

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, January 23, 2022**  
**9 AM Contemporary Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Worship Songs – ***“Christ Be Magnified”***  
***“You Never Let Go”***

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Readings – Esther 2:1-11  
Romans 12:1-2

Sermon           **“For Such A Time As This: The Story of Esther”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – ***“Stand In Your Love”***

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 – ***“Who You Say I Am”***

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: Lorraine Berak; and our snack volunteer: Lynne Sheldon.

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.

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids**  
**Sunday, January 23, 2022**  
**11 AM Traditional Service**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Holy Ground”* arr. by Larson

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in Your sight,  
O Holy One, our rock and our redeemer.

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Whether we are at home or here in church,  
We gather now to worship God,

**People: Hoping a song touches our hearts,**

Leader: Looking for strength to endure,

**People: Lifting a prayer to reach heaven,**

Leader: Longing for peace to well up within,

**People: Listening for a word that comforts,**

Leader: Desiring an outpouring of God’s Spirit.

**People: We gather together, in holy anticipation,**

**All: And God meets us where we are.**

Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

**All: Loving God, give us open hearts, as open and eager as a toddler’s first steps. Give us open ears, that we may hear your word fresh and new, comforting and challenging us. Give us open hands ready to receive Your blessing and willing offer gentle care to others. Loving God, show us the depths of Your grace in these precious moments of praise and prayer. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 412 – ***“God, Reveal Your Presence”***

Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

**All: Gracious God, who is our Rock and our Redeemer, You call us to remember that we are all members of one body in your Spirit. Forgive us when we do not embody your love, when we speak harshly to one another, and when we judge others in our hearts. Together, we are filled with the one Spirit, and share in the same love that makes us one. Reclaim us when we refuse to hear your word when spoken by those who do not look or sound as we expect. Remind us that when one of your children suffers, all of us suffer. Renew us when we forget that we are one body, one family of our heavenly creator and help us to serve both You and all people in love.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

LeRue Werner

Leader: Hear the good news: God heals our illusion of separateness and makes us one and whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

Anthem – *“Lord of the Dance”* arr. by Carter

Scripture Readings – Esther 2:1-11

Romans 12:1-2

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“For Such A Time As This: The Story of Esther”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 684 – ***“Faith Begins by Letting Go”***

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 465 – ***“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”***

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: Jana Gillstrom, and our snack volunteer: Linda Heyde.

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Nursery – Qualified caregivers welcome infants and children during the service.

**Weekend Food Backpack Program will continue through Sunday, February 6.** Thank you to all who have been filling the grocery cart with:

- **Peanut Butter (16 oz),**
- **Canned Ravioli, and/or**
- **Spaghettios or other canned pasta with sauce.**

Another way to contribute is by checks made out to **First Presbyterian Church** with “Backpack Program” noted on the memo line. Mail checks to:

First Presbyterian Church  
404 Spruce Street  
Elk Rapids MI 49629

All contributions are a wonderful help during these lean winter months. Thank you!!

### **Worried Your World Is Spinning Out of Control?**

#### **There’s still time to sign up for our next small group class!**

“You Were Made for This Moment: Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow” is the theme of Pastor Jim’s next sermon series. One of his resources will be the book of the same title, written by Max Lucado, a New York Times Bestselling Christian author.

Lucado leads us in studying Queen Esther of the Bible. Although she faced what seemed to be an impossible situation, she had the courage to speak up and God used her to help save a nation. God will have His victory and will right the wrongs of this world. As Lucado says, “The question is not, *Will God prevail?* The question is, *Will you be part of the team?*”

Options include:

1. **Form your own group**, such as family members, friends or neighborhood. Choose your place, date and time to get together to discuss the sermon, book, and/or the available dvd.
2. **Continue to meet with your current small group**, using the sermon and/or book as a springboard for discussion.

For either of the above options, contact Nancy Muhlig to let her know which resources you’ll need. (264-9434, [nmuhlig@charter.net](mailto:nmuhlig@charter.net))

#### 3. **Join one of these groups:**

- a. **Tuesday mornings**, beginning January 25 and continuing for five weeks, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., The Lighthouse, in person and via Zoom. Contact Robin Osterhaven, 517-388-0007, [rosterhaven1977@gmail.com](mailto:rosterhaven1977@gmail.com) or Marcia Sumerix, 989-964-1420, [sumerixmj60@gmail.com](mailto:sumerixmj60@gmail.com)
- b. **Thursday mornings**, beginning January 27, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Contact Nancy Muhlig, 264-9434, [nmuhlig@charter.net](mailto:nmuhlig@charter.net)

### **Greeters Needed for Sunday Mornings – Sign Up Today!**

We are in need of greeters for the 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help, please sign up at the Activity Center. Questions? Contact Lynne Sheldon at 586-484-1303.

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

“Fishers of Men” was the Bible Story introduced last Sunday in our Opening Worship gathering at the Lighthouse. Youth ran our screens and children and youth took turns leading songs, with live piano accompaniment provided by Rachel. Classes followed up on the story in three age level groups including youth, older children and younger children. In the announcement slide, Hodge and Patterson share their fun fish projects from the story.

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.

### **Outdoor Family Activity on Saturday, February 5 *Instead of Family Camp***

Everyone is invited to attend an Outdoor Family Activity on Saturday, February 5. We'll be holding this event instead of going to Family Camp at Pleasant Valley Bible Camp that weekend. Watch for details about the Outdoor Family Activity and contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you have questions.

### **Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 13**

Mark your calendar now for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 13, immediately following 11:00 a.m. worship at approximately 12:10 p.m.

**Bring Your Village Market Receipts for Community Cupboard!** Save your Village Market receipts dated between September 1, 2021 and May 30, 2022 and turn them in one of three ways:

- Outside – place them in the box labeled “Community Cash” in the left corner of the brown box outside the cupboard entrance (on Chippewa Street)
- Narthex – place them in the Community Cupboard mail slot (lower left corner near the elevator)
- Mail them to Elk Rapids Community Cupboard, PO Box 572, Elk Rapids, MI 49629.

Thank you for your continuous support.

## **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