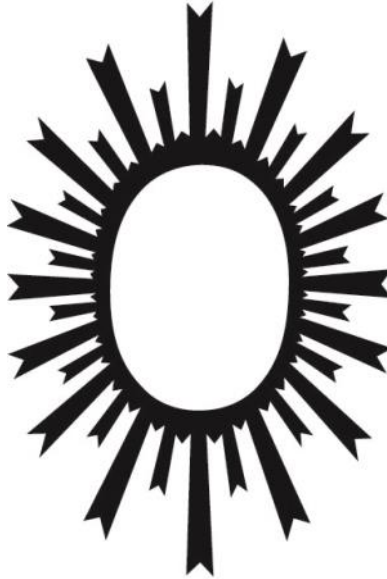


The Service for the Lord's Day



January 8, 2023

Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord Celebration

529 Hendrie Boulevard
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Phone (248) 541-0108
www.fpcro.org

Please silence all devices

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

For young children, the Prayground in the back of the sanctuary is open and our nursery is also available for those who prefer childcare for infants and toddlers. Sunday school classes are available for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade during the 10:30am service, after the Time with Children.

I. GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

“Kings of Orient”

arr. Dan Miller

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE EPIPHANY STORY

Matthew 2: 1-12

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

All: Holy God, your glory shines as far as the east is from the west, from the north to the south, so that all people may see and be radiant, so that every heart might thrill and rejoice. Guide us on our baptismal journey in Christ. Overwhelm us with the joy of your presence. May we enter your house and pay homage to him whose infant arms were already reaching out to the ends of the earth, that all might be gathered in. In your triune name we pray, Amen.

***HYMN #231**

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

Text: Ruth Duck ©1992 GIA Publications; Music: William Walter

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God’s light is present in the world. Our missteps do not overcome it. God promises to forgive. And so we can be honest about our lives in prayer. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

All: Gracious God, we would like to be among those who, at the coming of Christ, dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship God’s love coming into the world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability, that the child might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we recognize all the times we are more like Herod. When we find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others. When we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the oppressed. When we are complicit in the harming of innocents because we fear to know and to change the injustices of

this world. Fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: We pray in the name of the one who showed us the way,

All: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In baptism, you were buried with Christ. In baptism, you were raised to life with him.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Let us declare in the name of Jesus Christ,

All: we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

Hymn #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(10:30)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

II. PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: God of wonder, the light of an ancient star rose and guided the Magi, illuminating the place where Jesus was. Your Holy Spirit descended as a dove to be with Jesus at his baptism. May that same light and Spirit shine in our hearts and minds as your word is read and proclaimed. Amen.

PSALM

“Psalm 29”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Austrian Hymn*, #598 “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”

***“All on earth and all in heaven, raise to God a song on high;
Strength unmeasured, love unbounded, God alone we glorify.
At God’s voice the clouds assemble, thunder roars and torrents fall;
Earth shall quake before God’s presence, mountains tremble at God’s call.”***

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:13-17

Pew Bible, NT pg. 3

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God”

Lloyd Larson

~Chancel Choir

“Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul. Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole. Cause your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see. Give me passion for your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me. Holy Spirit, come abide within; may your joy be seen in all I do. Love enough to cover every sin in each thought and deed and attitude. Kindness to the greatest and the least; gentleness that sows the path of peace. Turn my striving into works of grace. Breath of God, shoe Christ in all I do. Holy Spirit, from creation’s birth, giving life to all that God has made. Show your power once again on earth, cause your church to hunger for your ways. Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice, that in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.”

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SERMON

“A Baptismal Mission”

Rev. Emma Nickel

III. RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Behold That Star!”

traditional spiritual arr. Mark Hayes

~Olivia Donnel

“REFRAIN: Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder. It is the star of Bethlehem. There was no room found in the inn for Him who was born free from sin. The wise men came on from the East to worship Him, the Prince of Peace. REFRAIN. A song broke forth upon the night from angel hosts all robed in white. ‘Glory to God, world without end, peace on the earth good will to men.’ REFRAIN.”

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*DOXOLOGY

Hymn #34

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER²

One: Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.
Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

**All: Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will.
We cannot stop you, God!**

One: But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

All: We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

One: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

All: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

One: Come upon these waters.

All: Come upon these waters.

One: Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

All: Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

One: Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

All: Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

One: Most Holy God, Creator and Parent of us all—

All: Glory to you!

One: Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord -

All: Glory to you!

One: Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness—

All: Glory to you! All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN #679

“Baptized in Water”

Text: Michael Saward ©1982 Jubilate Hymns (admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

Music: Gaelic Melody; harm. David Evans ©1927 Oxford University Press

*As we sing the hymn, you are invited to visit the font of water. There, a pastor will make the sign of the cross with water on your forehead or hand and offer you a short blessing. After you receive the blessing, please take one **Epiphany star** from the basket. Travel to the font by the center aisle, and then return to your pew by the side aisle. If you prefer to receive the blessing in your pew, please signal to the Stephen Ministers who will come to you. Epiphany stars will also be available in the narthex after the service.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

IV. FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN #680**

“Borning Cry”

Text and Music: John Ylvisaker © 1985 John Ylvisaker

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Christ, our Lord, came to the Jordan”

Johann Pachelbel
Public Domain

**Indicates please stand as you are able.*

The Liturgist today is The Rev. Matthew Nickel.

After worship today, we will be taking down the Christmas greens.

Many hands make light work, so if you can stay for a short while your help is greatly appreciated! Also, join us in Kirkman Fellowship Hall after worship for Coffee Hour hosted by the Deacons.

The Church offices will be closed Monday, January 16 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.

- 1 Adapted from a prayer by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH, <http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>
- 2 Adapted from “New Service of Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant,” July 16, 2009, United Methodist Discipleship, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/new-service-of-reaffirmation-of-the-baptismal-covenant>

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Online Giving: Giving online is a fast and easy way to give at FPCRO. Through our PayPal page you may give a one-time gift, or you may set up recurring gifts using a debit/credit card, or your PayPal account. Thank you!



Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Emma Nickel, Pastor, ext. 206, enickel@fpcro.org
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Todd Crawford, Evening Reception, ext. 200, tcrawford@fpcro.org
Alan Glasel, Facility Manager, ext. 201, aglasel@fpcro.org

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*; Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*; Olivia Donnel, *soprano*; Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

S.T.A.G.E. Schedule (*Somewhere To Ask God Everything*) **Youth Ministry for Grades 6-12**

- **January 8**–Meeting at **Greenfield Presbyterian** to finalize Youth Sunday plans. **All grades will meet together from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm, with dinner at 6 pm.**
***Dinner still needed for this night. Sign-up to help with link below.*
- **Saturday, January 14**–Youth Sunday **10 am rehearsal** at **Greenfield Presbyterian Church**
- **January 15**–**YOUTH SUNDAY** at **Greenfield Presbyterian Church**, with services at **9 am and 11am**. The Sub Sale fundraiser will kick off on this day, which is a mission trip fundraiser.
- **January 22**–**Crossroads** mission service day in the morning/throughout the day. Details coming soon.
- **January 29**–**Outdoor winter fun**. Details coming soon, weather dependent.

Provide Dinner and/or Volunteer at a S.T.A.G.E. Meeting

Can you **provide dinner** for the youth (about 12 students) on a Sunday evening?
Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4fafad2ca7fd0-stage> and sign up!

Volunteer at a S.T.A.G.E. Meeting

Can you **serve as an adult volunteer** during a Sunday meeting? Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4fafad2ca7fd0-stage1> and sign up!

Today's **CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Gretchen Hirsch to the glory of God and in honor of my wonderful family and friends! May the blue in the flower arrangement make you think of open spaces, freedom, intuition, imagination, inspiration, and sensitivity. The magenta relates to cheerfulness, happiness, contentment, and appreciation.

Epiphany Stars

How did your 2022 Epiphany star word speak to you? Today, we'll distribute 2023 Epiphany star words. The stars represent the star that the Wise Ones—the Magi— followed in the sky to find Jesus in Bethlehem. Our words guide us and speak to us in many ways throughout the year. Stars will be available in the office after January 8 if you miss getting yours in worship.

Sunburst Singers January Schedule Change

For the month of January only, Sunburst Singers will meet on the **2nd and 4th Sunday** (instead of the 1st and 3rd Sunday) from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm.

No Services at FPCRO on January 15

Greenfield Presbyterian Church in Berkley is hosting **S.T.A.G.E. Youth Sunday** worship services on **January 15 at 9 am and 11 am**. We want to **boldly** support our youth,—so there will be **no worship services in the FPCRO church building on January 15, 2023**. The whole congregation of FPCRO is invited to worship at Greenfield Presbyterian (2312 Greenfield Road, Berkley) at **9 am or 11 am** to hear our youth preach, offer music, and lead us in prayer. S.T.A.G.E. stands for *Somewhere To Ask God Everything* and is a collaborative ministry among FPCRO, Greenfield Presbyterian, Drayton Presbyterian, and Cana Lutheran Church.

Sub Sandwiches Fundraiser—Buy a Sub for the Big Game!

S.T.A.G.E. youth will be making delicious, fresh sub sandwiches for pick up on Super Bowl Sunday, **February 12**. Subs are \$10 for a 8-inch Italian (ham & salami) or turkey, and \$12 for a 8-inch three-meat (ham, salami, turkey). Add a bag of chips to your order for just \$1. **Pre-orders will be accepted January 15-February 5**. In-person orders will be taken by the youth between the 9 am and 11 am services, at the S.T.A.G.E. Youth Sunday at Greenfield Presbyterian Church in Berkley on **Sunday, January 15**. Payments may be made via cash, check, PayPal, or Venmo. Online orders and paper order forms will be available through February 5. All sub orders will be available for pick up on **Sunday, February 12** after the 10:30 am worship at FPCRO. Funds from the Super Bowl Sub Sale will help support S.T.A.G.E. summer mission trips. Thank you for your support!

FPCRO's New Podcast Available January 18

FPCRO's new podcast *Forging Faith: when spirituality collides with life* launches January 18 on our website and on Apple podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and iHeartRadio. Listen to conversations that show how faith is shaped and stretched amid the challenges life deals us. Join us for a **Podcast Launch Party during Fellowship Hour after worship on Sunday, January 29**. Our producer, Seth Resler of Community Marketing Revolution, will present clips from the show and celebrate this new ministry with us.