



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, January 25, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Alice Cannon

Leader: Before Jesus calls anyone to follow, he announces good news: *The kingdom of heaven has come near*. God is not distant or absent. God is already at work—calling, healing, restoring, and inviting us into lives of meaning and purpose. When Jesus calls, he calls us not only to believe, but to act boldly, trusting that God’s future is already breaking into this present moment.

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Songs - ***“Mighty To Save”***
“God Of Wonders”

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

Shannah Vergote

(Children are invited to come forward at this time for the children’s message.)

Scripture Reading – Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon “The Call of Jesus and the Gift of Bold Action”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***“Lead On Good Shepherd”***

Commissioning Interim Director of Children’s Ministry – Shannah Vergote

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.*

Closing Song – ***“Lord I Lift Your Name On High”***

Mission Statement

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.**

Charge to the Congregation

Leader: Go now, for Jesus still walks among us, still calls ordinary people to extraordinary faith. Turn your lives toward God, for God's kingdom is already near. Follow Christ with courage. Act with boldness. Live with purpose. And may the light you have seen shine through your words and deeds for the life of the world.

All: Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Chad, Shannah, Ben & Nora Vergote, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Shelia Conrad.



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, January 25, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “O Let Us Sing” by Berry

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Before Jesus calls anyone to follow, he announces good news: *The kingdom of heaven has come near*. God is not distant or absent. God is already at work—calling, healing, restoring, and inviting us into lives of meaning and purpose. When Jesus calls, he calls us not only to believe, but to act boldly, trusting that God's future is already breaking into this present moment.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: Come, you who are searching for purpose.

People: Come, you who long for meaning beyond yourself.

Leader: Jesus walks along the shoreline of our lives,

People: calling us by name,

Leader: inviting us to follow,

People: and promising to make us instruments of God's love.

Leader: Today, let us turn our lives toward God,

People: for God's kingdom is already near.

All: Come, let worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

All: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts this day to hear your voice once again, and give us the courage to respond, saying “Yes” to your abundant love and grace. Help us to trust that your kingdom is already near, and that in following Jesus, we discover meaning, purpose, and life. We offer you today our worship with grateful hearts, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 385 – *“All People Who on Earth Do Dwell”*

Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

All: Merciful God, You call us to turn toward you, yet so often we turn away. You invite us into lives of bold faith, yet we cling to what is familiar and safe. We confess that we hesitate when you call. We delay when you ask us to act. We are slow to trust that your kingdom is near and that our lives truly matter in your work. Forgive us, O God. Release us from fear and complacency. Turn our hearts back to you, so that we may follow Jesus with courage, joy, and hope.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Betty Tezak

Leader: Hear the good news: Jesus does not wait for us to be ready or perfect. He comes near, calling us with grace. In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and set free for lives of faith and bold action.

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

Passing of the Peace

Betty Tezak

Leader: Since Christ has forgiven us and made us one, let us share signs of Christ’s peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: 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 – *“You Alone Are God”* by McDonald

Scripture Reading – Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon “The Call of Jesus and the Gift of Bold Action”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 412 – *“God, Reveal Your Presence”*

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.

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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

All: Generous God, You call us not only with words, but with lives transformed by grace. As we offer our gifts today, we give thanks for the meaning and purpose we find in following Jesus. Use these gifts—and use us—to make your kingdom visible in this world: through acts of compassion, through bold witness, and through love that reaches beyond ourselves. We offer all that we are and all that we have in the name of Christ. Amen.

Closing Hymn 300 – *“We Are One in the Spirit”*

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All: **Amen.**

Benediction

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

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Don Reynolds & Ken Kohlman, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteer: Shelia Conrad.

Thank you for your generous support! Your gifts help sustain the ministries and mission of our church. You can give by mail (404 Spruce St., Elk Rapids, MI 49629), online at www.erfpc.org (click “Giving”), or by contacting Treasurer Mike Husby at finmanager@erfpc.org. Thank you!

Nursery – Qualified caregivers welcome infants and children during the service.

Season 5 of *The Chosen* – Mondays at 6PM

We’re excited to gather again for Season 5 of *The Chosen*! Join us Monday evenings through February 23 at 6:00 p.m. for an inspiring time of watching, conversation, and connection. Each week offers meaningful discussion and fresh insights into the life and ministry of Jesus. Even if you can only join us once in a while, you’re always welcome. Sign up today at the Activity Center!

ONE Service at 10:30AM on Sunday, February 8

Join us on Sunday, February 8 for ONE Service at 10:30 a.m. Following the service we will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting. Make plans to join us this special Sunday!

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 8

Session Calls an All Congregation Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 8 in person and via Zoom immediately following worship at approximately 11:45 a.m. to (1) approve the minutes of the 2025 Congregational meetings as printed, or with additions and/or corrections, and receive the 2025 Ministry Teams’ and Committees’ Annual Reports, (2) approve the pastor’s terms of call for 2026,

(3) receive the Session-approved 2026 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 (32 people) of our active membership be present for a quorum.

Youth Group SUPERSERVE Sunday – February 8 from Noon-3:00PM

All youth are invited to SUPERSERVE Sunday on February 8. Come for youth group, stay for lunch at the Lighthouse, and then catch a ride with us to serve lunch to the homeless at Grace Episcopal Church in downtown Traverse City from 12 noon – 3:00 p.m.

Free Community Dinner – Tuesday, February 10 from 5-6:30PM

Join us on Tuesday, February 10, from 5:00–6:30 PM for our Free Community Dinner featuring Comfort Food Casserole Night. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a hearty, home-style meal and good fellowship! Also plan to join us for the rest of the spring dinners – March 10, April 21, and May 19. Come as you are and bring a friend!

Help Us Share Comfort at Our Free Community Dinner – Tuesday, February 10

Our next Free Community Dinner is Comfort Food Casserole Night on Tuesday, February 10, and we'd love your help! You can be part of this welcoming ministry by signing up to bring a casserole or dessert to share with our neighbors. Homemade comfort food makes a big difference, and every dish helps us extend hospitality and care to our community. Sign up at the Activity Center in the narthex and thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ through food and fellowship.

Lent Is Coming—Small Group Leaders Needed

Lent begins soon with Ash Wednesday on February 18, and we are preparing for this meaningful season of reflection and growth. As part of our Lenten experience, we will be forming small groups to gather for conversation, prayer, and connection. We are currently looking for individuals willing to help facilitate these groups. No special expertise is required—just a willingness to help guide discussion and create a welcoming space. Resources and support will be provided. If you are interested in serving as a small group facilitator this Lent, please reach out to the church office. More details will be shared soon as Lent approaches.

Share Your Gifts in Worship! Do you enjoy singing, playing an instrument, or offering special music? Or are you more comfortable behind the scenes with tech and AV? We're looking for people to join our worship and tech teams! If you're interested or want to learn more, contact Kyle Ripley at 616-888-9788 or ksripley@gmail.com.

Alzheimer's & Dementia Caregiver Support Group – 3rd Friday of Each Month at 2PM

For those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Share support, encouragement, and guidance in a welcoming environment. The group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Please contact facilitator Kathy Dork at 248-568-4651 if you'd like to attend or if you have questions.

Resources for Grief Care –

Stephen Ministry offers one-on-one support and grief resources, including pamphlets and a display in the narthex. Information on local counseling options is also available. To meet with a Stephen Minister, please contact the office or a Stephen Minister directly.

Community Cupboard – Village Market Community Cash starts September 1st and runs through May 31st. Save your receipts and drop them in the church donation box

LIVING ON - GENERAL LOSS GROUPS

The focus of Living On support groups is to express feelings and experiences related to the loss of a loved one in a supportive, caring, and non-judgmental environment. Grief and loss topics are addressed as they arise, depending on the interests of those attending the group.

1st Tuesday of the month 🗓
6pm - 7pm

RSVP with Cindy Palmer
248-334-1323 • cpalmer@hom.org

2nd Tuesday of the month 🗓

6pm - 7:15pm
Hospice of Michigan office
989 Spaulding Ave. SE, Ada
RSVP with Ryan Miller
616-356-5228 • rymiller@hom.org

1st Wednesday of the month 🗓

5:30pm - 6:30pm
Hospice of Michigan office
199 Long Rapids Rd., Alpena
RSVP with Stacy Malenfant
989-358-4295 • smalenfa@hom.org

2nd Wednesday of the month 🗓
11am - 12pm

Hospice of Michigan office
830 S. Otsego Ave. Gaylord
RSVP with Tavia Mulholland
989-705-2603 • tmulholland@hom.org

2nd Wednesday of the month 🗓

1pm - 2:30pm
Hospice of Michigan office
932 N Mitchell St., Cadillac
RSVP with Will Gasper
231-444-3350 • wgasper@hom.org

4th Tuesday of the month 🗓

10:30am - 11:30am
RSVP with Meredith Hartmann
734-709-3088
mhartmann@arborhospice.org

(lower left corner of the mail boxes in the Narthex) or mail them to PO Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Those receipts help us purchase up to 3 months of food for our families. Thank you!

Thanks to feedback from a recent client survey, the Elk Rapids Community Cupboard is expanding its hours to ensure greater accessibility. It will now be open every other Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., starting November 22. These new hours are in addition to existing hours every other week on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Visit elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com or call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information.

Discover Your Gifts! Take our quick Volunteer Accelerator Survey to find where you can best serve. Scan the QR code or use the link: volunteeraccelerator.ministryarchitects.com/ERFPC/survey.html Thanks for your willingness to help out!



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This Week's Activities

Sun. 1/25

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a SS & Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 1/26

6:00 p The Chosen

Tues. 1/27

Wed. 1/28

6:30 p Praise Team Prac.
7:00 p Session Meeting – FH

Thurs. 1/29

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE

Fri. 1/30

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH