

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, January 10, 2021**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Seek Ye First”* arr. by Wagner

Welcome

Announcements

Rev. Jim Porter

- Video – New series, *“Anxious for Nothing,”* starts next Sunday, January 17!

Ringling of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Leader: From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth.

People: From the waters of a womb, God’s blessed Son was given to us.

Leader: From the waters of a river, people were baptized and marked as God’s beloved children.

People: Praise be to God, whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.

Leader: Let us shout our love to God for God’s abundant grace and mercy.

All: Amen!

Opening Prayer

God who watches over us, offering us light and hope, be with us this day as we hear the story of Jesus’ baptism. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. May the image of the waters be for us an image of hope. Bring us closer to you, loving God. Embrace us again with your love. We open our hearts to you this day and always. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn 54 – *“Make a Joyful Noise to God!”* (verses 1 & 2)

Verse 1

**Make a joyful noise to God!
All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed,
unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name,
ages old, yet still the same.**

Verse 2

**Come and see what God has done,
great the blessings to the just:
walked the chosen through the sea,
brought their enemies to dust.
Let us lift a thankful voice
for God’s mercies, and rejoice!**

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Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Anthem – *“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”* by Forrest

Scripture Reading – Mark 1:1-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “The Gift of Baptism and Committed Community”

Rev. Jim Porter

Hymn of Response – *“You Are Mine”*

Caroline Asiala and Alejandro Cervantes
(Video used by permission.)

Special Prayers of Healing for Our Nation

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.

Closing Anthem 821 – “How Can I Keep From Singing?” (verses 1 & 4)

Verse 1

**My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

Refrain

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Verse 4

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!**

All things are mine since I am his!

How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

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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 – Organ

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you for participating in today's music: Karyl Mangus, Betty Tezak, and Ginny Dorner.

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

Feeling Overwhelmed? Searching for a greater sense of joy and peace in the coming year?

Join us for our new sermon series "Anxious for Nothing" beginning on Sunday, January 17! This series, based on the book by Max Lucado, will explore how we can weather the storm of these difficult times with the peace we can only find in Christ. Don't miss these life-changing messages!

Join a Small Group Today!

The Adult Ed team will again form small groups to discuss how to apply the learnings from the new sermon series “Anxious for Nothing” to our daily lives.

Options for small groups:

1. **Form your own group and choose how and when you want to meet.** The facilitator will receive a copy of Max Lucado's book "Anxious for Nothing" which includes discussion questions for each chapter. In addition, the facilitator will be given a study guide containing additional suggestions and questions. Participants may choose to download or order copies of the book although discussions will center on the content of Pastor Jim's sermons.
2. **Join an existing group which will meet weekly for five weeks via Zoom:**
 - a. Monday mornings, 10 - 11 a.m., starting January 17th, Pam Coleman facilitator
 - b. Monday evenings, 7 - 8 p.m., starting January 18th, Nancy Muhlig facilitator
 - c. Tuesday mornings, 10 - 11 a.m., starting January 19th, Robin Osterhaven and Marcia Sumerix facilitators – **FULL**
 - d. We will form additional groups if there is interest.
3. **Join Pastor Jim's Zoom discussions** and view Max Lucado's dvd, Wednesday evenings, 7- 8:30 p.m., beginning January 20th.

Option for individual study:

Purchase the dvd, download the book, or order it - "Anxious for Nothing" by Max Lucado.

Books are also available locally at the store Word Love in Elk Rapids. Mention Presbyterian Church for 10% off.

For more information or to sign up for one of the groups, **contact Nancy Muhlig, 264-9434 or nmuhlig@charter.net.**

THESE DAYS devotional booklets for January through March 2021 have arrived and are on the Welcome table in the narthex and in a bin outside the front door of the church.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 14

Don't forget the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 14, held via Zoom immediately following worship at approximately 12:15 p.m.