

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, December 6, 2020**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “In Christ Alone”

Verse 1

**In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

Verse 2

**In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live**

Verse 3

**There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

Verse 4

**No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

CCLI Song # 3350395 / CCLI License # 764321

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Song – “God With Us”

Verse 1

**Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life to be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel God with us**

Chorus

**Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us**

Verse 2

**Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us**

Chorus

**Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us**

Bridge

**You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory
(REPEAT)**

Chorus

**Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us
Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us
Oh God with us
You are God with us**

CCLI Song # 6460237 / CCLI License # 764321

Advent Candle Lighting

Greg & Jennifer Snyder & Family

Reader 1: Waiting is hard in a fast-paced society. We want the stoplight to change quickly, the grocery line to move fast, and Christmas morning to arrive soon. We forget that before good things happen, preparations must be made.

Reader 2: Last week we lit a candle of Hope and remembered those who first spoke the promise of the coming Christ child.

[Light the blue candle that was lit last week.]

The second candle on the Advent Wreath is the candle of Peace. It is a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

Reader 3: [Light another blue candle]

Two candles, burning bright,
chasing away the darkness from light.
Two candles, glowing light,
The blessing of God, giving new sight.

Reader 4: A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11:1-10)

All: Come, Holy God, come and save us. Come, Holy Christ, come and touch us. Come, Holy Spirit, come and revive us. Come and turn us around, and point us to your kingdom. Amen.

Worship Song – “Advent Hymn”

Verse 1

**Christ whose glory fills the skies
Christ the everlasting light
Son of righteousness arise
And triumph o'er these chains of mine**

Verse 2

**Come thou long awaited One
In the fullness of Your love
And loose this heart bound up by shame
And I will never be the same**

Chorus

**So here I've waited hope of You
All my soul's longing through and through
Dayspring from on high be near
And Daystar in my heart appear**

Verse 3

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
Until Your love in me is born
And joyless is the evening song
Until Emmanuel has come**

Chorus

**So here I've waited hope of You
All my soul's longing through and through
Dayspring from on high be near
And Daystar in my heart appear**

**So here I've waited hope of You
All my soul's longing through and through
Dayspring from on high be near
And Daystar in my heart appear**

CCLI Song # 7071465 / CCLI License # 764321

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Luke 4:16-19

Sermon “Sent! Delivering the Gift of Hope this Christmas”

Rev. Jim Porter

Song of Response – *“Who You Say I Am”*

Verse 1

**Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me**

Chorus

**Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

Verse 2

**Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me**

Chorus

**Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

Bridge

**I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am**

I am chosen not forsaken

**I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am**

Chorus

**Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

**In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

CCLI Song # 7102401 / CCLI License # 764321

Celebration of Communion

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.

Concluding Song – *“No Longer Slaves”*

Verse 1

**You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone**

Chorus

**I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God**

Verse 2

**From my Mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name**

**I've been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins**

Chorus

**I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God**

CCLI Song # 7030123 / CCLI License # 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.**

Postlude

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!

Opportunities to Get Involved

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting – We Need Your Help Now!!!

As you may know, we will not be able to meet in person for our Christmas Eve services this year, but we are still planning a very special, pre-recorded service for Christmas Eve and want as many people as possible from our church family to help out!

This is where YOU come in! We are looking for 100 people (or more!) to help with the candle lighting for the singing of “Silent Night” at the end of the service. We are asking you to record yourself and members of your family lighting a candle and then “virtually” passing along to the person next to you (off screen). We’ve posted directions for how to do this on our website: www.erfpc.org. It’s easy! Then, save it to the cloud and send us the link, so that you can be included in the Christmas Eve service. The more people we have participate the better!

Questions? Please contact the church office at 231-264-8167. Thanks, and plan now to join us on Christmas Eve!

Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army

Our church has signed for bell ringing for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with 1-hour time slots at the Village Market. Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 to reserve your spot today!

Christmas Caroling in the Village

We're also planning to go caroling on Saturday, December 12 with a time to be determined. Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions. Watch for more details.

Non-Food Donations for ACTS

To help our community during this difficult time, we are collecting non-food donations for Acme Christian Thrift Store & Food Pantry (ACTS). There is a need for items like laundry detergent, dish soap, soap, body soap, shampoo, tooth brushes, toothpaste, and mouthwash. The side door at the Lighthouse will be open on Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for donation drop off. Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions. Let's help meet the needs of those in our community!

Christmas Memorial Plants

Christmas is a time to honor loved ones with an \$10.00 donation for a poinsettia plant to decorate the church sanctuary. The names of those you wish to remember will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

To reserve your poinsettia, fill out the order form (on the table outside front doors or at Welcome Center in the narthex) and mail it with your donation by Friday, December 11 to the church at 404 Spruce Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church (Christmas Memorial). You can also email your form to the church office at info@erfpc.org and mail your check. Just make sure to indicate "Christmas Memorial" on the memo line so we'll be able to match your check with your order form. If you have any questions, call the church office at 231-264-8167.

Christmas Wreaths Available - Sunday Immediately Following the Service

Contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you would like to purchase a Christmas wreath from the youth group this year. Wreaths are \$25 each and will be available on Sunday mornings immediately following the service until 12:30 p.m. at the church.

2020 Annual Reports Due Friday, January 8

Ministry Teams and Group Chairpersons, now is the time to begin putting together your Annual Report, covering the activities of your group or ministry team for 2020. Please try to keep your report to one page, put it in a Word document, and email it to the office (info@erfpc.org) by 9 a.m. Friday, January 8, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Merillat (231-264-8167).