

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 | 9 & 10:30AM

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost



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

“Holy is the Lord”

Schubert arr. Fred Bock

10:30

“In God, My Faithful God”

J.S. Bach
Public Domain

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: God of power, God of wonder, God of fire;
God of ancestors, sinners, and saints;
God of us all:

**All: with offerings of praise, with eyes turned to you,
with hands lifted up, and hearts freely given,
we call on your name and worship you.**

◊ Hymn #2

“O Worship the King”

Public Domain

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Remember that Jesus can sympathize with us in our trials, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us approach God boldly in prayer, that we may receive mercy and find grace. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Forgive us God, for giving up on you too quickly. Forgive us for our impatience and refusal to wait on your action. Forgive us for disbelieving in your love and devotion. Restore our courage, so that we may trust in your promises. Let our eyes see your action and power, even when it looks different than we expect. Let our ears hear your voice guiding us. Allow us to trust in your commitment to goodness and grace.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Jesus Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: As God's own people, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Be always ready to forgive, as freely as God has forgiven us.

All: We are thankful for all that Christ has done for us! Alleluia!

◇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.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“God is So Good”

Traditional

~Sunburst Singers

“God is so good, He’s so good to me. He cares for me, He’s so good to me. I love him so, He’s so good to me. I praise His name, He’s so good to me.”

Public Domain

(10:30am)

Time with the Children



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Prepare our hearts, O God, to hear and receive your word. Let your message be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, that we may live for you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm

“Psalm 96”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Ellacombe*, #31 “I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

“All lesser idols fade away, as wisdom intercedes;

The greatest feats our minds conceive are pale beside God’s deeds.

O heav’ns, be glad; O earth, rejoice! Your deeds and praise accord

To God, and with creation sing the glories of the Lord.”

Paraphrase of Psalm 96 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 18:20-39

Pew Bible, OT pg. 361

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“Total Praise”

Richard Smallwood

~Chancel Choir

“Lord, I will lift mine to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you. Your peace, you give me in time of the storm. You are the source of my strength, you are the strength of my life, I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen.”

©1996 T. Autumn Music, this arr. ©2010, Universal-Z Songs, Hal Leonard Corp.

Sermon

“God’s Power, God’s Saints”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

All Saints Day Litany²

All: For those who lit our lives with joy, for those who have touched our hearts with tenderness, for those whose loss fills us with longing, we give thanks in glad remembrance.

One: We celebrate those who have loved us for who we are, looking with acceptance on all that we are, and cherishing us without condition or constraint.

All: Holy God, we give thanks in glad remembrance.

One: We celebrate those who have stood alongside us, held us in the depths of elation or despair where words of joy or rescue fall silent.

All: Holy God, we give thanks in glad remembrance.

One: We celebrate those who would not let us stand still, edging us gently into the open space of new understanding and delighted exploration.

All: Holy God, we give thanks in glad remembrance.

One: We celebrate those who have challenged us to grow, perceiving all that we have it in us to become and daring us to dream beyond our imagining.

All: Holy God, we give thanks in glad remembrance.

One: We celebrate those who have travelled before us, showing us in their persistent courage and tenderness how to live in love, and even to die in faith and hope.

All: Holy God, we give thanks in glad remembrance.

One: Today we remember in particular...For their lives and their faith, we give you thanks.

All: For those who lit our lives with joy, for those who have touched our hearts with tenderness, for those whose loss fills us with longing, we give thanks in glad remembrance. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Lord God of Abraham” (Elijah)

Felix Mendelssohn

~Bryan Clinthorne

“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; this day let it be known that thou art God, and I am thy servant! O show to all this people that I have done these things according to thy word! O hear me, Lord, and answer me; and show this people that thou art God, and let their hearts again be turned!”

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 Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer³

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na



in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: You are holy, God of majesty...Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

One: Gracious God...We pray with the confidence of the children of God saying:

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

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Everyone is welcome to receive communion! You are welcome at God's table here regardless of your denomination or affiliation.

You are invited to come forward to the servers at the front of the church to receive the bread and cup. Please open your hands and the server will place the bread into them. Eat the bread when you receive it. A gluten free bread option is available in the center of the plate; please let the server know and you're invited to take the GF bread from the plate yourself. Take a cup and drink from it, then place the cup in the trashcan nearby. If you prefer to be served in the pew, please remain there and a server will come to you.

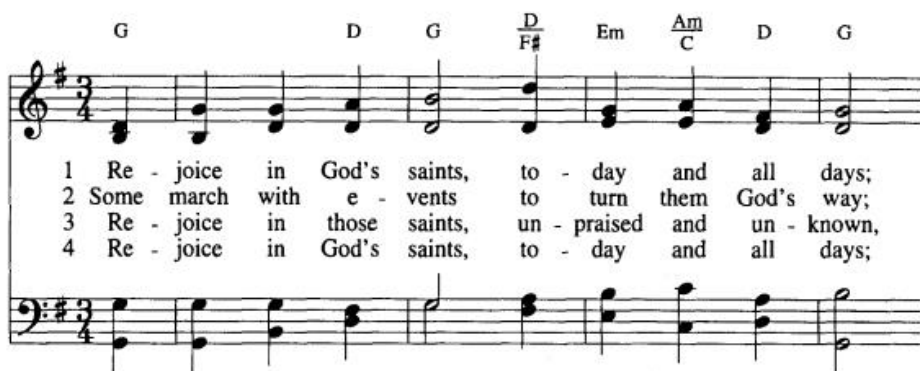
Communion Hymn

"Rejoice in God's Saints"

next page →


Text: Fred Pratt Green ©1973 Hope Publishing Co.

G D G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Em $\frac{Am}{C}$ D G



1 Re - joice in God's saints, to - day and all days;
 2 Some march with e - vents to turn them God's way;
 3 Re - joice in those saints, un - praised and un - known,
 4 Re - joice in God's saints, to - day and all days;

D G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{Em}{G}$ A7 D



a world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.
 some need to with - draw, the bet - ter to pray;
 who bear some - one's cross or shoul - der their own;
 a world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.

B Em $\frac{F\#m7(b5)}{E}$ $\frac{B}{D\#}$ Em $\frac{D7}{F\#}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D



Their faith in ac - quir - ing the hab - it of prayer,
 some car - ry the gos - pel through fire and through flood:
 they shame our com - plain - ing, our com - forts, our cares:
 In lov - ing, in liv - ing, they prove it is true:

$\frac{G}{B}$ C2 $\frac{F\#\dim}{A}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{D7}{F\#}$ G C Am D G



their depth of a - dor - ing, Lord, help us to share.
 our world is their par - ish; their pur - pose is God.
 what pa - tience in car - ing, what cour - age, is theirs!
 the way of self - giv - ing, Lord, leads us to you.

Prayer After Communion

All: We offer our gratitude for this meal, Divine Host. We thank you that this table is a place we encounter your love, together with all those in your family. Accompany us into the world with peace in our hearts, and with the encouragement of all the saints who surround us with their witness. Amen.



SENDING

◇ Hymn #56

“Sing Praise to God”

Public Domain

◇ Benediction

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Festal Flourish”

Gordon Jacob

©1958 Oxford University Press

- 1 Call to Worship from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 16, 2015.
- 2 A Litany for All Saints by Jan Berry, *Candles & Conifers: Resources for All Saints' and Advent*, Ed. Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, 2005, 26.
- 3 Communion liturgy adapted from Danielle Shroyer, *An Original Blessing Communion Liturgy*, November 2, 2017, <https://danielleshroyer.com/original-blessing-communion-liturgy/>. And from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 16, 2015.



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.

LITURGIST

Jumoke Kirkwood

FPCRO 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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Gretchen Hirsch in honor of the dedicated Stephen Ministers at FPCRO.

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **today, Sunday, November 5** following the 10:30am service for the purpose of acting on business from the Nominating Committee. Members are encouraged to attend.

Following the 10:30am service and congregational meeting, join us for **Coffee Hour today** in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Thanks to the Stephen Ministers for hosting.

Opportunity to Usher on Sunday Mornings

The Worship and Nurture Committee is looking for ushers to sign up for Sunday mornings. Simply arrive 20-25 minutes ahead of the 10:30am service to greet folks as they arrive and hand out bulletins. After worship, retrieve the completed forms in the Friendship pads in the pews. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for signing up! Questions? Contact Gail Meengs at filmings6464@yahoo.com, or call 586-713-9629

Flower Dedications

Our FPCRO **2023-24 Flower Dedication Chart** is up in the hallway across from the reception desk. Choose a date to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or honor someone with flowers. Dedications are \$45. Please contact Chris Klein if you have questions.

Poinsettia Dedications

It's time for poinsettia dedications! Again this year plants are \$14. Please fill out an order form and turn it in with a check payable to First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. Leave your check and order form in the basket at the reception desk. Contact Chris Klein (248-990-8586) if you have questions. Orders are due by **December 3**.

Fall Book Discussion

On **November 8 at 7pm**, we'll meet in the Fireside Room to talk about *Filled to be Emptied: The Path to Liberation for Privileged People* by Brandan J. Robertson. Robertson traces the Kenosis Hymn which describes the way Christ emptied himself of power to become humble in service to God. The book touches on race and poverty, among other issues, and is an invitation to faithfully consider our own lives in relation to our wider community. If you would like to read a copy, but purchasing one is hard for you, simply contact Pastor Emma.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

The Presby Baking Showcase

On **November 12**, the Generosity and Resources Committee will be hosting **The Presby Baking Showcase**. Our church family is invited to come to Kirkman Fellowship Hall after the 10:30am service to enjoy sampling what our bakers have provided. Fellowship and storytelling over baked treats will be a treat for us all. Sign up to bring a baked good at the Reception Desk, or sign-up online (<https://tinyurl.com/2ec3fsjp>). Bake a recipe that is a favorite, a specialty, or is a family tradition. Include a copy of the recipe and share the story of your baked good with our church family. Please provide small servings for at least 28.

Soup and Salad Dinner Fundraiser

You are invited to join S.T.A.G.E. on **November 12 at 6pm** at Cana Lutheran Church for a Soup and Salad dinner. Enjoy live entertainment, delicious soup, and fun for the entire family! Proceeds support S.T.A.G.E.'s summer mission work for our middle and high schoolers! Adults \$12, kids ages 3-10 \$6, kids 2 and under are free! Purchase tickets here: <https://forms.gle/2sicuHMhVmb2DzkJA>

Men's Fellowship Group

We had a great turnout for FPCRO's new men's fellowship group last month. Many topics were covered from faith journeys, to job changes, to presidential history. Thanks to those who came out to check it out! We are gathering again on **Monday, November 13 at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's in Berkley. For more information, please contact Matthew Nickel or Derek Helenberger. See you on November 13!

Service of Healing and Wholeness

As the light dims and seasons change, many find it to be a time of sadness and struggle. On **Wednesday, November 15 at 7pm** our Stephen Ministers will lead a Service of Healing and Wholeness. We invite you to come as we seek God's comfort and healing during these times.

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

November 5 at 4:30pm at Cana Lutheran; **November 12**, Soup & Salad Fundraiser at Cana Lutheran, 6pm; **November 19** at 4:30pm at First Pres. B'ham; **December 3** at 4:30pm at FPCRO; **December 17** at 4:30pm at Cana Lutheran.

S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) is a collaborative youth ministry for middle-and high-school youth. Meetings are on select Sundays at one of our collaborating churches. Scan the QR code for more information.

