

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, January 2, 2022**  
**9 AM Contemporary Service**  
Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rachel Stratton

Worship Songs – ***“Great Are You Lord”***  
***“Ever Be”***

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Readings – Luke 1:46-55  
Psalm 1

Sermon

“How seriously do we take Jesus?”

Rev. Dr. Homer Nye

Responsive Song – ***“Come To The Table”***

Celebration of Communion *(Pastor will invite congregation to partake of the elements)*

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 Song – ***“Graves Into Gardens”***

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. Special thanks to our usher, and our snack volunteer.

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, January 2, 2022**  
**11 AM Traditional Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Coventry Carol”* by Lindberg

Welcome

Cheryl Knight

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Centering Words

Sandi Gray

In the darkest night, a star shines. Follow this star, for it will lead to overwhelming joy.

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: Arise, shine! Your light has come!

**People: Glory to God in the highest.**

Leader: Darkness covers the earth,

**People: but God’s glory shines brightly.**

Leader: Lift up your eyes. Look around.

**People: The light of God’s love shines radiantly.**

Leader: Arise, shine! Your light has come!

**All: Our hearts thrill and rejoice!**

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

**All: God of light and love, shine upon our lives, as we welcome the mystery of your love. Guide us toward your true gift, for our hearts long to encounter with the holy. Quiet our expectations, that we might be surprised by the unexpected. Open our eyes, that we might find you in unanticipated places. Shine your light upon us, that we might see you clearly, and recognize your face in all people. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 386 – *“Come, Worship God”*

Prayer of Confession

Sandi Gray

**All: The presents have been opened. The cookies have been eaten. The celebrations have left us exhausted. Yet your Spirit comes again, guiding us toward true joy. In all of our busy celebrations, remind us that you desire righteousness and justice for a world in need of generous hearts. May the light of Jesus Christ, the world’s true light, live among us and turn our lives from oppressive power toward liberation and hope. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

Sandi Gray

Like rain that falls upon the grass, like showers that water the earth, may righteousness and peace abound in our lives and in our world.

Anthem – *“In the Breaking of the Bread”* by McDonald

Scripture Readings – Luke 1:46-55

Psalm 1

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“How seriously do we take Jesus?”

Rev. Dr. Homer Nye

Responsive Hymn 401 – **“Here In This Place”**

Celebration of Communion (*Pastor will invite congregation to partake of the elements*)

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 150 – **“As With Gladness Men of Old”**

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

### **Worship Concludes – Service Begins!**

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

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](http://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](mailto: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.

**A Gift for you!** If you haven’t already received your copy of “Know Your Bible,” please take one from the Activity Center table. You will find this booklet to be an easy-to-understand guide to the 66 books in the Bible. For each book, you will find data on the author, time frame, a ten-word synopsis, a 50-100 word summary, thoughts on what makes this book unique or unusual, and a listing of key verses. This useful resource is a gift for all visitors, regular attendees and members of FPC and is made available by the Adult Education Ministry Team.

**New Adult Ed Class** – [You Were Made for this Moment](#) by Max Lucado will be our next study and will begin the week of January 23rd. The discussions be facilitated by Robin Osterhaven and Marcia Sumerix and will correlate with Pastor Jim’s new sermon series. Details coming.

**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**

Our Kingdom Kids and Lighthouse Youth enjoyed making ornaments for our friends at Noble Pines in Elk Rapids. They were delivered on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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