

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, January 24, 2021**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Rejoice, the Lord is King!”* by Forrest

Welcome

Announcements

Rev. Jim Porter

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Leader: Gather this day in silence and hope.

People: We wait for God’s word for us.

Leader: Let your hearts and spirits be open.

People: God is our strength and salvation.

Leader: Wait patiently for the Lord.

People: With willing hearts and spirits we wait for the Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayer

O God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, renew our faith in Jesus and make us willing to follow wherever he leads us. Cast aside our fears and doubts, and teach us to trust wholly in you. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Opening Hymn 829 – *“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”* (verses 1, 2 & 4)

Verse 1

**My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!**

**Now hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!**

Verse 2

**May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,**

**O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!**

Verse 4

**When ends life’s transient dream,
when death’s cold, sullen stream
shall o’er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love,
fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!**

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Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Philippians 4:4-8

John 6:1-13

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Contagious Calm”

Rev. Jim Porter

Anthem – *“Still, My Soul, Be Still”* arr. by McDonald

Ordination and Installation of Leah Keaton as new Elder

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 329 – *“God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength”* (verses 1 & 4)

Verse 1

**God is our refuge and our strength,
our ever-present aid,
and therefore, though the earth be moved,
we will not be afraid;**

Verse 4

**Since God is in the midst of it,
the city walls shall stand,
secure and safe with God's sure help,
when trouble is at hand.**

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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: Ken Price, Jim Lagowski, Eunice Thompson, and Phyllis Staley.

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!" 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 18th, 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.**

Announcing the 2021 opportunity to help fill Weekend Food Backpacks

for kids in Elk Rapids Schools. This program provides food for weekends when kids, who normally eat breakfast and lunch at school, are at home without adequate food.

The Outreach Ministry Team asks you to donate by check this year since we are not gathering in person. Starting Monday, January 25, checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Backpack Program" noted on the memo line.

Please mail checks to:

First Presbyterian Church
404 Spruce Street
Elk Rapids MI 49629

THANK YOU for your participation in this important program.

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.