

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MAY 25, 2025 | 10:30AM

Sixth Sunday of Easter



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:

- The *Prayground* in the back of the sanctuary, where children may do quiet activities, with you nearby to assist, as they absorb the worship service. Third graders and older are encouraged to sit with their family in the pews.
- The **Backyard Playroom** is a free program offering a safe, indoor environment for children ages five (5) and under to play under parental/guardian supervision, and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 12pm.
- 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

Two Preludes on *Swedish Hymn arr. Dale Wood*
“Children of the Heavenly Father”
©2001 The Sacred Music Press (the Lorenz Corp.) & ©1966 The H. W. Gray Co., Inc.

Welcome & Announcements

♦ Call to Worship

One: We come as we are to worship the Holy and Risen One.

All: We bring our hopes of who we want to be.

One: We bring our sense of what God is calling us to be about.

All: May we muster the faith that we have;

One: May we put our trust in the faith of Christ,

All: And so be drawn toward your way of love and service now and in the days to come.

♦ Hymn #291

“Alleluia No. 1”

Text & Music: Donald Fishel ©1973 The Word of God Music (Admin. The Copyright Co.)

Call to Confession

One: We come before God not as despised sinners but as beloved children. With the confidence of the children of God, let us humbly confess our sin. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession¹

All: Loving God, we confess that we are less than true to you. We talk of trust, yet we are unreliable. We live in hope, yet often feel disheartened. We are enfolded in grace, but are graceless to one another. Thank you for not changing your mind about us; for holding fast to your faith in us despite our failures. Set us free from all that brings us into conflict with you and with others. Give us the courage to live by what faith we have, trusting that you will do the rest.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: In Jesus' name, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit! Trust in the grace of God and give thanks.

All: In Jesus Christ, 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: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Time with the Children

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



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination²

All: Dear God, by your Holy Spirit tell us what we need to hear and show us what we ought to do to follow Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Psalm

"Psalm 146"

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Nettleton*, #68 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

"Bless the Lord, give praise and honor unto God who lends me breath;

May my tongue God's greatness never cease to tell before my death.

And in songs of sovereign goodness, let me sing beyond the grave;

God, whose grace my life to ransom, God, whose will my soul to save."

Paraphrase of Psalm 146 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

Pew Bible, NT pg. 198

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

arr. Daniel Kallman

~Chancel Choir

"Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird or star in heaven such a refuge ne'er was given. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them. Neither life nor death shall ever

from the Lord his children sever; unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth. Though he giveth and he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh; His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy."

©2004 MorningStar Music Publications

Sermon

"What It Means to Belong"

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"My Heart Ever Faithful"

J.S. Bach

~Audrey Frieberg

"My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, thy Jesus is near! Away with complaining, faith ever maintaining, my Jesus is here."

Public Domain

◊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 Dedication³

◊Affirmation of Faith — from the *Brief Statement of Faith of the PC(USA)*

Left: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

Right: *The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.*

Left: In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Right: *In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"*

All: With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 #415

“When We Are Living”

Text: Tr. Eslinger & Lockwood ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. The Copyright Co.)
Music: arr. Hopson ©1998 Hope Publishing Co.

◇ Benediction

Postlude

“Festal Flourish”

Gordon Jacob
©1958 Oxford University Press

- 1 Prayer of Confession adapted from *Spill the Beans*, Issue 22, 2017, p.112
- 2 Prayer for Illumination from the Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Common Worship*, 2018.
- 3 Prayer of Dedication adapted from *Spill the Beans*, Issue 22, 2017, p.112.

LITURGIST

Benny Rediers

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Chancel Choir Dir.: Kent Wattleworth

Church Admin.: Kari Peruski

Admin. Assistant: Sally Gilreath

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

Nursery Care Worker: Abby Pochron

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

Sunburst Singers Dir.: Audrey Frieberg

Facility Manager: Alan Glasel

Sunday/Evening Reception: Todd Crawford

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of James Barta from: Liz Barta, John Barta, Alex Barta, Melissa and Vern Harp, James Paul Barta and Alice Barta.

Retirement Blessings!

Sunflowers Preschool teacher, Beth Heitchue, is retiring to be the full-time day-care provider for her grandkids. She began at Sunflowers in 2008 and her gifts and presence will be missed. FPCRO will be collecting donations to offer a purse to Beth upon her retirement. Checks may be made to FPCRO with "purse" in the memo, or donate on the church website under "Special Gift" and enter "purse" in the optional field. We wish Beth many blessings!

Printed Copies of Sermons

Most Sundays, a printed sermon is available in the Narthex. It is also posted to the church website. Visit <https://www.fpcro.org/home-worship-ressources> to download a PDF.

Upcoming Memorial Services

The congregation is invited to offer support for church members and friends at two upcoming memorial services. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will take place on **May 31 at 1pm for Jan Weir**, beloved friend of Joseph Jackson, and for **Jim Gotch**, longtime FPCRO member on **June 7 at 2pm**.

Cereal for Summer

No child should go hungry. However, many kids who rely on receiving a subsidized breakfast or lunch during the school year often face long summer days without enough to eat. FPCRO is again supporting the Presbytery of Detroit's Cereal for Summer campaign. Please bring your cereal box donations to the church **between June 1 and June 30**.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Group will gather at Bagger Dave's (2972 Coolidge in Berkley) on **Monday, June 2 at 7:30pm**. Join us and check out Bagger Dave's new menu with new items and old favorites. They've added some tongue tingling options! We will once again cover a wide range of discussion topics. Meet up with us and learn more about a variety of subjects and get to know your fellow church members better. Look forward to seeing you there!

S.T.A.G.E. End of the Year Celebration

End of Year Celebration is **June 8** at 5:30pm at FPCRO in the Fireside Room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

S.T.A.G.E. Summer Activities

During the week of **June 16-19, F.R.O.G. *Friends Reaching Out for God***, both middle school and high school youth are welcome to participate, and friends are more than welcome! With four days of fun and local service projects, it's going to be a great week! Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/3H4Nc9O>.



Sunday Serenade

On **Sunday, June 8 at 2pm**, our talented section leaders/soloists Bryan Clinthorne, Brady DelVecchio, Olivia Donnel, and Audrey Frieberg will be sharing their gifts with us in an afternoon of song. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful quartet of soloists here at FPCRO, and this concert will feature them in ways that go beyond what we hear on a Sunday morning. Their program will include solos, duets, trios and quartets from classical Art Song, Opera and Musical Theater. This year, the singers will be accompanied by our Organ Scholar, John Etsell at the piano. Join us in support of our talented singers for a concert which will showcase the versatility of their gifts. The concert is free and open to the public.

Choir Season Celebration “For the Beauty of the Earth: A Celebration of God’s Creation”

Sunday, June 15 will mark the conclusion of FPCRO’s choir season. Summer gives our choirs a deserved break, and we get to feature some of our members in special offertory’s or preludes. Sunburst Singers, Jubilate Bells, and Chancel Choir will share music in praise of the gift of our earth. Liturgy and scripture will help us to appreciate all God has given us to enjoy and care for. Thank choir members and soloists for all they give us throughout the regular church year.

Hands-On Mission Event

After worship on **Sunday, June 22**, join in packing snack bags in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. This event will provide healthy snacks for preschool children during the summer. SnackPax is a program of Song & Spirit and provides snacks to area children who are at, or below, the poverty level. Every Monday, Song & Spirit delivers bags to City Covenant Church in Detroit, Crescent Academy in Detroit, as well as two Head Start Programs in Detroit.

Vacation Bible School, June 23-27, 2025

True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdz75edh> and register today! **Volunteer at True North VBS:** This is a wonderful week of sharing God’s word with our church children and the children of our community. We are looking for volunteers for a variety of areas. Not only do we need helpers during the event, but also helpers for planning and designing sets and props. Please visit our Sign-up Genius at <https://tinyurl.com/m55mvbt> to join in on the fun!
