

**First Presbyterian Church, Elk Rapids
Sunday, October 18, 2020**

Order of Worship

Countdown to Worship

Prelude – “*Viola Sonata in F 2nd Movement*” by Brahms adapted for cello by Kyle Stachnik

Welcome

Rev. Jim Porter

Ringing of the Historic Church Bell

Introit – “*Total Devotion*” by Grassi

Call to Worship

Sandi Gray

Leader: Though there are rulers, presidents, kings, queens, God is the Lord of all life.

People: In God we live and move and have our being.

Leader: God requires our faithfulness and our service.

People: May we reach out to others with the same kind of love with which God has touched our lives.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

All: Let us praise God who walks daily by our side. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Sandi Gray

All: God, you are our strength and our refuge. When the pain of this world gets to be too much for us to bear, we turn to you for healing and consolation. Help us today to hear your words of compassion. Strengthen us this day that we might become those who would willingly serve all people in need. For we ask these things in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn 693 – “*Though I May Speak*”

Verse 1

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

Verse 2

**Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

Verse 3

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

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Message to the Children

Wayne Potter

Anthem – “*God Gives the Song*” by Courtney

Scripture Reading – Matthew 22:15-22

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Bearing the Imprint of God”

Rev. Jim Porter

Responsive Anthem – “*You Do Not Walk Alone*” by Hagenburg

Minute for Stewardship

Denise Heeke

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 Hymn 700 – “*I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*”

Verse 1

**I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

Verse 2

**I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

Verse 3

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

Verse 4

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

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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 – “*Sarabande*” by Einaudi

Worship Concludes – Service Begins!

Thank you Kyle Stachnik for playing cello and Jeff Whittaker for singing for us today.

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

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.

New Member Class – Monday, October 19 from 6:30-8:30 PM

Here's an opportunity to explore becoming a member of our family of faith. We have a new member class scheduled for Monday evening, October 19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. via Zoom. This is an orientation with Pastor Jim to learn more about who we are. Please contact the church office (info@erfpc.org or 231-264-8167) if you would like to attend and we'll send you the Zoom invitation.

“Wired Word” – Wednesday, October 21 from 6:30-7:30 PM

You're invited to attend "Wired Word" on Wednesday, October 21 from 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the church Fellowship Hall. We'll wear masks and practice social distancing. Feel free to bring a beverage and something to eat. For more information, call Nancy Muhlig, 231-632-3712.

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.

Virtual Prayer Retreat “Jesus Whispers In The Storm” – Saturday, October 24

Great Lakes Pilgrimage presents a virtual prayer retreat on Saturday, October 24 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. Sometimes we need to stop in the midst of the storms all around us and take a breath, get away with God for a bit and be reminded of our peace and shelter in Christ. Registration is limited to the first 50 participants. For more information, email info@greatlakespilgrimage.org. To register, go to the website greatlakespilgrimage.org.

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!