

The Service for the Lord's Day



April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

fpcro 

First Presbyterian Church
of Royal Oak

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.

Today the *Almost Sacraments* worship series continues. The series explores everyday ways we experience signs of God's grace in our lives. Through exercise, food, service, friendship, and music, God's grace and love are powerfully present to us, much as they are in the sacraments of baptism and communion. In these "almost sacraments," we can encounter the presence of God in experiential ways in which Jesus also took part.

I. GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

9:00

"An Easter Song"

arr. Fred Bock

10:30

"Trio in F Major"

Johann Krebs

Public Domain

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We devote ourselves to God's teaching and to prayer.

All: We seek out the awe and wonder of God.

One: We gather at tables to break bread together, knowing that love is revealed when a meal is shared.

All: With God's help, we live together in common – sharing our lives, our troubles, our joys.

One: Day by day, we praise God with our lips and by how we live.

All: May our worship draw us together and draw us toward the risen Christ.

***HYMN (next page)** "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!"

Text: Tom Troeger ©2020 Oxford University Press; Music: Michael Corzine ©2000 Michael Corzine

CALL TO CONFESSION and KYRIE ELEISON

One: Friends, God is our shepherd and guide, so we do not need to fear. Let us confess our sin so that God may restore our souls. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - ferent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ery - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wak - ens in your heart the taste of love.



***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

All: Compassionate God, we feed ourselves with food that doesn't satisfy. We are hungering for meaning and mercy in our lives, yet we often subsist on crumbs. Forgive us for refusing your invitation to the feast. Help us to see and to partake of all that you spread before us: grace, love, courage, guidance, and your very presence. Help us invite others to your table, where there is always room for one more.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: We pray in Jesus' name,

All: Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has given us a new birth into a living hope. Rejoice in the good news:

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***JOYFUL RESPONSE**

“Alleluia No. 1”

***“Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name!”***

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

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: Having been restored to our place in the safety of God's fold, let us share our peace with one another. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(10:30)

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(10:30)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Choral Scholars

Kent Wattleworth

II. PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy God, the word you give us is food for our souls. You are so clearly known to us in the reading of scripture and in the breaking of bread. May your presence appear before us and among us as we turn to your message once again, and seek to hear it anew. Amen.

PSALM

“Psalm 23”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Crimond*, #86 “The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

**“My table thou has furnished in presence of my foes;
My head with oil thou dost anoint, and my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
and in God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.”**

Text: Scottish Psalter; Music: Jessie Irvine (1836-1887)

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:24-27

Pew Bible, NT pg. 124

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30)

ANTHEM

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

Heinrich Isaac/Bighley

~Chancel Choir

“O bread of life from heaven, O food to pilgrims given, O manna from above: feed with the blessed sweetness of your divine completeness the souls that want and need your love. O fount of grace redeeming, O river ever streaming from Jesus’ wounded side: come now, your love bestowing on thirsting souls, and flowing till all are fully satisfied. We love you, Jesus, tender, in all your hidden splendor within these means of grace. Oh, let the veil be riven, and our clear eye in heaven behold your glory face to face.”

©1995 Augsburg Fortress

SERMON

“Feasting with Christ”

Rev. Emma Nickel

III. RESPONDING TO THE WORD

ALMOST SACRAMENTS REFLECTION

Ruth Goode

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“In Remembrance”

Buryl Red arr. Lloyd Larson

~Bryan Clinthorne

“In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine. In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God’s own will is done. In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor. In remembrance of me, open the door and let your brother in. Take, eat, and be comforted; drink, and remember too, that this is my body and precious blood shed for you. In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love. In remembrance of me, don’t look above, but in your heart, for God. Do this in remembrance of me.”

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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

*LITANY¹

Left: I believe in God, the giver of grain and bread,

Right: *and in Jesus Christ, the bread of life broken for us,*

All: and in the Holy Spirit, God's nourishing power in every grain and loaf.

Left: I believe that Christ is to be leaven in us,

Right: *so that we may offer the bread of life*

All: to the hungers of every human heart. 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

IV. FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #701

“There’s a Quiet Understanding”

Text and Music: Tedd Smith ©1973 Hope Publishing Co.

*BENEDICTION

(10:30)

POSTLUDE

“Festal Flourish”

Gordon Jacob

©1958 Oxford University Press

**Indicates please stand as you are able.*

1 Adapted from Alvin Franz Brightbill, Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren, <http://rockhav.tripod.com/>

10:30am Liturgist: Susan Bakker

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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.

Today's **CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given in loving memory of Mark Sutton from his family.

Mission Event Today!

Join us in Kirkman Fellowship Hall after the 10:30am service **today** to make *plarn*, in an effort to help folks experiencing homeless and to care for the earth. *Plarn* means plastic yarn. We'll cut plastic grocery bags into strips and learn how to tie them into the yarn. This intergenerational mission project will last until about 12:30pm. All ages are welcome.

Spring Grounds Clean-Up Next Saturday

Join us on **Saturday, May 6, from 9 am to 12 noon** for this year's Spring Grounds Clean-Up. Help us ready the church's flower beds and grounds for the growing season. *Saturday, May 13, is the rain date.* Thank you!

Choral Scholars: Into the Future

On **Sunday, May 7, at 1pm**, join us for a **Fundraising Concert** showcasing our Chancel Choir Soloists and current Choral Scholars as a fundraiser for the Choral Scholar Program. The concert will be preceded by a **Celebration Brunch** for a suggested donation of \$12 (kids, \$6) and a **free-will offering** will be received at the Concert. Please **sign-up for the brunch** using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4d4up366>, or you may sign-up in-person at the reception desk in the CE Lobby.

Feeling Seen Book Study

Join Melissa Ross for a book discussion series on **Feeling Seen: Reconnecting in a Disconnected World**, by Jody Carrington. Meetings are **in-person at church Mondays at 7pm, through May 8.**

Little Red Riding Hood

On **Saturday, May 13, at 10am**, FPCRO is hosting the Community Programs Ensemble from Detroit Opera, part of the education wing which performs in area schools and community centers, in a **free** performance of Little Red Riding Hood. This 40-minute Opera for Children of **all** ages tells the classic story, is full of humor, and teaches important lessons about keeping promises. The performance will be followed by a brief question and answer period by the cast. Plan to bring a child, grandchild, neighbor, or just yourself, and enjoy the show!

New Day & Time for Support Group

Beginning **Monday, May 15**, a small group will meet from 7pm-8:30pm once a week, for six to eight weeks, to support those struggling with depression or bipolar mood disorder. Each session will focus on education, support, and a time of prayer and reflection. Helpful resources will be made available as well. Pat Johnson, MA, CSD, BCC, is the facilitator. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/56zs3454>. Questions? Email pjohnson71@gmail.com.

H.O.M.E. Project for May

The H.O.M.E. project for this spring will be **Birthdays in a Bag** as we anticipate the birthday of the church at Pentecost. Bags are available **today** and will be due on **May 21**. Help to celebrate the birthday of the church by donating a bag for a child who will enjoy a Happy Birthday!

Mark Your Calendars for a STELLAR VBS • Volunteer for STELLAR VBS!

Our 2023 STELLAR VBS is **June 26-30 from 9 am-12 noon**. Registration is now open! Be sure to mark your calendars for a week of finding Jesus' light! We are looking for volunteers for a variety of areas. Please visit our sign-up genius at <https://tinyurl.com/ycka7hwf> to join in on the fun!

S.T.A.G.E. Schedule • Youth Ministry for Grades 6-12

April 30: Meeting at First Pres Birmingham from 4:30-6:30pm with dinner.

May 6: Volunteer Activity at Detroit Abloom, meet at Cana at 9am to carpool

May 14: No meeting, Happy Mother's Day!

Saturday, May 20: Flower sale set-up & distribution at Greenfield Pres

May 21: No meeting, rest up after the Flower Sale!

May 28: No meeting, enjoy Memorial Day weekend

June 4: End of Year Picnic at Cana/Drayton at 4:30pm

July 9-15: High School Mission trip to Chicago

July 24-27: Middle School Mission Week in Metro Detroit

PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Emma Nickel, Pastor, ext. 206,
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Julia Carroll, Nursery Care Worker

SOLOISTS

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

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SCAN ME