

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, May 30, 2021

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “Our God” arr. by Rouse

Water You turned into wine,
opened the eyes of the blind;
there's no one like You, none like You.
Into the darkness You shine,
out of the ashes we rise,
there's no one like You, none like You.

Our God is greater,
Our God is stronger;
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer, awesome in power,
Our God, our God.

Into the darkness You shine,
out of the ashes we rise;
there's no one like You, none like You.

Our God is greater,
Our God is stronger,
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer, awesome in power,
Our God, our God.
[REPEAT]

And if our God is for us,
then who could ever stop us.
And if our God is with us,
then what can stand against?
And if our God is for us,
then who could ever stop us.
And if our God is with us,
then what can stand against?
Then what can stand against?

Our God is greater,
Our God is stronger;
God You are higher than any other.
Our God is healer, awesome in power,
Our God, our God.
[REPEAT]

Water You turned into wine,
opened the eyes of the blind;
there's no one like You, none like You.
Into the darkness You shine,
out of the ashes we rise,
there's no one like You, none like You.

CCLI#764321

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Remembering our Veterans on Memorial Day

Don Reynolds

Call to Worship

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

People: God's greatness is beyond our understanding.

Leader: Yet God has revealed God's very self in Jesus Christ.

People: Through Jesus we have come to know the absolute love of God.

Leader: Let us lift up our hearts and praise the Lord!

All: And may God continue to bless God's people with peace. Amen!

Opening Prayer

All: God of majesty and power, how awesome you are to us! The mountains tremble, the seas roar at the sound of your name! Yet you have chosen to come to us in love and tenderness. You have called us to be people who will act in ways of peace and justice in your world. Open our hearts and our spirits, Lord, to hear your word, and having heard, to act in ministries of hope, peace, and love for all your earth. These things we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Opening Hymn 338 – “O Beautiful For Spacious Skies”

Verse 1

O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with
brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!

Verse 2

O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their
country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law!

Verse 3

O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness
and every gain divine!

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Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Earthen Jars”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Song – *“Trading My Sorrows”*

Chorus

**I'm trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord
I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord**

Vamp

**Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord
Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord
Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord amen**

Verse

**I am pressed but not crushed
Persecuted not abandoned**

**Struck down but not destroyed
I am blessed beyond the curse
For His promise will endure
That His joy's gonna be my strength
Though the sorrow may last for
the night
His joy comes with the morning**

Chorus

**I'm trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord
I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord**

Vamp

**Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord
Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord
Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord amen**

Chorus

**I'm trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord
I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying them down
For the joy of the Lord**

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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.

Offering

Closing Song – *“Blessed Be the Name”*

Verse 1

**Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name**

**Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name**

Pre Chorus

**Every blessing You pour out, I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say**

Chorus

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name**

Verse 2

**Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name**

**Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name**

Pre Chorus

**Every blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say**

Chorus

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name**

Bridge

**You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name**

**You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name**

Chorus

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name
[Repeat]**

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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”*

**Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be**

**With God as our Father
Children all are we**

**Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.**

**With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow**

**To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me**

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Postlude

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

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!

Music in the Park – Thursday June 3 at 7:00 PM

Join us for Music in the Park on Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pavilion at Day Park in Elk Rapids. Don't miss this special evening of worship!

Next Sunday! 2 Services Beginning Sunday, June 6

We're excited to begin offering two services again beginning Sunday, June 6. We'll have a 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service and an 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service both in person and online.

Children's Chapel Begins Sunday, June 6 During 9:00 AM Service

We're kicking off a new Children's Chapel on Sunday, June 6 during the 9 a.m. Contemporary Service and we need volunteers. Everyone will start out in the sanctuary and children will be dismissed to Children's Chapel after the Children's Sermon. Children's Chapel will run June-August except during outdoor services. If you are willing to lead a Sunday or help, please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 or sign up at the Activity Center.

2021 Baby Bottle Campaign Update

Moms & Tots and His House ministries are funded by the loving gifts of churches, individuals, organizations and grants. Thanks for your investment. If you have any questions, please give them a call at 231-588-2200 or better yet stop by and visit. They would love to show you the ministries first hand!

Contributions may be made by check made out to First Presbyterian Church with Baby Bottle on the memo line, or by cash. Online donations can be made by going to www.TheGoodSam.org/Give and follow the online instructions.

Vacation Bible School—Register Your Children Today!

Mark your calendar for VBS week, June 21-25 from 9–11 a.m. and register your children today on the VBS banner on the homepage of our website (www.erfpc.org). Attendance is limited this year, and pre-registration is due by Sunday, June 13.

VBS Volunteers Needed – Week of June 21-25 from 9-11 AM

We need your help. We are holding an in-person Vacation Bible School (VBS) from June 21-25, 9:00-11:00 a.m. This is an opportunity for each of us to share the love of Jesus with the youngest members of our church family. If you can help at any point that week, we will have a job for you. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you would like to help.

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.

Community Cash receipts are due no later than June 5th!

Please collect those receipts and turn them into the Community Cupboard by placing them in the big brown box outside First Presbyterian. Your support for the Cupboard is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!

Wired Word Discussions Resume Wednesday, June 9 at 6:30 PM at AmVets

Good News! Wired Word discussions of topics in the news will resume Wednesday, June 9, 6:30 p.m., at the AmVets. Klaus Lehrer will be our facilitator. Please let Nancy Muhlig (nmuhlig@charter.net) know if you'd like to receive the article to be considered. Future dates for our get togethers will be selected that night.

Safety Seminar by Elk Rapids Police Chief on Sunday, June 13 after the 11AM Service

POLICE ALERT! POLICE ALERT! On Sunday, June 13, after the 11:00 a.m. service, our Elk Rapids police chief, Dave Centala, will be holding a Q & A session on being safe in public places; what to look for, listen for, and how to put up your own radar. Bring the kids and the grandparents. We all need to be safe. Thank you...your Safety and Security Team

New Guidelines for In Person Worship

We're pleased to announce the following new guidelines worship:

- 1. We are returning to two services on June 6!**
 - 9 a.m. Contemporary Service with a new Children's Chapel available during worship
 - 11 a.m. Traditional Service with Organ & Liturgy
 - Childcare will be provided for both services.
- 2. Online Services Continue**

Services will continue to be available online on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FPCElkrapids1874) and our website at www.erfpc.org for those who choose to worship from home.

Everyone is encouraged to take into consideration their own health and decide whether to worship in the sanctuary or at home. We are doing everything to be as safe as possible, but there are still risks in gathering.
- 3. Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated adults.**

However, masks are still required for unvaccinated adults and children over 2.
- 4. No reservations are required.**

Just come as you are able!
- 5. We will continue to Limit Numbers in Sanctuary to provide for safe distancing.**

We will allow up to 60 people per Sunday in the sanctuary and up to 30 in the Fellowship Hall for sanctuary overflow to ensure the appropriate social distance. Families may sit together.
- 6. Singing will be allowed in both services.**

Hymnals will be in pews for the Traditional Service.
- 7. Food is still not permitted in the church building, but you may Bring Your Own Beverage**
- 8. Socialize Outdoors**

Beginning Sunday, June 6 coffee will be available outside between services. This will be a great time to get caught up with friends you haven't seen in a while!
- 9. Love One Another still applies!**

Your patience, kindness, and understanding are sincerely appreciated!

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