

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids  
Sunday, June 26, 2022

10:30 AM One Outdoor Service

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “Our God” arr. by Rouse

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Invitation and Centering Words

Great is our God and greatly to be praised! The whole earth reflects God’s power and might.  
When we recall the wonders of God’s creation, we rejoice at the awesome complexity of it all.  
Let us offer God our thanks and praise!

Call to Worship

LeRue Werner

Leader: Welcome to worship today. Bring your joys and burdens to the Lord.

**People: For God hears the cries of our hearts and heals our wounded souls.**

Leader: Remember the wondrous deeds that God continues to perform in your life.

**People: Let us be thankful for all the mercies and tenderness that God offers to us.**

Leader: Come, praise the Lord with all your heart and soul.

**All: Let our voices raise in a powerful concert of praise and thanksgiving. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

LeRue Werner

**All: Lord, we long to follow you wherever you lead. Yet, we are often hesitant.  
Reach out to us this day, stirring our souls and spirits with the winds of your Spirit  
that we may faithfully be your disciples. For we ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Opening Hymn 192 – “*Shine, Jesus, Shine*”

Verse 1

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Refrain

**Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!**

Verse 2

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

[Refrain]

Verse 3

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.**

[Refrain]

CCLI#764321

Prayer of Confession

LeRue Werner

**All: Merciful Lord, we know that you want the best for us, and so it must disappoint you when we fail to be the kind of devoted followers that you need. Forgive us when we so easily doubt your call, your presence, and your abiding love in our lives. Lift us up from lives of self-pity and self-centeredness, and bring us to you with hearts filled with joy, so that we might bear witness to your love in our service to others. Heal us and restore us, for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*(Please pause for prayers of silent meditation)*

Assurance of Pardon

LeRue Werner

Although following Jesus is difficult, you can be assured that God is always with you, bringing you encouragement, strength, and peace. Rise up and follow the one who offers his life for you. Amen.

Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Anthem – *“The Song of God”* by Hayes

Scripture Reading – Revelation 22:1-14

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

**“Living Between the Trees:  
God’s Last Word on Hope”**

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Hymn 310 – ***“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”***

Verse 1

**I love thy kingdom, Lord,  
the house of thine abode,  
the church our blest Redeemer saved  
with his own precious blood.**

Verse 2

**I love thy church, O God.  
Her walls before thee stand,  
dear as the apple of thine eye,  
and graven on thy hand.**

Verse 3

**For her my tears shall fall;  
for her my prayers ascend;  
to her my cares and toils be given,  
till toils and cares shall end.**

Verse 4

**Beyond my highest joy  
I prize her heavenly ways:  
her sweet communion, solemn vows,  
her hymns of love and praise.**

Verse 5

**Sure as thy truth shall last,  
to Zion shall be given  
the brightest glories earth can yield,  
and brighter bliss of heaven.**

CCLI#764321

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 821 – *“How Can I Keep from Singing?”*

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 2

**Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?**

[Refrain]

Verse 3

**What though my joys and comforts die?  
I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth.**

[Refrain]

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]

CCLI#764321

## 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 ushers: Louise Pond & Lola Puckett, and our snack volunteers.

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.

### **VBS Volunteer Meeting – Today Immediately Following Service in Fellowship Hall**

There will be a short VBS volunteer meeting today immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall. All volunteers are invited to attend this important meeting to kickoff VBS week!

### **Vacation Bible School Starts Tomorrow!**

VBS starts tomorrow, June 27 and runs through Friday, July 1 from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. You can still register your children online on the VBS banner on the homepage of our website ([www.erfpc.org](http://www.erfpc.org)) or register tomorrow at the door. Bring your children, grandchildren and friends to this exciting program!

## **VBS Sunday, July 3 - One Service at 10:30AM**

Plan to attend our One 10:30AM Service on VBS Sunday, July 3 in the sanctuary. We'll highlight our VBS week and Youth Mission week in this special service. **Please note that we will be celebrating Communion on Sunday, July 10 instead of July 3.**

## **Wired Word – Wednesday, July 13 at 6:00 PM**

“Wired Word,” our discussion of topics in the news, will meet on Wednesday, July 13 at 6:00 p.m. at Shorts on North US 31. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to attend, contact Klaus Lehrer to receive a copy of the discussion topic by texting 231-492-3087 or email klauslehrer@yahoo.com.

## **Volunteers Needed for Children’s Playground during 9:00 AM Service**

This summer we’re offering Children’s Playground in the library immediately following the Children’s Sermon until after the actual sermon. This is designed for children when they get the wiggles and need to move around more than in a pew. If you are willing to help out by reading a story to the children and monitoring this area a Sunday or two this summer, please sign up at the Activity Center. If you have any questions, contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813.

## **We’re Hiring – Part Time Church Office Assistant**

First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids is seeking a qualified individual to fill a part time position of Office Assistant. Looking for a person to work 8-10 hours per week assisting the administrative assistant. Qualifications: Must have at least a high school diploma with preferred advanced educational achievement in job-related subjects. Experience working in a multi-faceted office environment preferred. Salary based on experience. Contact the Church office at 231-264-8167.

## **“Backpacking as Spiritual Practice” Trip to Isle Royale – August 15-20, 2022**

Pastor Jim is leading a backpacking trip on Isle Royale from August 15-20 sponsored by Presbytery Point Camp and **there are 4 spots left!** Cost of the trip is \$650 and scholarships are available. Contact Jenna Thompson at [director@presbytery.org](mailto:director@presbytery.org) or Pastor Jim at [jporter@erfpc.org](mailto:jporter@erfpc.org) if you have questions. You can register for the trip at [www.presbytery.org](http://www.presbytery.org).

## **Community Cupboard - Here to**

**Help!** The Community Cupboard is open every other Tuesday and Friday with a delivery system for all families and individuals in need. Call Pam Coleman at 847-445-8239 for more information or to set up an appointment for food delivery. Plus, the Community Cupboard is accepting donations in a drop box outside the cupboard entrance on Chippewa Street.



## **Continuing COVID Response – First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids**

Since COVID numbers are declining after a surge in early 2022, the MDHHS has expired the Public Health Advisory on Masking in Indoor Public Settings in mid-February. With this in mind, the COVID Task Force continues to have all church attendees in our thoughts as we continue our COVID response. We encourage those who are unvaccinated and those with high vulnerability to the COVID virus, to continue to wear a mask on Sunday mornings or worship online. Others who are healthy and feel comfortable may choose to not wear a mask during worship. We hope the lifting of the mask recommendations allows all church members to feel comfortable and return to church on Sunday mornings without a mask requirement. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to navigate these trying times. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jim or call the church office at 231-264-8167. Thank you.