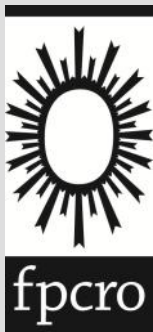


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MARCH 30, 2025 | 10:30AM

Fourth Sunday of Lent



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

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

arr. Brenda Austin

~Jubilate Bells

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Welcome & Announcements

◊Call to Worship

One: Who are you to have come here?

All: We are Christians!

One: What does it mean to be a Christian?

All: It means that we are “Followers of the Way.”

One: What does it mean to be a “Follower of the Way”?

All: It is to know God’s love in Jesus our Christ, and to live faithfully before God and with all God’s people.

One: Why have you come here?

All: We have come to worship our Lord.

One: Welcome then my friends. Let us give praise to our God with hearts and minds and voices.

All: God praised, forever and ever! Amen!

◊Hymn (*page over*)

“Be Thou My Vision”

Music: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927, ©1927 Oxford University Press

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is gracious and loving, forgives us and restores us. So let us come to God in confession. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord Jesus, before solemn assemblies of your people, before the eyes of the world, and in your presence, we have vowed to serve you with hearts and hands and voices. How very easy are our sacred vows. But in all honesty, Lord, we are often frightened by the call to follow you. We grudgingly love the unlovely; we work and play with little concern for those living in fear or

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D)

E^b

(G)

A^b

(D/F#)

E^b/G

(A7)

B^b7

(D)

E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A)

B^b

(D)

E^b

(G)

A^b

(A)

B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G)

A^b

(D)

E^b

(F#m7)

Gm7

(G)

A^b

(A)

B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm)

Cm

(D/F#)

E^b/G

(G)

A^b

(D)

E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

poverty; we support budgets for war rather than for peace. Jesus, we admire your cross as long as we do not have to bear it with you. Lord, forgive us and help us.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: Through Jesus Christ, we pray,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and freed from the sin that clings so close! Let us celebrate our freedom and live in peace!

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: Filled with the Spirit of Love, we exchange signs of peace. 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 and will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: May the Lord grant that we may engage in contemplating the mysteries of God's heavenly wisdom with really increasing devotion, to God's glory and to our edification. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Pew Bible, OT pg. 190

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

Luke 16:19-31

Pew Bible, NT pg. 81

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“Poor Man Lazrus”

arr. Jester Hairston

~Chancel Choir

“Poor man Lazrus sick and disabled, **Refrain: Dip you finger in the water, come and, cool my tongue, ‘Cause I’m tormented in the flame.** He had to eat crumbs from the rich man’s table, **Refrain.** Rich man Divies he lived so well, **Refrain.** And when he died he went straight to hell, **Refrain.** Love to shout, I love to sing, **Refrain.** I love to praise my heav’nly King, **Refrain.**”

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Sermon

“Serving Thee Whom We Adore”

Rev. Dr. Loren Scribner



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Give Me Jesus”

Trad. Spiritual arr. Moses Hogan

~Brady DeVecchio

“In the mornin’ when I rise, give me Jesus. **Refrain: Give me Jesus, you may have all this world, give me Jesus.** Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. **Refrain.** Oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus. **Refrain.**”

©2000 Hal Leonard Corp.

◇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 – From the PC(USA) *Brief Statement of Faith*, 11:3

All: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We trust that God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

We trust that loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home.

We trust God is faithful still.

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** (*page over*)

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Public Domain

◇ **Benediction**

Postlude

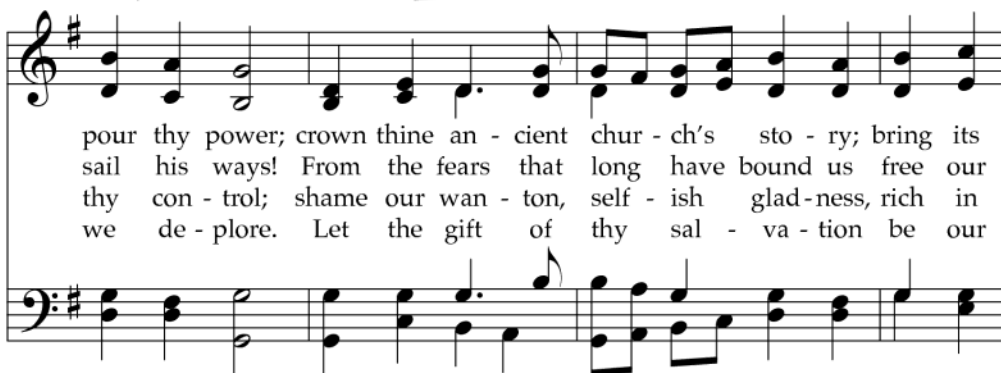
“Prelude in c minor”

J. S. Bach
Public Domain

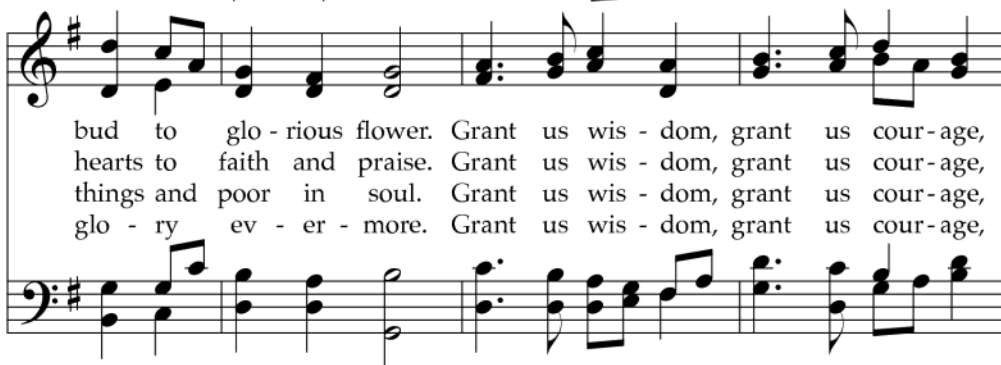
God of Grace and God of Glory



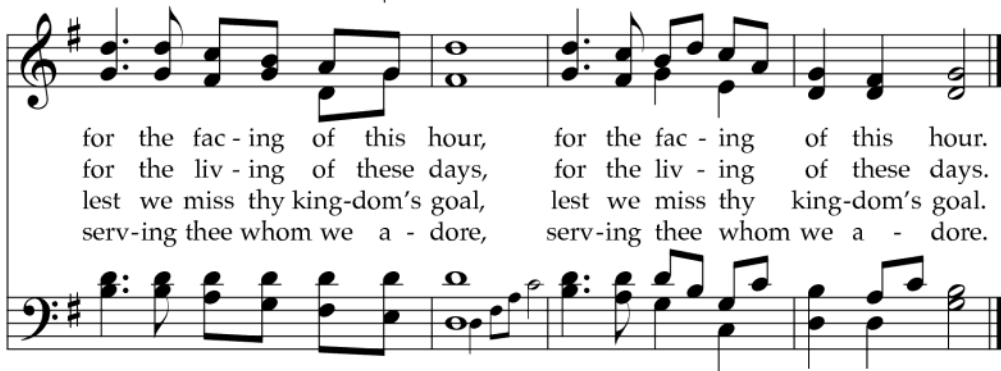
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our



bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Loren Scribner to the pulpit today! Rev. Dr. Scribner is a retired PCUSA minister who, after a tour in the U.S. Navy at the age of 19, decided to study Christianity. He graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1966, served churches in Westland and Sturgis, Michigan. Longing to teach, in 1988 he accepted a teaching chaplain position at Schreiner University, a Presbyterian college in Kerrville, Texas. Loren worships at the Grosse Ile Presbyterian church with his wife, Sharon.

LITURGIST

Kevin Kline

FPCRO STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Emma Nickel

Dir. of Christian Education: Joelle Jarrait

Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist: Joseph Jackson

Organ Scholar: John Etsell

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

Backyard Playroom Coordinator: Ashleigh McKnight

Nursery Care Worker: Abby Pochron

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 Linda Willemsen and family in memory of Jim Willemsen on his birthday. His presence lives on in our hearts forever.

After worship this morning, the Deacons are hosting Fellowship Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall.

Lenten Devotional

Pick up a paper copy of the FPCRO Lenten Devotional or download a PDF if you prefer to view it on a device. Many members of the congregation have shared their personal faith experiences as a way to guide us through the season of Lent as we explore topics that include learning, turning, wilderness, journey, struggle, and spiritual practices. We hope you will enjoy this opportunity to both deepen your faith and draw closer to fellow church members.

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

Regular meeting at FPCB **April 13**, regular meeting at FPCRO **April 27**. S.T.A.G.E. (*Somewhere To Ask God Everything*) is a collaborative youth group which strives to build lifelong relationships, impact the communities we live in, and learn about and share the love of Christ! Join our newsletter by emailing

stageyouth@gmail.com for all the details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are open to all Middle and High School Students (6th-12th grade).

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



Annual Flower Sale for S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

Our final fundraiser of the year, the Annual Flower Sale, is ready for your orders! All orders will be made online with the Google order form using this link: **<https://forms.gle/6DTR2V7th5YwaAP39>** Orders must be made by **2pm on Sunday, April 20**, late orders cannot be accepted. Flower order pick up is on May 17 from 12-2pm at Greenfield Presbyterian Church.

Tom & Ruth Kirkman Scholarship Fund for Higher Education

Are you discerning higher education for yourself? Church members who are high school seniors or older are eligible to apply for a one-time scholarship through the Kirkman Scholarship Fund. Most forms of higher education are eligible, and is not limited to colleges and universities. Applications are due by March 31 and are available on our church website at **<https://tinyurl.com/mre9zkjx>**. If you would like more information, please contact Joelle Jarrait at **jjarrait@fpcro.org**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Lunch and Learn April 6 • Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia

On **Sunday, April 6**, from **11:30am-1pm**, the Deacons invite all to lunch, and then to learn the *Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia*. FPCRO member Karen Kline is a Volunteer Community Educator with the Alzheimer's Association. She'll share information for those who want to learn more about the warning signs of Alzheimer's and other dementias, and those who have noticed memory or thinking changes in themselves or others. There will be a question and answer time offered. Sign-up to attend at the reception desk or online at **<https://bit.ly/4bkHcop>**. If you would like to have childcare, contact Pastor Emma Nickel.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Group will gather **Monday, April 7** at Bagger Dave's in Berkley (2972 Coolidge). Please join us at 7:30pm or whenever you can make it. Topics will likely start with discussion of the S.T.A.G.E. dinner in March, but only God knows where the conversations will go from there. Join us again for a return visit or the first time. No one bites, unless they ordered something to eat!

One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks

During Lent children are invited to collect spare change and dollar bills in their One Great Hour of Sharing fish bank. One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering collected through the Presbyterian Church (USA). Money collected supports efforts to offer relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. You can learn more about this and other special offerings of the PCUSA at pcusa.org/giving/special-offerings. Envelopes will be available in April as we dedicate the offering on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Mark Your Calendars for Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7pm; Good Friday, April 18 at 7pm; Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:30am (*one service only*).

Lenten Devotional Discussion

Mark your calendar for **7pm** on **Tuesday, April 22** for an evening to discuss the Lenten Devotional, after we've had a chance to enjoy all the entries. Come to share about the process of writing your entry. Come to talk about the insights you gained in reading the entries throughout the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

Stewardship Update

On behalf of FPCRO, we want to extend our gratitude to everyone who has pledged support to the church ministry for the 2025-26 budget year. Many of you flew, sprung, and stretched to the next level with 70% of the pledges being either new or increased. Thank you!

We rely on pledge cards for our budgeting process and, right now, we are currently at 90% of last year's pledge amount. ***If you haven't submitted your pledge card, there is still time.*** You can go to **fpcro.org/pledge**, email Kari Peruski at **kperuski@fpcro.org**, or complete a pledge card and put it in the offering plate or send it via the mail.

Buy Nothing Free Sale in April

In partnership with local Buy Nothing groups, we're hosting another free sale where every item is free! The event will take place in our parking lot. You can sign up to bring your car with "gifts" for church and neighborhood shoppers.

- **Date:** Saturday, April 26th, 2025
- **Time of event for shoppers:** 10am-12pm
- **Arrival time for gifters to set-up:** 9:30am until 10am
- **Rain date:** Saturday, May 3, 2025

Sign up to bring gifts: **<https://bit.ly/4b6FUgz>**

We need a few volunteers to host the event. If you can help, sign up using this link: **<https://bit.ly/3QkQNIk>**

Vacation Bible School 2025

True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World—June 23-27

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!



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.