

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, April 11, 2021
Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Fantasia in D Minor”* by Mozart

Welcome

Announcements

Rev. Jim Porter

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Leader: Something deep inside calls us,

People: Beckons us.

Leader: We are looking for truth

People: That anchors us in the midst of competing voices.

Leader: We are longing for hope,

People: Even in the midst of these difficult and troubling times.

Leader: We are searching for life,

People: That sparkles with joy and glows with warmth.

Leader: We are finding our way

People: To Christ, to community, to love.

Leader: And we are bold to sing

All: A song of resurrection!

Opening Prayer

All: O God of all our days, we come this morning with eager anticipation. We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you. Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew. Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection. May we, with shouts of joy, proclaim your steadfast, liberating love to all people, everywhere. Amen.

Opening Hymn – *“Christ Is Alive!”* (verses 1, 2 & 5)

Verse 1

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

Verse 2

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,**

**but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

Verse 5

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

CCLI#764321

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Anthem – *“Footsteps”* by Courtney

Scripture Reading – John 20:19-31

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“It’s Okay to Doubt!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Sharing Our Stories – Don Reynolds

Responsive Anthem – *“The Colors of Your Grace”* by Hayes

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.

Offering

Closing Hymn – *“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”*

Verse 1

**In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

Verse 2

**There’s a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there’s a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

Verse 3

**In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

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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 – *“Alla Turca”* by Mozart

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

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 Financial Manager, Liz Atkinson, at 231-313-6126. Again, we thank everyone for their continued support of the ministries and mission of the church!

Welcome Back! Welcome Home!

We are pleased to announce that our church sanctuary is now open for in-person Worship!

Services in the Sanctuary Resume - Masks are required and space is limited, so please phone ahead at 231-264-8167 if you plan to attend so that we will know how many to prepare for.

Online Services Continue - Services will also continue to be available online on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FPCElkRapids1874) and our website at www.erfpc.org for those who choose to worship from home.

Everyone is encouraged to take into consideration their own health and decide whether to worship in the sanctuary or at home. We are doing everything to be as safe as possible, but there are still risks in gathering.

We will be safe and abide by the following rules:

1. Taking Temperatures

Temperatures will be taken with touchless thermometers when you arrive.

2. Wear a Mask!

Everyone who enters the church must cover their nose and mouth with a mask. We will provide a mask if people forget to bring one and plenty of hand sanitizer available to sanitize hands upon entering the church.

3. Limit Numbers in Sanctuary

We will allow up to 60 people per Sunday in the sanctuary and up to 30 in the Fellowship Hall for sanctuary overflow to ensure the appropriate social distance. Families may sit together.

4. Please Call Ahead

We are requesting, but not requiring, everyone to please call the church office at 231-264-8167 or email at

info@erfpc.org if you plan to attend in person. This will enable us to best prepare for worship.

5. Hum Instead of Singing

Worship will be different in the sanctuary. For example, we will have special music every Sunday, but congregants will be asked to hum (or listen) instead of singing. There will be no hymnals or other materials in the pews - all to limit the spread of the virus.

6. Bring Your Own Beverage

You are welcome to bring your own (covered) beverage, but there will be no coffee or snacks at this time.

7. Socialize Outdoors

We will worship inside and visit outside.

8. Love One Another

Your patience, kindness, and understanding are sincerely appreciated!

Plus, childcare will be available during worship! Children (ages 0-3) may be taken to the church nursery and children (ages 4-7) will be supervised in one of the Sunday school rooms. **Parents, please phone ahead and let us know if you plan to use childcare so that we may prepare adequately for your children.** Thanks!

Philippians 2:2-4 says: *"Be of the same mind, having the same love, being of full accord and one mind... In humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."*

We are grateful to be a part of such a loving and caring congregation! Thank you for your cooperation as we journey through this together! Keep the faith!

In Christ's Love, The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids

Unshakable Hope – Small Group Study

What is shaking in your world at this time? Is hope hard to come by? Life is filled with problems but God's Word is filled with promises. What if we filtered our lives and challenges through the promises of God? ***Unshakeable Hope: Building on the Promises of God***, written by Max Lucado, focuses on twelve of the Bible's most significant promises. Since God's Word is unbreakable, our Hope is unshakable! Equip yourself with promises which will help you overcome difficult circumstances, give you security, and help you make wise decisions.

Join a study group! Here are some options:

	Monday Mornings	Monday Evenings	Tuesday Mornings	Wednesday Evenings	Form Your Own Small Group
Time	10-11:30 AM	7-8 PM	10-11 AM	7:30-9 PM	Contact Nancy Muhlig for assistance 231-632-3712
Dates	April 12 – May 17	April 12 – May 17	April 13 – May 18	April 14 – May 19	
Type of Group	In Person - dvd	Online	Online	In Person - dvd	
Location	Fellowship Hall	Zoom	Zoom	Fellowship Hall	
Facilitator	Pam Coleman	Nancy Muhlig	Marcia Sumerix & Robin Osterhaven	Pastor Jim	
Max. # of Participants	10 – Masks & Social Distancing Required	8	8	10 – Masks & Social Distancing Required	
Contact to Register	Pam Coleman pbj0607@me.com	Nancy Muhlig nmuhlig@charter.net	Robin Osterhaven rosterhaven1977@gmail.com	Ellen Merillat info@erfpc.org	

There are 14 chapters in the book. Two or three will be studied each week.

In an effort to encourage shopping locally, the Adult Ed Ministry Team worked with **Word Love, near Ice Cream Peddlers on River St. in Elk Rapids**, and books are now available to be purchased at Word Love with a 10 percent discount (\$17.10 plus tax).

"Kingdom Kids" virtual Sunday School is OPEN for LOCAL REGISTRATION!

Congratulations to 11 of our Kingdom Kids who have met the March "Bible Basics" Challenge and earned a picture petal on our March challenge flower!

To discover more about what their age-leveled challenge entails and other Kingdom Kids info, please check out the hearts on our "Treasure Garden" board at the church entrance.

All kids through 5th grade are invited to register and attend our virtual Sunday School Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. We'll use ZOOM for our opening, and then "zooom" into small groups!

Some of our youth will lead catchy bible memory songs with motions for full family fun. Small group time, led by our teacher "coaches," will feature connections with friends, bible stories and real-life stories, interactive activities, and age leveled challenges.

To sign-up, email Ruth4KingdomKids@gmail.com with: your cell phone #, your first and last name, and child's name, grade & birth date (M/D/Y) (Repeat for each child). You will receive a text confirmation and an invitation to join our Zoom meeting. Our team is excited to meet you there!

New for You (in the Pew) – Connection Cards!

If you look in your pew back this Sunday, you'll see some new information cards to help us get better connected. Please fill out a card if you are interested in joining one of our many ministry teams, if you have a prayer request, or if this is your first visit to our church. The cards can be placed in the box at the Activity Center or the offering box.

Celebration of Service for Pastor Sandy – After 17 + years of service to First Presbyterian Church Pastor Sandy is moving on to a well-deserved new adventure. She is planning on moving to San Antonio Texas to be closer to her son. We hope you will join us on Sunday, April 25 to honor Pastor Sandy and her many years of dedication to our church. You may participate in several ways. First, you can come and see Pastor Sandy at the service on April 25. Be sure to pick up a cupcake on your way out and spend some time with her outside the church. Secondly, if you do not come to church, you can come in your car and drive by the church and wish her goodbye starting at 12:20 p.m. Third, everyone can shower her with cards. We will have a large decorated bag in the narthex for your cards. If you wish to contribute to her new adventure nest egg please put it in your card. Finally, everyone whether they are back in MI or not can send a card to Pastor Sandy at the church and they will be placed in the bag for her. We hope you will make some plans to say goodbye to Pastor Sandy and send best wishes.

VBS Volunteers Needed – Week of June 21-25 from 9-11 AM

As a church we looking forward to offering an in-person Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year. The dates for this year's VBS are June 21 - 25, 9:00am - 11:00am. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 as soon as possible if you are able to help with this year's VBS, we need group leaders, stations leaders, registration team and support staff. So, if you can help at any point that week, we will have a job for you.

Join the Contemporary Worship Team! Do you sing or play an instrument? Do you have a heart for the Lord? Do you want to be more involved in the contemporary service? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then consider joining the contemporary worship team! We are especially needing pianists and guitarists but everyone who is interested in joining should reach out. If you are interested in joining the worship team, please contact Rachel Stratton at rachstratton1@gmail.com