9 AM Contemporary Service ● Sunday, November 22, 2026

Order of Worship

The Gathering:

Countdown

Welcome — Kyle Ripley

Invitation to Worship — Dawson Cramer

Leader: God's love is like a river that never stops flowing! It brings life, hope, and healing to all the world. And the wonderful thing is that God invites us to share that love with others!

All: Loving God, we are here to worship You! Speak to us today!

Praise Songs – ***"Let's Trust In Jesus"***
"Marvelous Light"

Greet your neighbor!

(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!)

Children's Message — Paul Wonacott

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

The Word:

Scripture Reading – Revelation 22:1-7

Message – "The Tree of Life and the Healing of Nations" — Rev. Jim Porter

Response & Sending:

Time for Reflection and Song of Response – ***"Gratitude"***

Reception and Welcome of New Members

Jane Bauer — Tim and Cheryl Zetterholm
Steve and Susie Louiselle

Prayer of Thanksgiving & 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.

Minute for Stewardship — Anne Conrad

Giving Back to God — Jeff Seiple

Leader: Throughout these past weeks, we have been reminded that God is the source of every blessing, and that the living water of Christ is meant to flow through us into the world. Today, as we bring our gifts and make our commitments for the coming year, we do so not out of obligation, but out of joy and gratitude for all that God has done for us. Our generosity is one way we participate in God's ongoing work of bringing hope, healing, and new life to others.

Let us give with thankful hearts, trusting that God will use our gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.

(Everyone is invited to come forward as we sing and place your pledge card on the communion table at this time.)

Song of Gratitude – ***"Give Thanks"***

Announcements — Rev. Jim Porter

- Next Sunday is ONE 10:30AM Service + Lunch & Decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas!
- Advent Series, "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday!" & Supper begins Monday, Nov. 30 at 5:30PM

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 and Benediction

Leader: Go now in the joy and abundance of God's grace. Remember that the river of life is not meant to stop with us, but to flow through us, bringing hope, healing, and love to a thirsty world. So go with grateful hearts, generous spirits, and a willingness to share God's blessings with others. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, now and always.

All: Amen.

Postlude – ***"This Little Light Of Mine"***

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Kevin & Kathy Rogols, our snack volunteers: Bonnie Johnson & Sue Louiselle, and our coffee volunteers: Bonnie Johnson & Sue Louiselle.

SERVING CHRIST & COMMUNITY
150 YEARS
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ELK RAPIDS
EST 1874
INTRODUCE, DEEPEN, DEMONSTRATE

10:30 AM Traditional Service ● Sunday, November 22, 2026

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *"Oceans"* by Sorenson

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Jim Porter

- Today we welcomed 5 New Members in the 9AM Service: Jane Bauer, Steve & Susie Louiselle, and Tim & Cheryl Zetterholm
- Next Sunday is ONE 10:30AM Service + Lunch & Decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas!
- Advent Series, "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday!" & Supper begins Monday, Nov. 30 at 5:30PM

Invitation and Centering Words

Leader: God's love is like a river that keeps on flowing! It brings life and hope wherever it goes. Today, let's open our hearts to God's love, so that it can flow through us and bring blessings to others.

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship — Lynda Nichols

Leader: Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.
People: Come, let us rejoice in the abundant life that flows from God!
Leader: On either side of the river stands the Tree of Life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.
People: God's love and grace are meant for all people, in every place, everywhere!
Leader: We are called to be channels of God's living water, sharing God's gifts with a thirsty world.
All: With grateful hearts and generous spirits, let us worship the God of life, love, and hope!

Opening Prayer — Lynda Nichols

All: Gracious and loving God, you are the source of all life and the giver of every good gift. Your love flows like a river, bringing hope where there is despair, healing where there is brokenness, and new life where it is needed most. As we gather in worship today, open our hearts to the power of your presence and the abundance of your grace. Remind us that all we have and all we are come from you, and that we are called to share these gifts generously with others. May our worship fill us with gratitude, deepen our trust in you, and inspire us to join in your work of bringing healing and hope to the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 643 – ***"Now Thank We All Our God"***

Prayer of Confession — Lynda Nichols

All: Gracious God, you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts, yet too often we hold tightly to what we have rather than sharing freely with others. We confess that we sometimes allow fear and uncertainty to guide our decisions rather than trusting in your goodness and grace. We become so focused on our own needs that we fail to see the needs of others. Forgive us, Lord. Open our hearts to the river of your living water. Renew in us a spirit of generosity, gratitude, and compassion, so that your love may flow through us to bring hope and healing to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon — Lynda Nichols

Leader: Hear the good news! The river of God's grace never runs dry. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to begin again. God's love continues to flow, bringing healing and new life to all who receive it.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace — Lynda Nichols

Leader: The peace of Christ is a gift meant not only for us, but for the whole world. As we share Christ's peace with one another, may we become instruments of God's healing love. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

(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 – *"Thanksgiving Canticle"* by Hayes

Scripture Reading – Revelation 22:1-7

Sermon — "The Tree of Life and the Healing of Nations" — Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 655 – ***"What Shall I Render to the Lord"***

Prayer of Thanksgiving & 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.

Minute for Stewardship Anne Conrad

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Leader: Throughout these past weeks, we have been reminded that God is the source of every blessing, and that the living water of Christ is meant to flow through us into the world. Today, as we bring our gifts and make our commitments for the coming year, we do so not out of obligation, but out of joy and gratitude for all that God has done for us. Our generosity is one way we participate in God's ongoing work of bringing hope, healing, and new life to others.

Let us give with thankful hearts, trusting that God will use our gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.

(Everyone is invited to come forward as we sing "Give Thanks" and place your pledge card on the communion table at this time.)

Closing Hymn 647 – ***"Give Thanks"***

Prayer of Dedication

All: Generous and loving God, all that we have comes from you. With joyful and grateful hearts, we offer these gifts and our commitments for the coming year as an expression of our love and trust in you. Bless these offerings, and use them to strengthen your Church, share the good news of Jesus Christ, and bring hope and healing to our community and world. May we always be faithful channels of your living water, allowing your love to flow freely through us to others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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Charge and Benediction

Leader: Go now in the joy and abundance of God's grace. Remember that the river of life is not meant to stop with us, but to flow through us, bringing hope, healing, and love to a thirsty world.
So go with grateful hearts, generous spirits, and a willingness to share God's blessings with others.
And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, now and always.

All: Amen.

Benediction Response – *"Let There Be Peace On Earth"*

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers: Pam Coleman & Ken Kohlman, our snack volunteer, and our coffee volunteers: Bonnie Johnson & Sue Louiselle.

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 Treasurer@erfpc.org. Thank you!

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

Consecration Sunday: The Flow — Let Generosity Bring Life

"Wherever the river flows, everything will live." — Ezekiel 47:9

A river brings life wherever it flows. Our faith and generosity are called to do the same, reaching beyond our church walls and into the lives of our neighbors.

One of our church's strategic priorities is to Be Intentional About Being a Better Neighbor. Through ministries like the Community Cupboard and our recent Coat Drive, we already see God's love at work. But there are more neighbors to know, needs to understand, and opportunities to serve.

Who are our neighbors? What do they need? How can we make a difference?

Your 2027 pledge helps turn these questions into action, supporting a church that listens, welcomes, serves, and shares God's love throughout our community.

When generosity flows, our neighbors flourish.

Today Is Consecration Sunday! Today, November 22, is Consecration Sunday! As we gather in worship, we invite every household to prayerfully dedicate their commitment for 2027. Please bring your completed pledge card forward during worship as we offer our gifts in gratitude and faith, supporting God's work through our church.

Pledge cards are available in the narthex and from the ushers. For electronic giving information, contact Kevin Rogols at krogols@gmail.com.

Lord, keep the water moving. Where it flows, let everything live. Amen.

First Sunday of Advent – ONE 10:30 AM Service on November 29

Join us as we begin the Season of Advent together in worship and anticipation! On Sunday, November 29, we will gather as one church family for **ONE worship service at 10:30 a.m.** Come as we light the first candle of Advent and enter this sacred season of hope, peace, joy, and love. Let's begin our Advent journey united in spirit and song as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Hanging of the Greens & Lunch – Sunday, November 29 After One 10:30AM Service

Join us for Hanging of the Greens and lunch after the One 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, November 29! We'll gather to decorate the church, enjoy lunch, and celebrate the start of Advent together. All ages are encouraged to attend—come enjoy food, fellowship and the joy of preparing our church and our hearts for Advent!

Join Us for Advent Candle Lighting! Each Sunday morning in Advent, a family, group, or individual lights the candles on our Advent Wreath and shares a short devotional from Pastor Jim. It's a wonderful way to be part of our worship—kids are more than welcome to join in! **Stop by the Activity Center to sign up for a Sunday that works for you.**

Advent Series & Soup Suppers – Mondays November 30, December 7 & 14

Rediscover the true meaning of Advent. We will be discussing a video series by Mike Slaughter called Christmas is Not Your Birthday. As the holidays begin, the author explores how we can refocus ourselves from presents, Santa Claus, and busyness that robs us of the true meaning of Christmas to experiencing the joy of living and giving like Jesus.

Join us on Mondays starting Nov 30, Dec 7 and Dec 14 at 5:30 p.m. for a soup supper followed by a video presentation and discussion. Please sign up in at the Activity Center and rediscover the true meaning of Christmas for yourself.

Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Everyone is invited to a community Christmas Concert in Elk Rapids on Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary, and at the Fine Arts Auditorium at Bellaire High School on Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m. We're excited to have good group of local singers, with music directors Dorothy Clore and Cheryl Knight. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this special concert!

Christmas Pageant – One 10:30AM Service on December 20

All children and youth are invited to participate in our Christmas Pageant during our one 10:30 AM worship service! Speaking and non-speaking roles are available for all ages. Rehearsals will take place during Sunday morning youth group, with a dress rehearsal at 9:00 AM on December 20. Come be part of this fun and meaningful celebration of Jesus' birth! To participate or learn more, contact Tara Denherder at taradenherder8@gmail.com or (231) 590-5346.

Listening for God – Contemplative Prayer Gathering Join us for a peaceful time of contemplative prayer, silence, and reflection as we seek a deeper awareness of God's presence. Our next gathering is Tuesday, December 8 at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. **Please note that *Listening for God* will now meet only on the second Tuesday of each month.** All are welcome!

Alzheimer's & Dementia Caregiver Support Group – 3rd Friday 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.

Lost & Found – Missing Something? Have you misplaced something at church? Be sure to check our Lost & Found, located by the coat rack in the narthex! Items will be kept for two months, so please take a moment to look through and claim anything that belongs to you. You might just find what you've been missing!

Community Cupboard – It's Community Cash time again! Save your Village Market receipts dated Sept. 7, 2026–May 31, 2027 and donate them to the Community Cupboard Food Pantry. Place receipts in the basket by the Narthex mail slots, mail them to Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629, or give them to Pam Coleman.

The Cupboard is open every other week: Saturday, 9:00–11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, 4:00–6:30 p.m. For more information, visit elkrapidscommunitycupboard.com or call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239.

This Week's Activities

Sun. 11/22
9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a SS & Youth – LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 11/23

Tues. 11/24
9:00 a Ash St. Women's Grp – Cf
10:00 a Bible Girls – AE

Wed. 11/25

Thurs. 11/26 - Thanksgiving
Office Closed

Fri. 11/27 – Office Closed

Sat. 11/28
10:00 a Concert Prac. – Sanc.