



9 AM Contemporary Service • Sunday, March 22, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation to Worship

Marie Zender

Leader: On the night before the cross, Jesus did not give his disciples a strategy or a plan.
He gave them a command: *Love one another as I have loved you.*

All: Come, let us worship the living God!

Worship Song - ***“Come Now Is The Time To Worship”***
“Beautiful One”

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

Kyle Ripley

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

Scripture Reading – John 13:1-17; 31-35

Sermon “Jesus’ Final Words: It Really Is All About Love!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song - ***“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”***

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 – ***“Pharaoh Pharaoh”***

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 into the world as followers of Jesus.
Serve with humility.
Forgive with generosity.
Love with courage.
For Jesus has given us this command:
Love one another as I have loved you.

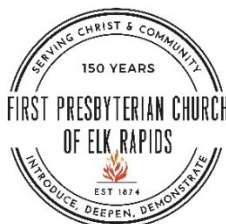
All: Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

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



10:30 AM Traditional Service • Sunday, March 22, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “*Hosanna*” arr. by Hayes

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

On the night before the cross, Jesus did not give his disciples a strategy or a plan.
He gave them a command: *Love one another as I have loved you.*

Ring of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: We gather in the presence of the One who kneels to serve.

People: We come to worship the Christ who shows us what love looks like.

Leader: Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

People: A sign of humility, grace, and servant love.

Leader: Jesus gave a new commandment.

People: That we love one another as he has loved us.

Leader: This is how the world will know we belong to Christ.

People: Not by power or success, but by love.

Leader: Let us worship the God whose love never fails.

All: Come, let us worship with grateful and open hearts.

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

All: Loving and humble Christ, you knelt beside your friends and washed their feet, showing them that greatness is found in serving others and that true power is found in love. As we gather in worship today, cleanse our hearts of pride and fear. Teach us again what it means to follow you. Fill us with your Spirit, so that we may love one another as you have loved us. For we pray in your holy name. Amen.

Opening Hymn 366 – **“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”** (vs. 1 & 3)

Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

All: Merciful God, you call us to love one another as Christ has loved us. Yet we confess that love is not always easy for us. We choose comfort instead of service. We protect our pride instead of practicing humility. We hold onto anger instead of offering grace. We pass by those in need rather than kneeling beside them. Forgive us, O God. Wash us again in your mercy. Cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits, so that we may live as disciples of Jesus—serving, forgiving, and loving as he has loved us. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Betty Tezak

Leader: Hear the good news: The love of God does not depend on our perfection. In Jesus Christ, God washes away our sin, and restores us with grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Betty Tezak

Leader: Since God has loved us with a love that serves and forgives, let us share that peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Share signs of Christ’s peace with one another. 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 – **“Love Grows Here”** by Besig

Scripture Reading – John 13:1-17; 31-35

Sermon **“Jesus’ Final Words: It Really Is All About Love!”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 300 – **“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”**

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 have shown us the depth of your love in Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Use them for the work of your kingdom—to bring hope, healing, and compassion into the world. Teach us that true generosity is not only what we give, but how we live: loving one another as Christ has loved us. Amen.

Closing Hymn 693 – *“Though I May Speak”*

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Charge to the Congregation

Leader: Go now into the world as followers of Jesus.

Serve with humility.

Forgive with generosity.

Love with courage.

For Jesus has given us this command:

Love one another as I have loved you.

All: Amen.

Benediction

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

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Ken Kohlman & Rick Welsh, 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.

Youth Pickleball – Today from 2-4 PM

All youth are invited to join us this Sunday, March 22, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at Pickle U for an afternoon of fun and fellowship! Plan to meet us there or catch a ride from the Lighthouse at 1:30 p.m. Limited spots available — sign up now! To reserve your place, please contact Tara DenHerder.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29
9:00AM Contemporary Service
10:30AM Traditional Service

Maundy Thursday, April 2
6:15PM Soup Supper – Fellowship Hall
7:00PM Service & Communion – Fellowship Hall

Good Friday, April 3
12:00PM Good Friday Service – Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 5
9:00AM Contemporary Service
10:00AM Kids Easter Egg Hunt
Meet in Fellowship Hall following Service
10:30AM Traditional Service

Church Family Bingo – Today at 5:00 PM

Join us for a fun evening of laughter, food, and friendly competition at our Church Family Bingo Night rescheduled to Sunday, March 22 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! The church will provide dinner, dessert, and bingo prizes. This is a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect, and enjoy time together as a church family. Everyone is welcome to come and participate—kids, youth, adults, and seniors alike. Come hungry, come ready to play, and come ready for a great night together!

Vacation Bible School 2026 Volunteers Needed – June 22-26

We are planning a 5-day Vacation Bible School for children in Elk Rapids and the surrounding communities, and we would love your support! If you are available to volunteer in any capacity during the week of June 22–26, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., please contact Tara DenHerder at

taradenherder8@gmail.com or 231-590-5346. Save the dates and plan to invite your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to be part of this meaningful and fun week!

Easter Plants - Reservations Due March 29

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, March 29. 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.

Free Community Dinners – Tuesday, April 21 from 5-6:30PM

Plan to join us for our next Free Community Dinner on Tuesday, April 21 from 5:00–6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a delicious meal and good fellowship! Also plan to join us for our final spring dinner – May 19. Come as you are and bring a friend!

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.

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.

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.

Community Cupboard – Village Market Community Cash runs September 1–May 31. Please save your receipts and drop them in the church donation box in the Narthex or mail them to PO Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Your receipts help provide up to three months of food for local families—thank you!

The Elk Rapids Community Cupboard is expanding hours starting November 22 and will be open every other Saturday from 9:00–11:00 a.m., in addition to regular hours on alternating Tuesdays (4:00–6:00 p.m.) and Fridays (8:30–9:30 a.m.). Visit elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com or call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information.

This Week's Activities

Sun. 3/22

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a SS & Youth – LH
Parents Lent Group
10:30 a Traditional Service
5:00 p Family Dinner & Bingo - FH

Mon. 3/23

7:00 p Lent Group – Zoom
7:00 p Future Planning – Zoom

Tues. 3/24

9:00 a Women's Lent Group – AE
10:00 a Women's Lent Group – Cf

Wed. 3/25

6:30 p Lent Group at Argo's
6:30 p Praise Team Prac.
7:00 p Session Meeting – FH
7:45 p Lent Group – Zoom

Thurs. 3/26

7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE
6:30 p Women's Lent Group – UpN

Fri. 3/27

10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH



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!