



10:30 AM One Outdoor Service • Sunday, July 26, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“I Hear America Singing”* by Thomas

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jim Porter

Coming Up Next Sunday: • Loose Change Sunday
• Sharing our “Bread” Sunday

Janice London

Marcia Sumerix

Invitation and Centering Words

Addie and Garrett Seiple

Leader: As we gather today in the beauty of God's creation, we are reminded that the One who made heaven and earth also knows us, loves us, and calls us by name. God's love is stronger than fear, deeper than sorrow, and greater than anything that could ever separate us from the hope we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Call to Worship

Joanne Teague

Leader: Lift up your eyes and behold the beauty of God's creation.

People: The heavens declare God's glory, and the earth proclaims God's goodness.

Leader: When we are uncertain, God remains faithful.

People: When we are afraid, God's love holds us fast.

Leader: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

People: Not trouble or hardship, nor danger or sorrow, nor any power on earth or in heaven.

Leader: Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God! Come, let us worship the living God!

Opening Prayer

Joanne Teague

All: Creator God, as we gather beneath the open sky and among the beauty of your creation, we give you thanks for the gift of this day and for the gift of your unfailing love. Open our hearts to your presence, quiet our anxious thoughts, and remind us once again that we belong to you. Fill us with the hope that comes through Jesus Christ, so that we may live with courage, serve with compassion, and rejoice in the promise that nothing can ever separate us from your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 14 – *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

Verse 1

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

Refrain

**Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Verse 2

**For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:**

[Refrain]

Verse 3

**For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:**

[Refrain]

Verse 4

**For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:**

[Refrain]

Verse 5

**For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven:**

[Refrain]

Prayer of Confession

Joanne Teague

All: Gracious and loving God, You have surrounded us with the beauty of your creation and filled our lives with countless signs of your love, yet too often we fail to trust your promises. We allow fear, worry, and doubt to shape our hearts more than your grace. We become consumed with our own concerns and forget that you are always with us. Forgive us, too, for the ways we have failed to care for the world you have entrusted to us. Too often we take your creation for granted, using its gifts without gratitude and neglecting our responsibility to protect and preserve the beauty of the earth for future generations. Renew us by your Spirit. Teach us to live with confidence in your unfailing love, to care for one another with compassion, and to be faithful stewards of all that you have made. May our lives reflect our gratitude for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose love nothing can ever separate us from you. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Joanne Teague

Leader: Hear the good news! God has not given up on us and never will. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed, and embraced by a love that never fails. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

Passing of the Peace

Joanne Teague

Leader: Since God has reconciled us through Christ and made us one family in faith, let us share Christ's peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

(Please greet those around you.)

Children's Message

Kyle Ripley

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

Anthem – “Who Shall Separate Us” by Choplin

Scripture Reading – Romans 8:26-39

Sermon

“Inseparable”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 695 – “**Change My Heart, O God**”

Refrain

**Change my heart, O God,
make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God,
may I be like You.**

Verse

**You are the Potter,
I am the clay.**

**Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.**

[Refrain]

[Repeat]

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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.

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: Gracious and generous God, every good gift comes from your loving hand. You have given us life, hope, and the unshakable promise that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to bring hope to the discouraged, compassion to those in need, and the good news of your saving love to the world. Shape us into faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us, so that our lives, as well as our gifts, may honor you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn 749 – ***“Come! Live in the Light!”***

Verse 1

**Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain

**We are called to act with justice;
We are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God.**

Verse 2

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So hatred and violence will be no more.**
[Refrain]

Verse 3

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love.**
[Refrain]

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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 and Benediction

Leader: May the God who created you,
the Christ who redeemed you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells within you
strengthen your faith, fill you with hope, and surround you with peace.
And may you go forth this day remembering that neither life nor death, neither things present
nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation, will ever be able to separate you from the
love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

**Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God as our Father
Children all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me**

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Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Don & Louise Pond, Lorraine Berak, and Rick Welsh, our snack volunteers: Pam Coleman & Ken Kohlman, and our coffee volunteer.

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.

Future Planning Committee Town Hall Meetings – July 26 & July 28

The Future Planning Committee will host two Town Hall-style informational meetings to share the results of the congregational survey and the Future Planning and Visioning Retreat held at the end of June:

Sunday, July 26, at 9:15 a.m.

Prior to our outdoor worship service at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday, July 28, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

For those unable to attend in person.

These meetings will provide an opportunity to learn more about the planning process, hear what we have discovered, ask questions, and consider how you can help move this work forward. We hope everyone can attend!

Carpet Cleaning Notice: The carpets in the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary will be professionally cleaned on Wednesday, July 29 and Thursday, July 30. Please help us by avoiding walking on the carpeted areas while the cleaning and drying process is underway. If you have any questions, please contact Peg Burns at 616-901-0960.

Next Sunday, 8/2 is Loose Change Sunday – Our August Loose Change Offering on August 2 will support the Elk Rapids Schools Backpack Program, which provides nutritious, non-perishable food for food-insecure students to take home on weekends. In partnership with the Manna Food Project and local volunteers, food bags are placed confidentially into participating students' backpacks each Friday. Thank you for helping provide care and encouragement to children and families in our community through your generosity.

Breaking of the Bread is coming on Sunday, August 2!

After each service on Sunday, Aug 2 please stop by the bread table in the narthex and pick up a loaf of bread for your family. Please share the bread with your family, friends or neighbors during Harbor Days. Share your faith with those who do not know Jesus and deepen the faith of those who already know him by sharing your table and breaking bread with them. The bread comes with a suggestion sheet on how you might share your bread.

Listening for God – New Contemplative Prayer Gathering

All are invited to join *Listening for God*, our contemplative prayer gathering, as we seek a deeper awareness of God's presence through silence, prayer, and reflection. **The next gathering will be Tuesday, July 28 at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary.**

We normally meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Come experience a peaceful time of resting in God's presence and listening for God's guidance.

Harbor Voices Concerts – Thursday, August 6 & Friday, August 7 at 7:00PM

We are hosting the Harbor Voices special concert of Patriotic Music at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 6 and Friday, August 7, as part of the Harbor Days celebrations. Come celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country!

Is God Calling You to Serve?

From our Church Nominations Team:

We have good news! All positions for Session and the Trustees are now filled. Thanks be to God!

We are now looking for just two more people to serve as **Deacons** for the church. Our Deacons are a great group of people who lead ministries of care, compassion, and service to both our church and community, providing help with communion preparation, funeral hospitality, coffee on Sunday mornings, and occasional visitation to homebound members of the church.

Could God be nudging your heart to serve in this important ministry?

If so, please contact a member our Church Nominating Team: Judy Husby (Co-Chair), Betty Tezak (Co-Chair), Joanne Teague, Lynda Nichols, Tom Klingler, and Chad Vergote.

Joyful Abundance! Women's Conference on Saturday, September 19

Save the date September 19 for Joyful Abundance! Psalm 16:11 "In Your presence is fullness of joy." The Antrim County Christian Community of Churches is having a Women's Conference featuring author/writer Christine Hoy. It is on Saturday, Sept 19 from 9-2 at the Bellaire High School Performing Arts Center. We will be carpooling to Bellaire. Cost is \$20 pp. including lunch. Sign up online at www.tinyurl.com/ACWC2026 or contact Marcia Sumerix for more information.

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 – Thank you for supporting the Elk Rapids Community Cupboard! The Cupboard is open twice every other week: Saturday from 9:00–11:00 a.m. and Tuesday from 4:00–6:30 p.m. Visit elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com or call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information.



Discover Your Gifts! Take our quick Ministry Match 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!

This Week's Activities

Sun. 7/26

- 9:15 a Future Planning Town Hall-style Meeting
- 10:30 a One Outdoor Service

Mon. 7/27

Tues. 7/28

- 12:00 p Contemplative Prayer – Sanc.
- 3:00 p Harbor Voices Prac. – Sanc.
- 7:00 p Zoom Future Planning Town Hall-style Meeting

Wed. 7/29

- Carpet Cleaning FH & Sanc.
- 6:30 p Praise Team Prac.
- 7:00 p Session Meeting

Thurs. 7/30

- Carpet Cleaning FH & Sanc.
- 7:30 a Men's Bible Study – AE

Fri. 7/31

- 10:30 a Choir Rehearsal – FH