

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

JANUARY 14, 2024 | 9 & 10:30AM

Second Sunday after Epiphany



Spirituality | Service | Sharing

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

We hope you sense an authentic community here! This church is *not* for people who have everything about their faith figured out. It's not for people whose lives are neat and tidy. *This is a community gathered in Christ.* Together, we are seeking a world made whole. The Holy Spirit draws us together with our doubts, struggles, *and* our celebrations. God is at work transforming us and showing us glimpses of Christ's light in the world!

Our worship service follows a traditional format. Our prayers and preaching put the Bible in conversation with practical questions to help us live faithfully in our daily lives. Our community is made up of people who bring different experiences and perspectives. Together, we trust in God's grace and love, which are free gifts to us, no matter what life brings our way. We don't need to earn that love, yet we can always rely on it.

If you are seeking to be comforted, challenged, or to grow in your faith, we would be honored to accompany you on that journey. You are welcome here just as you are.

Rev. Emma Nickel

Pastor

Children Belong Here

There is a place for families and children of all ages here! We believe children who worship with their church family stick with their faith for a lifetime. Choose what works best for your family:

- *Playground* in the back of the sanctuary, where children may do quiet activities, with you nearby to assist, as they absorb the worship service.
- *Pew Pouches* with children's Bibles to help guide children who sit with their family during the worship service. Find these in the back pew.
- *Sunday School: Following the Time with Children*, kids may go with Sunday school leaders to class, which ends at the conclusion of the worship service.
- *Nursery: Childcare* for infants and toddlers during the 10:30am service, with background-checked staff and volunteers.

Finding Your Way

Kirkman Fellowship Hall: Use either staircase in the lobby to go downstairs into the Hall. *Nursery:* Located to the right of the lobby, down the hallway across from the Sunflowers Preschool classroom. *Elevator:* Down the hall, left past the Sunflowers Preschool classroom. *Restrooms:* Women's & Men's are at the top of the short stairwells in the lobby; All Gender/Single in the narthex outside the sanctuary; Accessible is at the end of the hallway near the Fireside Room. *Hearing-assist devices:* Ushers near the sanctuary doors are available to assist you.

Interested in Joining?

For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership or learning more about who we are and what we do, new member gatherings take place several times a year. To get connected, contact Rev. Emma Nickel at enickel@fpcro.org



Giving

Giving online is a fast and easy! Click GIVE at www.fpcro.org to make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts may set up using a debit/credit card, or a PayPal account using the QR code. Cash/checks may be placed in the offering plates by the side aisle doors or in the basket in the narthex entry. Thank you for sharing your gifts with God and the church!





GATHERING

At the ◊ you may stand in body or in spirit. Bold text is read or sung in unison.

Prelude

9:00

“Thy Word”

Smith arr. Bock

10:30

“Forlana”

Gerald Finzi arr. Gower

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Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship

One: Whether your faith is strong enough to tear the roof off a building or not,

All: whether your faith is caring enough to eat with those who are bullies or outcasts or not,

One: whether your faith is courageous enough to dare to try a new thing or not,

All: God promises to meet you and me here.

One: In worship and praise, in prayer and silence,

All: God calls us here to nourish us, refresh us, and equip us as Christ’s disciples. Let us worship God!

◊ Hymn (*see insert*) “Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm”

Text: Martin Leckebusch ©2003 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: When we think we have no sin, we are lying to ourselves. God invites us into the truth about the places we have messed up, missed opportunities, and made missteps. And God is ready to offer us forgiveness. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, change is hard and we often push against it. Forgive us when we allow tradition to turn a visitor away. Forgive us when we let our long-held beliefs stand in the way of kindness and love. Forgive us when we cling onto the faith of yesteryear and forget that you are always doing a new thing. God of renewal, may we be your new vessels. May we have room to change and to grow as we seek to further the work of your kingdom.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through the Holy Spirit, we pray,

All: Amen.

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (G)
E^b B^b Cm A^b

1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -

(D) (A) (D) (G) (Em) (A) (F#m)
E^b B^b E^b A^b Fm B^b Gm

round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their

(Bm) (G) (Em) (A7) (D)
Cm A^b Fm B^b7 E^b

while they live and when they die how force - ful -
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

(A7) (B) (Em) (G) (A7) (D)
B^b7 C Fm A^b B^b7 E^b

ly they speak: the strong, who once were weak!
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
 cerns they own: God's love through them is known.
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.

Assurance of Pardon

One: The good news of the gospel is that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Certainly not our station in life, our habits and actions, or our beliefs. The grace of Christ covers us all, forgiving us and freeing us to live with a new intention.

All: 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: Jesus forgave sinners and restored them to community. He offered peace and wholeness, which was meant to be shared. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(10:30am)

Time with the Children

After the Time with the Children, kids may go to Sunday school classes with their teachers and will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Gracious God, as we turn to scripture, clear away the shadows that get in the way of us seeing you. Tear down the assumptions that cloud our understanding. Change us so that we are not stuck in one way of thinking, but are open to seeing your way of working in the world. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 103”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Dix*, #40 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

“High as heav’n above the earth is the Lord’s redeeming love;

Far as east from west is laid, so does God our sin remove.

As a parent, pity take; cleanse our hearts for Thine own sake.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 103 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Mark 2:1-22

Pew Bible, NT pg. 36

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“One Faith, One Hope, One Lord”

Craig Courtney

~Chancel Choir

“Refrain: One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which he died. One voice, one song we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be evermore. There is one body, one Spirit, as you were called to one hope. One Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all, who is in you all.

REFRAIN. Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts, we are given to each other for the unity of faith, that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ. Refrain.”

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Sermon

“Surround them with Your Faith”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“This is My Prayer”

Gwyneth Walker

~Audrey Frieberg

“This is my prayer to thee, my Lord. Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows. Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service. Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might. Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles. And give me strength to surrender my strength to thy will with love. This is my prayer to thee, my Lord to surrender my strength to thy will with love.”

Text: Rabindranath Tagore; Music: ©2022 E.C. Schirmer Music Co.

◇ **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**

◇ **Affirmation of Faith** — Apostles’ Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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



SENDING

◇ Hymn (*see insert*)

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

Text and Music: African American Spiritual

◇ Benediction

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Pièce pour grand orgue”

Joseph Jongen

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LITURGIST

Brian Curry

EPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Parish Associate: Rev. Neeta Nichols

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director: Jessica Gibbs

Nursery Care Worker: Julia Carroll

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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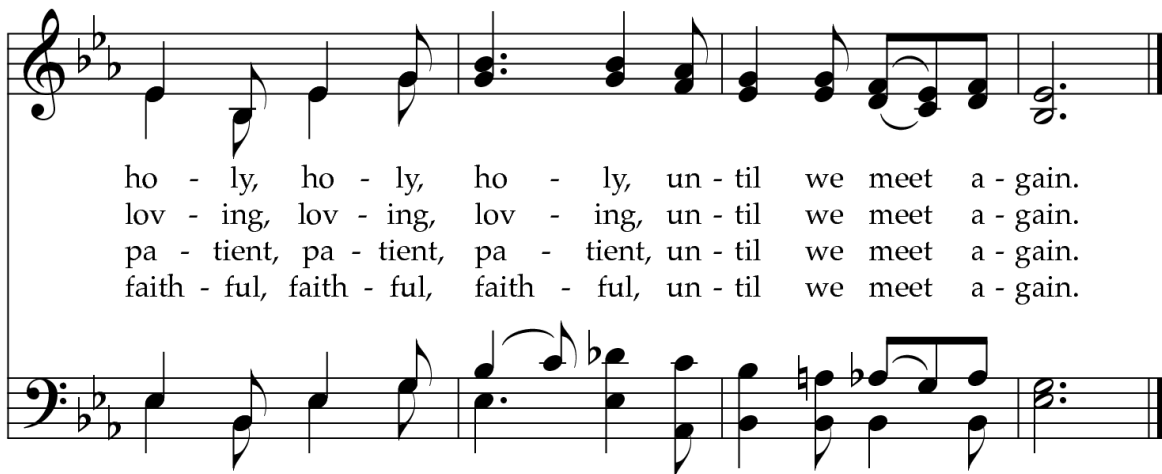
Lord, Make Us More Holy



1 Lord, make us more ho - ly; Lord, make us more ho - ly;
2 Lord, make us more lov - ing; Lord, make us more lov - ing;
3 Lord, make us more pa - tient; Lord, make us more pa - tient;
4 Lord, make us more faith - ful; Lord, make us more faith - ful;



Lord, make us more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain:
Lord, make us more lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain:
Lord, make us more pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain:
Lord, make us more faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain:



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.
lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain.
pa - tient, pa - tient, pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain.
faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Beth Egan De Guise in honor of friends and family.

Today, after the 10:30am service, join us in Kirkman Fellowship Hall for a Fellowship Coffee Hour hosted by the Naomi/Ruth Circle.

Men's Fellowship Group

This month, the Men's Fellowship Group will gather on the **third** Monday of the month—**January 15 at 7:30 pm** at Bagger Dave's in Berkley (2972 Coolidge Hwy.)—see you there!

Digging into Mark, a Bible Study

Starting **Wednesday, January 17 at 7pm**, join Pastor Neeta for a four-week Bible Study as we move into the Gospel of Mark in the new year during worship. The Narrative Lectionary scripture readings invite us to dig deeper into the story of Jesus in this gospel, which is the earliest and shortest of the four gospel accounts.

Fleece and Thank You Blanket-tying

Join the Mission in Service committee for **Coffee Hour after the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, January 21**. We'll enjoy treats and coffee and join together to complete six blankets for children who are hospitalized. Join us for a fun, intergenerational project for adults of all ages, and any kid who can tie a knot.

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

Middle and high schoolers and friends are invited to our collaborative S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) youth ministry. Meetings, on select Sundays, are from 4:30-6:30pm, unless otherwise specified. Questions? Contact Director, Jessica Gibbs, at **stageyouth@gmail.com**. Scan the QR code for more information.

January 21: Regular Meeting at Cana Lutheran

January 28: Regular Meeting at FPCRO



Order your Super Bowl Subs today

Our S.T.A.G.E. youth group is offering tasty sub sandwiches for pickup on Super Bowl **Sunday, February 11**. Pick up an order form at the reception desk and return it with payment by **Sunday, February 4**. Or download from the FORMS tab of our website. Your purchase supports students attending the 2024 summer mission trip for tornado recovery in Kentucky.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Abundant Life Art Share...Coming Feb 11 to Kirkman Fellowship Hall!

Join our church family in sharing what brings us joy at the *Abundant Life Art Share*. Our homes and surroundings reflect what helps us create a positive and abundant life. To our *Art Share*, bring one picture, drawing, piece of art, photograph, or similar item that makes your life more abundant. Display your item in our 'gallery,' and be ready to tell others why this is a special part of your life. Bring art that is a family heirloom, a nature photograph you have taken, or maybe the artwork done by your kid or grandkid that you pull off the fridge to display. Look for the clipboard in the Narthex or sign up online to participate in the Abundant Life Art Share. All are encouraged to come to Kirkman Fellowship Hall on **February 11** following the 10:30 service for coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship to share our Abundant and Joy-filled lives.

Lent in Plain Sight Discussion Group

When Lent begins on **February 14**, join Pastor Emma in reading *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield. Read one devotion per day and gather at the church for discussion of each week's readings on **Wednesdays from 1-2pm, February 14 through March 27**. God is often at work through ordinary people and objects. These devotions highlight ordinary objects Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. As we follow the Biblical account of Jesus' final days, we will find meaning in the ordinary corners of our lives, as well. Order your book now so you'll be ready for Lent.

Snack Pax Bags

After the 10:30am worship service on **February 25**, join us to pack 400 more snack bags for children in the area who might not be getting enough to eat at home. This is a great intergenerational event for all abilities. Please **pick up some bags from the Christian Education lobby this month to decorate** ahead of the event; they're **due February 18**. The snacks will be packed in the decorated bags on February 25.



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. Contact the pastor if you are in need.