

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021**  
**5 PM Contemporary Family Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“I Heard the Bells”*

Children’s Handbells

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Presenting Baby Jesus

Harry & Polly Conrad

Call to Worship

Keegan Fosdick

Leader: Rejoice and sing!

**People: A child is born!**

Leader: Sing songs of praise.

**People: For the Prince of Peace is in our midst.**

Leader: Rejoice and sing!

**All: For tonight, Christ is born! Hallelujah. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Claire Cannon

**All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, be born in our hearts this night. Shine your light into the darkness of our world, that all the earth might know your glorious presence and that all people might find hope in your love and grace. In your glorious name, we pray. Amen.**

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Song – *“The First Noel”*

Children’s Handbells

Advent Candle Lighting

Bogard Family

Reader 1: Tonight, we light four candles of Advent and also the Christ candle.

The first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.  
*(Light first candle.)*

Reader 2: The second candle is called LOVE, because of God’s great love for us, revealed in Jesus.  
*(Light second candle.)*

Reader 3: The third candle is called JOY, because of God’s loving presence in our lives.  
*(Light third candle.)*

Reader 1: The fourth candle is called PEACE, the offer of God’s gentle, loving peace for our lives.  
*(Light fourth candle.)*

Reader 2: And now we light the Christ candle, reminding of the light of God’s love coming into the world.

Reader 3: A child cries out. New life begins, hope is born, and light shines forth for all to see.  
*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

**All: Come, all is ready. Let the light of Christ bring brightness to our hearts and lives and to all of the world!**

Song – *“Hope Was Born This Night”*

Scripture Reading – John 1:1-18

Message

“Living in God’s Hope!”

Pastor Jim

Song – ***“Joy To The World”***

Pastoral Prayer and 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.**

Responsive Song – ***“O Holy Night”***

Offering and Connection Cards

Carol of Light (*candle lighting and song*) – ***“Silent Night, Holy Night!”***

Benediction

Closing Song – ***“Glory (Let There Be Peace)”***



### **Christmas Eve Offering**

All loose and undesignated offering tonight will be designated for Disaster Relief for those who recently suffered the destruction of the tornados in the Midwest (*see last page of bulletin for details*).

**Thank you.** Special thanks to our ushers: Don & Sandy Davids.

### **One Morning Worship Service on December 26 at 11 AM**

You are invited to our one morning worship service on Sunday, December 26 at 11:00 a.m. Wayne Potter will preach and Cheryl Knight will direct this service filled with music. Don’t miss this special service!

## **First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021 7 PM Traditional Service**

### **Order of Worship**

Prelude – *“Glorious Light”* arr. by Shackley

Welcome and Crossing the Threshold  
*(Quieting our hearts and minds as we enter into God’s presence)*

Rev. Jim Porter

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Betty Tezak

Leader: Rejoice and sing!

**People: A child is born!**

Leader: Sing songs of praise.

**People: For the Prince of Peace is in our midst.**

Leader: Rejoice and sing!

**All: For tonight, Christ is born! Hallelujah. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Betty Tezak

**All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, be born in our hearts this night. Shine your light into the darkness of our world, that all the earth might know your glorious presence and that all people might find hope in your love and grace. In your glorious name, we pray. Amen.**

Presentation of the Christ Child

*(The baby Jesus is brought forward and placed in the manger, as the opening hymn is sung.)*

Opening Hymn 133 – **“O Come All Ye Faithful”** (verses 1, 3, 4)

Advent Candle Lighting

Curt & Deb McGee

Reader 1: Tonight, we light four candles of Advent and also the Christ candle.

The first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

*(Light first candle.)*

Reader 2: The second candle is called LOVE, because of God's great love for us, revealed in Jesus.

*(Light second candle.)*

Reader 1: The third candle is called JOY, because of God's loving presence in our lives.

*(Light third candle.)*

Reader 2: The fourth candle is called PEACE, the offer of God's gentle, loving peace for our lives.

*(Light fourth candle.)*

Reader 1: And now we light the Christ candle, reminding of the light of God's love coming into the world.

Reader 2: A child cries out. New life begins, hope is born, and light shines forth for all to see.

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

**All: Come, all is ready. Let the light of Christ bring brightness to our hearts and lives and to all of the world!**

Special Music – *“Mary Did You Know!”* arr. by DeCaesar

Laura Atkinson and Jeff Whittaker

Prayer of Confession

Betty Tezak

**All: Gracious and loving God, When the shadows of sin and sorrow surround us, shine on us with the light of your comfort and your grace. When the despair of the world overwhelms us, lift us with your promise of hope. When we forget the good news of your presence, cry out with your message of love, that we might hear and remember anew. Christ is born. Christ is with us. We are not alone. In your beloved name, we pray. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation.)*

Words of Assurance

Betty Tezak

We are not alone. We who were walking in darkness have seen a great light. Light has dawned, and the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to us, salvation to all. Thanks be to God.

Anthem – *“Mary's Little Boy Chile”* by Hairston

Ginny Dorner, Debbie Francis

Scripture Reading – John 1:1-18

Sermon

“Living in God's Hope!”

Rev. Jim Porter

Hymn 134 – **“Joy to the World”**

Pastoral Prayer and 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.**

Responsive Anthem – *“Beautiful Worship Noel”* by Choplin

Offering and Connection Cards

Closing Hymn 122 – **“Silent Night”**

*(The lighting of candles with the light of Christ passed throughout the congregation.)*

Charge and Benediction

*“The light shines in the darkness,  
And the darkness shall not overcome it.”  
(John 1:5)*

Postlude



### **Christmas Eve Offering**

All loose and undesignated offering tonight will be designated for Disaster Relief for those who recently suffered the destruction of the tornados in the Midwest (*see last page of bulletin for details*).

**Thank you.** Special thanks to our ushers: Don Reynolds, and Mel & Judy Matchett.

### **One Morning Worship Service on December 26 at 11 AM**

You are invited to our one morning worship service on Sunday, December 26 at 11:00 a.m. Wayne Potter will preach and Cheryl Knight will direct this service filled with music. Don't miss this special service!

### **Kingdom Kids & Lighthouse 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.

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## *Poinsettias—To Honor & Remember*

Shelia Conrad	In remembrance of Roger Conrad
Bill & Ginny Dorner	In remembrance of Bill and Frances Dorner
Don & Renee Fedrigo & Family	In remembrance of our parents Madeline & Harry Manby, and Marge & Don Fedrigo
Charlene & Dick Gray	In remembrance of Charlotte & George Wolcott, and Gladys & Ellwood Gray
Nancy Muhlig	In remembrance of Rich Muhlig
Phyllis Staley & Family	In remembrance of Richard Staley and Jeffrey Staley
Les & Joanne Teague	In remembrance of Vic & Betty Schwenke, Victor Schwenke III, and Les & Doris Teague, and in honor of Pastors Jim Porter & Jaime Klinger
Tezak Family	In remembrance of Jack White and John White
Gloria Jean Wheeler	In remembrance of Jack, O.T. & Viola Wheeler, and Glenn & Millie Miller
Doug & Kathy White	In remembrance of Marjorie Farnham, and Telfer & Ellen White
Asiala, Elmore, & Wonacott Families	In remembrance of Robert G. Wonacott, M.D., Michael R. Asiala, Barbara & George Wonacott, and Sam & Virginia Pfeiffer



## God is our refuge and strength



Moyfield, Ky, Dec. 12, 2021. Courtesy of State Farm (CC BY 2.0)

As night fell on December 10, powerful tornadoes ripped across several states, ending the lives of more than 100 people and wreaking devastation across many communities by morning. In the wake of these catastrophic storms, it is the role of people of faith to shine as light in this bleakest of winters. We are called to be the hands and feet of God to help to rebuild the lives of those who have experienced significant loss. We are invited to stand with them — and to stand together — bearing witness by our gifts and prayers that God is indeed incarnate among us.

**GIVE:** Gifts can be made online at [pcusa.org/DT21](https://pcusa.org/DT21), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device. Text PDA to 41444 to donate.

**ACT:** • Gift of the Heart Kits are a hands-on way to help others this Advent season ([pcusa.info/heart](https://pcusa.info/heart)).

- To register your interest in future rebuilding efforts, email [PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org](mailto:PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org). You will be notified when volunteer opportunities are available.



Stay informed and like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/PDAcares](https://facebook.com/PDAcares)), download resources at [pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources](https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources) and share updates with your congregation.

**PRAY:** *As we learn of another natural disaster, we pray. For those experiencing loss, may they feel comfort only your Holy Spirit can bring. We pray for wisdom and strength as they work to restore and repair their communities. May we heed your call, o God, to be co-creators with you in the caring of creation. May the hope, peace and love of the Christ child comfort and keep us all.*

—Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency

\$500  \$125  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.