

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

DECEMBER 11, 2024 | 7PM

A seasonal opportunity to seek God's healing love



**fpcro** *Spirituality | Service | Sharing*

## Prelude

“Lord God, Be Merciful to Me”

*Johann Hanff*  
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## Welcome

### Call to Worship

One: Even in our endings,

**All: fill us with hope for new beginnings.**

One: Even as our minds race with anxiety,

**All: fill us with peace that surpasses understanding.**

One: Even in our deepest grief,

**All: fill us with joy and laughter.**

One: Even in a world of hate and fear,

**All: fill us with your love, O God.**

One: Come, let us worship Emmanuel, God with us.

### ◊Hymn #477

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

Words ©1992 Hope Publishing Company, Music Arr. ©1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (Admin Augsburg Fortress)

## Reading

Adapted from Psalm 36:5-9

## Silent Reflection

### Sung Response

“God is Always There”

*Michael Mahler*

*Please join in singing the response upon a cue from the cantor*



God is there.

God is al - ways there.

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## Scripture Reading

Luke 13:18-19

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 78*

## Reflection

*Rev. Emma Nickel*

### Sung Response (*see music above*)

## Words of Affirmation and Comfort

One: The first words of Genesis tell us that in the beginning, God was creating.

**All: We believe in a God who is at work in all our beginnings.**

One: In Revelation, we hear Jesus proclaim, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

**All: We believe in a Savior who is with us through it all, in every beginning, and in every ending.**

One: And so from beginning to end, from the first day to the last, we are held by our God who knows our names.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayer 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**

### **Candle Lighting, Anointing with Oil, and Laying on of Hands**

*You are invited, as you are comfortable, to come forward to light a candle, receive anointing with oil and/or the laying on of hands from the Stephen Ministers and Deacons. Come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles.*

### **Prayer**

One: God our healer,  
keep us aware of your presence,  
support us with your power,  
comfort us with your protection,

**All: Give us strength and establish your peace.  
Amen.**

### **◊Closing Hymn (page over) “Come to Me, O Weary Traveler”**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: William P. Rowan, ©1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

### **◊Benediction**

### **Postlude**

“If You will Trust in God to Guide You”

*Georg Böhm*  
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### **Participants:**

*Bryan Clinthorne, cantor*

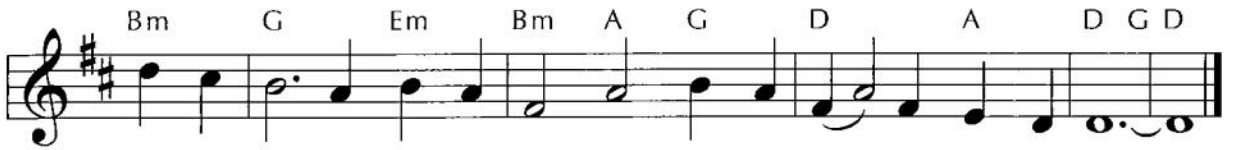
*Stephen Ministers participating in tonight’s service include Lynne Sullivan, Norm Bayne, Rick Dusenbury, Joelle Jarrait, Scott Rieck, Norm Dell, and Gretchen Hirsch.*

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

# Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



- 1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to me with your dis - tress;
- 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's light;
- 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with me.
- 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in me and do not fear.



come to me, you heav - y bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."  
do not fear the path be - fore you; do not run from me in fright."  
Take my yoke, I am be - side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."  
Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Chancel Choir Presentation of "Christmas Oratorio" by Camille Saint-Saëns

On **Sunday, December 15**, the Chancel Choir will sing in worship the beautiful "Christmas Oratorio" by Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921). Saint-Saëns, just 23 at the time, composed the work in under two weeks in 1858 for the church of La Madeleine in Paris where he was the organist. It is scored for five soloists, mixed chorus, organ, harp, and strings. The narrative portion of the text, taken from the second chapter of Luke, appears in the second movement and tells the part of the traditional Christmas story involving the shepherds. The remainder of the texts, taken from John, Isaiah, Lamentations, and the Psalms, reflect upon the meaning and significance of the event.

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### Christmas Eve Worship Schedule:

Join us on **December 24** at one or both services to welcome the Christ child!

5pm—Family service with pageant and glow-sticks

7pm—Traditional service of candlelight and carols, jointly with Drayton Presbyterian Church

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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.*