of justice, peace, and care for creation. Bless the work of our hands and the hearts that give. Through our offerings, may we be transformed to live more fully in service to You and to all Your creation. Amen.

Closing Song – ***“Mighty To Save”***

Charge and Blessing

Rev. Dr. Lois Aroian

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

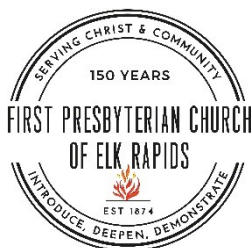
**People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
and demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.**

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: Shelia Conrad.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, April 27, 2025

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Grace at the Cross”* by McKibben

Welcome

Cheryl Knight

Invitation and Centering Words

Cheryl Knight

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. (Psalm 100: 1-2)

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Doug White

Leader: Come to the lakeshore, where Jesus calls us to deeper waters and abundant life.

People: We come, ready to listen, to learn, and to follow.

Leader: Look around at the beauty of creation: the sky, the water, the earth teeming with life.

People: We marvel at God's abundant provision and give thanks for the gifts of creation.

Leader: God calls us to be stewards of this world, to care for the land, the waters, and all living things.

People: We answer God's call with open hearts and willing hands, ready to serve.

Leader: Jesus invites us into community, where we are transformed by God's grace and sent out to share God's love with the world.

People: Together, we embrace this holy calling, trusting in God's presence to guide us.

Leader: Let us worship the One who provides, sustains, and calls us to follow.

All: With joy and gratitude, we worship God, Creator of heaven and earth!

Opening Prayer

Doug White

All: Creator God, You formed the heavens and the earth and called them good. We give thanks for the beauty of creation: for the lakes and forests, the mountains and skies, the places where we encounter You in the wonders of the natural world. Help us to cherish and protect these gifts, that all may experience Your abundant provision. Amen.

Opening Hymn 240 – “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

Prayer of Confession

Doug White

Leader: Let us come before God with humble hearts, confessing the ways we have fallen short in caring for creation, our communities, and our calling as disciples. Let us pray:

All: Creator God, You have filled the world with beauty and abundance, yet we often take Your gifts for granted. We exploit the earth's resources and fail to care for the land, the waters, and all living things. Forgive us for our neglect and greed, for treating Your creation as ours to own rather than a trust to steward.

(Moment of silence)

Christ, who calls us to cast our nets into deeper waters, we confess that we often resist Your invitation. We cling to comfort, avoid risks, and ignore the ways You transform and send us out to share Your love. Forgive us for our hesitation, our apathy, and our failure to follow where You lead.

(Moment of silence)

Holy Spirit, who forms us in community, we confess that we have not lived as one body in Christ. We have overlooked the needs of others, turned inward, and forgotten that You send us to love and serve. Forgive us for our selfishness and for failing to reflect Your grace to the world.

(Moment of silence)

Renew us, O God. Restore us to right relationship with creation, with one another, and with You. Empower us to care for Your world and share Your love, so that all may know Your abundant life. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Doug White

Leader: Hear the good news: In Christ, we are forgiven and made new. When we turn to God with open hearts, God meets us with grace, transforming our lives and calling us to deeper discipleship. The Creator restores what has been broken. The Redeemer invites us into abundant life. The Spirit empowers us to care for creation, love our neighbors, and follow God's call. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Doug White

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 – *"Lest I Forget Thy Love"* by Courtney

Scripture Reading – Luke 5:1-15

Rev. Dr. Lois Aroian

Sermon

"Changing Our Lives"

Rev. Dr. Lois Aroian

Responsive Hymn 216 – *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Lois Aroian

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

Doug White

- 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.
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Doxology – *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Doug White

All: Gracious God, Creator of all things, we bring our gifts before You today, grateful for the abundance You have given us. We offer these gifts as gratitude for Your abundance, and as a way to honor Your call to care for creation and each other. May these offerings support the work of Your church, to nurture faith, protect the earth, and share Your love with all people. Use these gifts to deepen our discipleship, and to further the work of justice, peace, and care for creation. Bless the work of our hands and the hearts that give. Through our offerings, may we be transformed to live more fully in service to You and to all Your creation. Amen.

Closing Hymn 236 – *"The Strife Is O'er"*

Charge and Blessing

Rev. Dr. Lois Aroian

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

Rev. Dr. Lois Aroian

Leader: Go from this place as stewards of God's creation,
transformed by grace, and sent to share God's love.

May the peace of Christ guide you,
as you care for the earth, serve with joy,
and reflect God's love to all people.

As you go, remember the lessons we can learn from camp—
where community is built, faith is nurtured,
and hearts are inspired to live out God's call. Amen.

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: Gordon & Susan Harvey, 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 (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.

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!

New Sermon Series Coming Soon!

Don't miss our new sermon series "Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus. Become like him. Do as he did." beginning soon. There is no problem in human life that apprenticeship to Jesus cannot solve.

Gospel Concert – Saturday, May 17 at 4:00 PM

Mark your calendar now for a Gospel Concert on Saturday, May 17 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Invite your family and friends, and don't miss this special concert!

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. 4/27

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School/Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service
2:00 p Concert Rehearsal

Mon. 4/28

5:30 p Community Dinner – FHall
6:00 p Parenting Class – AEd

Tues. 4/29

7:00 p Session Meeting - FHall

Wed. 4/30

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. 5/1

7:30 a Men's Sm Grp – AEd
1:30 p Worship MT – Conf

Fri. 5/2

No Choir Rehearsal