

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, February 5, 2023
9 AM Contemporary Service
Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

40 Days of Prayer Video Message

Marcia Sumerix

Worship Songs – ***“Raise A Hallelujah”***
“Trust In You”

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Micah 6:1-8
Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon “The Gift of Poetic (and Prophetic!) Imagination”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“Redeemed”***

Celebration of Communion

*For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice.
After partaking of the elements, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.*

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.

Presentation of Offering and Connection Cards

Closing Song – ***“Old Church Choir”***

Charge and Blessing

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.**

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Chris & Caitlyn White, and our snack volunteer: Shelia Conrad.

Thank you to our communion servers: Lorraine Berak, Shelia Conrad, Don Reynolds, and Lynne Sheldon.

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, February 5, 2023
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Pre Music – “*Hypnosis*” by Clarke

Prelude – “*Say It Loud*” arr. by Hayes

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

40 Days of Prayer Video Message

Marcia Sumerix

Invitation and Centering Words (*1 Corinthians 1:25*)

The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: What does God require of us?

People: To do justice.

Leader: What else does God want?

People: To love faithfully.

Leader: Anything else?

People: To walk humbly with God.

All: Come, let us approach God today in a spirit of justice, love, and humility.

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

All: Come, Holy Wisdom, and show us your ways. In our confusing world, many voices demand our attention. Teach us to look at others with your eyes. Help us walk humbly beside you—doing what is right, speaking your truth. You alone are our guide and guardian on paths of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

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

Prayer of Confession (*Matthew 5*)

Sandi Gray

All: God of compassion, we are overwhelmed by the struggles of life. We hunger and thirst for righteousness, but find ourselves feeling empty. We grieve in seasons of loss, feeling hopeless and lost. We want to show mercy, but we hold on to old resentments. We want to make peace, but we don’t even know where to begin. Come with your wisdom and guide us in your ways. Renew us and inspire us to live faithfully, as you walk beside us. Amen.

(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Sandi Gray

Jesus speaks words of blessing to those who struggle, offering joy and gladness each and every day. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Anthem – “*Total Devotion*” by Grassi

Scripture Reading – Micah 6:1-8
Matthew 5:1-12

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “The Gift of Poetic (and Prophetic!) Imagination” Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 530 – **“One Bread, One Body”**

Celebration of Communion

*For Communion today everyone is invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive the gluten free bread and juice.
After partaking of the elements, you may return to your seat by the side aisle.*

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.

Presentation of Offering and Connection Cards

Closing Hymn – **“I’ll Fly Away”**

Verse 1

**Some glad morning when this life is o’er,
I’ll fly away;
To a home on God’s celestial shore,
I’ll fly away.**

Chorus

**I’ll fly away, O glory, I’ll fly away;
When I die, hallelujah, by and by,
I’ll fly away.**

Verse 2

**When the shadows of this life have gone,
I’ll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I’ll fly away.**

[Chorus]

Verse 3

**Just a few more weary days and then,
I’ll fly away;
To a land where joys shall never end,
I’ll fly away.**

[Chorus]

CCLI Song # 26399 / CCLI#764321

Charge and Blessing

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

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

Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you Katherine Beier for playing flute today.

Thank you. Special thanks to our usher: Don Reynolds, and our snack volunteer: Betty Tezak.

Thank you to our communion servers: Sandy Davids, Sandi Gray, Mary Anne Frey, and John Werner.

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.

Having trouble hearing the service? We have an induction hearing loop system for hearing aid users. Please switch your hearing aids to “T” or see the sound technician for help.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 12

Session Calls an All Congregation Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 12 in person and via Zoom immediately following worship at approximately 11:45 a.m. to (1) approve the minutes of the 2022 Congregational meeting as printed, or with additions and/or corrections, and receive the 2022 Ministry Teams’ and Committees’ Annual Reports, (2) approve the pastor’s terms of call for 2023, (3) receive the Session-approved 2023 operating budget, and (4) conduct any other business that needs to come before the congregation.

Copies of the annual reports are available electronically and on the welcome table in the narthex. Non-members are welcome to attend. Members are asked to attend. Please remember that our bylaws require that 10 percent (31 people) of our active membership be present for a quorum.

Church Family Day – Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 PM

Mark your calendar and plan to attend Church Family Day on Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 p.m. for ice fishing and outdoor fun with dinner at the Lighthouse following the outdoor activities. Everyone is welcome! Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 for details and to reserve your spot.

40 Days of Prayer – Join a Small Group Today!

Are you facing difficult times and needing a breakthrough? Do you wish you prayed with more confidence and greater faith? So do we! Join the First Pres of Elk Rapids and others in our community for a special prayer campaign, 40 Days of Prayer, as we grow in faith together throughout the Lenten season. Through weekly small groups, Sunday sermon teachings and study of God's word on prayer we'll grow together and experience God's amazing power as we pray like never before! Starting with a special sermon series beginning on Sunday, February 26, and continuing through Easter Sunday, April 9 with weekly small group meetings all days and times of week; even on Zoom! Sign up for a small group in the narthex or on the church's website <http://www.erfpc.org/40-days-of-prayer-small-group-sign-up>. A suggested \$10 donation for the workbook is optional. For questions about joining a small group or hosting a small group contact Marcia Sumerix at 989-964-1420 or sumerixmj60@gmail.com.

Life in the Fast Chain

You are again invited to participate in a shared time of faith awareness and sacrifice during Lent. For the past several years, persons from our community of faith have participated in a continuous chain fast. From Ash Wednesday through Maundy Thursday each year, congregants and friends of the church have volunteered to fast on one or more days so that at least one person is maintaining a juice and water fast for an appointed day. Fasting is an excellent way to center one’s thoughts within the human mystery and hope that accompany the approach of the Resurrection. Each person who fasts is reminded of Christ’s sacrifice, his or her own sacrifice, and the sacrifices of others. Preparation and fasting instructions are available at the Activity Center. Please contact Ken Kohlman if you are interested at 847-722-5175, or by e-mail at kendkohlman@me.com.

Wired Word – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Have you ever wondered how the Bible could help us with many of the troubling things that are going on in the world today? Wired Word is a Bible based look at how we can discuss and see world events from a different view point. Contact Klaus Lehrer at klauslehrer@yahoo.com to get on the Wired Word email list so you can join this informative group. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

“The Chosen” Season 2 – 8 Mondays from 6-7:30PM Beginning January 2

All sessions are from 6-7:30 p.m. If you cannot make it to all the sessions, please join us at any time you can during the 8 sessions. You can download on your phone or tablet the whole season for free at thechosen.tv. Please sign up at the activity center in the Narthex and take your book for Season 2. We will be taking \$5 donations for the books on January 2nd.

We’re Hiring – Contemporary Worship Director

We are looking for a musically-gifted, spiritually mature Christian to lead our Contemporary Worship Services at First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids. The ideal candidate will have experience in planning and leading worship at a similar sized church (about 300 members) and experience in recruiting and developing worship teams. 20 hours per week. Salary based on experience. For a full job description and application, please contact the church office at 231-264-8167 or info@erfpc.org.

Volunteers Needed for our Sunday Morning AV Team!

We are looking for volunteers to join our Sunday morning AV Team. Training is provided. If you are interested, please contact Shawn Pollack at av.team@erfpc.org or feel free to talk to him after the service.

A Trip to Scotland with Pastors Jim and Jaime – Only 4 Spots Left!

If you would like to travel Scotland with Pastors Jim and Jaime, there are only 4 spots left! The remaining spots will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. If you are thinking about going, please contact Pastor Jim as soon as possible at jporter@erfpc.org!

Men’s Bible Study – 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 AM at Happy Camper Coffee

All the men of the church are invited to join Pastor Jim for a bi-weekly Bible study that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:30 a.m. at Happy Camper Coffee. Join us for a thoughtful study, good conversation, and fellowship with other men as we journey through life together!

Sunday School & Youth Group – 10:00AM at the Lighthouse

If you have children through the 5th grade or youth, make plans now to bring them to Sunday School and Youth Group each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at the Lighthouse. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions.

It’s Community Cash time again! Please keep all your Village Market receipts dated **Sept 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023** and turn them into the Elk Rapids Community Cupboard. They can be placed in the ERCC box in the Narthex, the brown donation box outside the cupboard, or mailed to ERCC Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI. Thank you so much.

This Week’s Activities

Sun. 2/5

9:00 a Contemporary Service
10:00 a Sunday School & Youth @ LH
10:30 a Traditional Service

Mon. 2/6

9:00 a Deacons Meeting - FHall
5:30 p “The Chosen” Group – FHall

Tues. 2/7

6:30 p Endowment MT – Office Conf.
7:00 p Hospitality – Conf.

Wed. 2/8

6:30 a Breakfast Club @ LH
9:00 a Bulletin Items Due
1:00 p 40 Days of Prayer Team Meeting – Conf
3:00 p Up North Small Group – FHall
6:30 p Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 2/9

7:00 p Trustees - FHall

Fri. 2/10

No Choir Rehearsal