

First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, October 25, 2020

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – *“Yes I Will”*

Verse

I count on one thing
The same God that never fails
Will not fail me now
You won't fail me now
In the waiting
The same God who's never late
Is working all things out
You're working all things out

Chorus

Yes I will lift You high
In the lowest valley
Yes I will bless Your name
Yes I will sing for joy
When my heart is heavy
All my days yes I will

Verse

I count on one thing
The same God that never fails
Will not fail me now
You won't fail me now
In the waiting
The same God who's never late
Is working all things out
You're working all things out

Chorus

Yes I will lift You high
In the lowest valley

Yes I will bless Your name
Yes I will sing for joy
When my heart is heavy
All my days yes I will
For all my days
Yes I will

Bridge

I choose to praise
To glorify glorify
The name of all names
That nothing can stand against
I choose to praise
To glorify glorify
The name of all names
That nothing can stand against

Chorus

Yes I will lift You high
In the lowest valley
Yes I will bless Your name
Yes I will sing for joy
When my heart is heavy
All my days yes I will
For all my days
Yes I will

CCLI Song # 7105442 / CCLI License # 764321

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Call to Worship

Leader: Even when it seems we have suffered for a long time;

People: God breaks through in mercy and love for us and for the world.

Leader: Things may not be easy but we can count on God to always be with us, both in good times and bad.

People: God walks the pathways of both light and darkness with us.

Leader: God, come quickly into our lives. Erase our fears and doubts with the power and peace of your presence.

All: God, come quickly into our hearts and teach us how to truly be your people. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, you command us to remember that the first commandment is to love God with all that we are, our hearts, souls, minds and spirits. The second is equal to this in that this love is to be extended to our neighbors. We are to love as we wish to be loved. Help us to internalize these commandments so that when we encounter times of difficulty, we are again reminded of your everlasting love for us and for the world. Amen.

Worship Song – *“Blessed Be Your 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

**Ev'ry 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

**Ev'ry 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
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name**

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Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Scripture Reading – Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon

“The Power of Love”

Rev. Jim Porter

Song of Response – *“Available”*

Verse 1

**Narrow as the road may seem
I'll follow where Your spirit leads
Broken as my life may be
I will give You every piece**

Chorus

**I hear You call
I am available
I say yes Lord
I am available**

Verse 2

**Here I am with open hands
Counting on Your grace again
Less of me and more of You
I just wanna see You move**

Chorus

**I hear You call
I am available**

**I say yes Lord
I am available**

**I hear You call
I am available
I say yes Lord
I am available**

Bridge

**Here I am here I am
You can have it all
You can have it all
Here I am here I am
You can have it all
You can have it all**

**Here I am here I am
You can have it all
You can have it all
Here I am here I am**

**You can have it all
You can have it all**

Verse 3

**For the one who gave me life
Nothing is a sacrifice
Use me how You want to God
Have Your throne within my
heart**

Chorus

**I hear You call
I am available
I say yes Lord
I am available**

**I hear You call
I am available
I say yes Lord
I am available**

CCLI Song # 7129065 / CCLI License # 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.

Concluding Song – ***“Counting Every Blessing”***

(Today is Consecration Sunday, the day that we ask everyone to prayerfully consider their giving to the church in the year ahead. As the Praise Team sings our concluding song, we invite you to come forward and place your Pledge for 2021 in the basket on the communion table as an act of worship. We thank God for God's blessing upon us, and thank everyone for your generous support of all the ministries of this church.)

Verse 1

**I was blind now I'm seeing in color
I was dead now I'm living forever
I had failed but You were my Redeemer
I've been blessed beyond all measure**

Verse 2

**I was lost now I'm found by the Father
I've been changed from a ruin to treasure
I've been given a hope and a future
I've been blessed beyond all measure**

Chorus

**I am counting every blessing
Counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting
When I cannot see
I am counting every blessing
Counting every blessing
Surely every season
You are good to me**

Interlude

**Oh You are good to me
Oh You are good to me**

Verse 3

**You were there in the valley of shadows
You were there in the depth of my sorrows
You're my strength my hope for tomorrow
I've been blessed beyond all measure**

Chorus

**I am counting every blessing
Counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting
When I cannot see
I am counting every blessing
Counting every blessing**

Surely every season

You are good to me

Interlude

**Oh You are good to me
Oh You are good to me**

Bridge

**Surely Your goodness pursues me
Surely Your heart is still for me
I will remember Your mercies
All my days
Through every storm and gale**

Chorus

**I am counting every blessing
Counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting
When I cannot see
I am counting every blessing
Counting every blessing
Surely every season
You are good to me**

**I am counting every blessing
Counting every blessing
Letting go and trusting
When I cannot see
I am counting every blessing
Counting every blessing
Surely every season
You are good to me**

Ending

**Oh You are good to me
Oh You are good to me
Oh You are good to me
Oh You are good to me**

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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.**

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!

Opportunities to Get Involved

Today is Consecration Sunday.

If you were unable to attend worship in person today, but would like to support the work and ministries of the church through your giving in 2021, we ask that you please mail in your pledge this week to the church office, attention: Mike Husby. We thank everyone for their faithful and generous support of the work of this church, especially in these challenging times. Every gift matters! Every pledge counts! Together, we are "Making a Difference in People's Lives."

Congregational Meeting—Sunday, November 1 at 12:15 p.m.

There will be a congregational meeting at 12:15 p.m. following the 11:00 a.m. service in the sanctuary and via Zoom on Sunday, November 1 to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and act on the recommendations for new officers, and review the preliminary budget for 2021. Please plan to attend this important meeting, and let the church office know (info@erfpc.org or 231-264-8167) if you need a link for Zoom.

Online Family Sunday School – New Lesson Available Every Sunday

Gather your family together for Family Sunday School. New lessons are available every Sunday on our website (erfpc.org). Either click on the Sunday School banner that scrolls on the home page or click Ministry Teams from the top menu, then Children and Youth, Children's Ministry, and choose the lesson. Background information, scripture, Bible story, and activities – all included for your convenience. Plus, the lessons are designed for all ages. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you have any questions.

Candy Donations & Volunteers Needed for October 31 Halloween Trunk-N-Treat

This year we're moving outside for a Trunk-N-Treat on Halloween, October 31. We're collecting candy donations, and looking for volunteers to decorate their vehicles and pass out candy in our church parking lots. Please contact Wayne Potter at 517-416-2813 if you'd like to participate or have any questions.

"Can We Talk About It?" – 2nd Wednesday of Each Month at 7 PM via Zoom

"Can We Talk About It?" is a new forum discussing issues of Faith, Leadership, and Justice. Led by Pastor Jim, this group is open to everyone in the church and will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Each month we will look a different podcast, blog, or book that focuses on compelling issues in our world today. Don't miss these thought-provoking discussions!

Outreach Collecting Donations for Patriot Place Through November 8

Please help our veterans residing at Patriot Place in Gaylord, a housing facility for men as they make the difficult transition to independent living. The Outreach Ministry Team will be collecting donations through November 8. Patriot Place can use your money donations as well as little preparation food items (tuna, canned soup, macaroni & cheese), paper products, and cleaning supplies. Let's all help support this important ministry!