

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, December 26, 2021
11 AM Traditional Service

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Gonna Find that Baby”* by Drennan

Welcome

Wayne Potter

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Marcy Potter

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And hope to every discouraged heart.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And peace to every conflicted soul.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And joy to every downcast spirit.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: And love to everyone.

All: Let us sing praises to our God. Let us offer this light against the darkness.

Opening Hymn 151 – *“We Three Kings of Orient Are”*

Opening Prayer

Marcy Potter

All: Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. Amen.

Anthem – *“Listen to the Song”* by Metzger

Scripture Reading – Philippians 4:4-9

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Celebrating and Anticipating”

Wayne Potter

Hymn 142 – *“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”*

Anthem – *“One Little Star”* by Holtz

Recorder: Karyl Mangus

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 136 – ***“Go Tell It on the Mountain”***

Anthem – *“Carol for Christmastime”* by Pethel

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 – *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you. Special thanks to our ushers, and our snack volunteer.

Chancel flowers are placed by Betty Tezak in memory of John White on his 50th birthday.

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, Kim McCann, 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.

Are you struggling with addiction & recovery this holiday season?

Ken Kleyn is offering a small group for those struggling with addiction and recovery who would like some support, especially during this holiday season. If you are interested, please contact Ken at 231-649-0559. All contacts are highly confidential.

Kingdom Kids & Youth Group – Between Services at 10:20AM at the Lighthouse

We love the SPARKLE that Kingdom Kids and Lighthouse Youth bring to our church!

If you have children through the 5th grade or youth, make plans now to bring them to Sunday School and Youth Group each Sunday between services at the Lighthouse. Children and youth can begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. with Sunday School beginning at 10:20 a.m. The church library is also available for parents to grab a cup of coffee and relax during the Sunday School hour. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 with questions.

Family Camp – February 4-6 at Pleasant Valley Bible Camp

Please join us for Family Camp. We will be holding our first ever winter family camp February 4-6, at Pleasant Valley Bible Camp. The address is 3606 Wilson Rd #9261, East Jordan, MI 49727. The cost is \$85 per person and the cost includes; food, lodging and on-site activities. The camp is 18 minutes from Shanty Creek and there will be free time for families to ski on Saturday. This will be a time of spiritual renewal for your family and fellowship with other members of our church community. On

site activities include; swimming, sledding, ice fishing, and cross-country skiing. Please sign up at the Activity Center or contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you are interested.

THESE DAYS devotional booklets for January through March 2022 have arrived and are on the Welcome table in the narthex. Stop and pick up your copy today!

2021 Annual Reports Due Friday, January 7

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 2021. 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 7, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Merillat at the church office (231-264-8167).

Community Cash is back! Save your Village Market receipts dated between September 1, 2021 and May 30, 2022 and turn them in one of three ways: In the box labeled "Community Cash" in the left corner of the brown box outside the cupboard entrance (on Chippewa Street), place them in the Community Cupboard mail slot (lower left corner near the elevator) or mail them to Elk Rapids Community Cupboard, PO Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Thank you for your continuous support.

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.

Volunteers for Coffee Hour Snacks Needed

There is a sign up in the narthex for volunteers to bring in baked goods or snacks for our coffee hours each Sunday. If you would like to bake or bring in a snack, please mark it down on the sign up list. Please have your snack here by 8:30 a.m. for the Contemporary Service and 10:00 a.m. for the Traditional Service. Thank you for volunteering!

Continuing COVID Response – First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids

A Message from Pastor Jim

As you may know, Munson Healthcare has reported that COVID cases are on the rise in our local area and has raised their COVID response to level Red, the highest possible level of response. (You may click here for the full article from Munson: <https://www.munsonhealthcare.org/services/community-health/covid19/pandemic-status>.)

According to this article, Munson Healthcare is recommending that you:

- Get your COVID-19 vaccination at your earliest opportunity
- Wear a mask in public indoor and crowded outdoor spaces
- Practice proper hand hygiene
- Avoid large gatherings when possible
- Continue your regular screening and preventive care schedule

With this in mind and with the input of the COVID Task Force, we are highly recommending once again that everyone, regardless of their vaccination status, wear a mask when attending church. This is for the sake of your own health, as well as the sake of others, especially for the elderly and those who are most vulnerable to the COVID virus. And as always, if you are not feeling well or may have been exposed to the virus, please stay at home and not gather with others in public.

Worship services will continue to be offered online for those who are uncomfortable or unable to come church. You can access all services on Facebook or by going to our church website: www.erfpc.org.

Your understanding and cooperation at this time are greatly appreciated.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jim

Covid Guidelines

We're pleased to announce the following guidelines:

- Allow the choir/praise band to return to full numbers.
- Continue to use the prepackaged cups/wafers for Communion through October.
- Continue to leave bulletins on the lectern through October.
- Allow coffee/snacks to be served in doors beginning in July.
- Allow food to be served in the Fellowship Hall for events/meetings beginning June 26.
- Reopen the Lighthouse for use by the church and community.
- Continue to keep the offertory boxes in the narthex through October.
- Continue to highly recommend masks for those adults who are not vaccinated and for children over the age of 2.

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