

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

APRIL 13, 2025 | 10:30AM

Palm Sunday



fpcro

*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](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org)



## Giving

Giving online is a fast and easy! Click GIVE at [www.fpcro.org](http://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

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

### Prelude

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

*J.S. Bach*  
Public Domain

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: On this day, Jesus processed between the city walls and the Temple, between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,

**All: between poverty and power, between fear and daring hope.**

One: On this day, Jesus moved between what had been and what could be.

**All: So may we meet Christ in the in-between and the here and now. Hosanna in the highest!**

#### ◊Hymn #265

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Public Domain

### Call to Confession

One: We are truth-tellers when we confess. We are honest about the fact that we are works in progress. But when we pray, we also reveal who God is. Our God is merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. So let us pray, knowing God’s grace is near. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### Prayer of Confession

**All: Great Creator, forgive me when I speak before listening, when I speak over my neighbor, and when I speak with barbed words. Creator God, forgive me when I listen to society, when I listen to my friends, and when I listen to the news, but I do not listen to you. Creator God, forgive me when I shout out, but do not shout your name; when I listen, but do not listen for your voice. Forgive me. Create in me a heart like yours.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: In Christ’s name, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

One: God is merciful! God abounds in steadfast love! There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could keep God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**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: As forgiven people, let us share the reconciliation we have in Christ. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## **Anthem**

“Prepare the Way for the Lord”

*Joanne Brown LeDoux*

*~Sunburst Singers*

***“Refrain: Prepare the way. The King is coming here today, prepare the way for the Lord. He comes in glorious majesty, displaying power and love. Prepare the way for the Lord. We’ve waited long to see the one who makes the blind to see. With healing in His every word. He sets the people free. So, make glad your mind, sing out your song, make haste with no delay. The King completely requires your heart, prepare, prepare the way. Refrain.”***

©1995 Kirkland House Music (Admin. The Lorenz Corporation)

## **Time with the Children**

*After the Time with the Children, kids will stay for the Confirmation and then may go to Sunday school. They will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.*

## *Celebration of Confirmation*

### **Introduction**

### **Presentation**

### **Profession of Faith**

### **Prayer and Blessings**

### **Welcome**

Elder: Gracie, Charlie, and Emma, having been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism and by publicly professing their faith, have expressed their intention to continue in the covenant God has made with them. Let us welcome them as they join with us in the worship and mission of the church.

**All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

**Response Hymn #559**  
**(stanza 1)**

“Here I Am, Lord”

Text & Music ©1981 Daniel Schutte and New Dawn Music



## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

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### **Prayer for Illumination**

**All: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**Psalm****“Psalm 118”**

Hal Hopson

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

Choir (or cantor) Congregation

Fling wide the gates! Fling wide the gates!

Choir (or cantor) Congregation

Wel - come the king! Wel - come the king!

*“Let the doors of righteousness be opened; we will go in and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; it is opened for the righteous. We will give praise, for God has heard us and has come to save us.*

**Refrain**

*Send salvation, O Lord; Lord, grant us victory. Blessed be your name, O Lord. We bless you from your temple. Lord God, you have given us light; with waving branches we march around the altar.’*

**Refrain**

©1989 Hope Publishing Company

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 19:29-44

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 85*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Anthem**

“Festival Anthem on *Ellacombe*”

arr. David Lantz III

~Chancel Choir

*“Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang; through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang; to Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best. From Olivet they followed ‘mid an exultant crowd, the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud; the Lord of earth and angels rode on in lowly state, nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait. Hosanna in the highest! That ancient song we sing, for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King. O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice, and in His presence eternally rejoice! Amen!”*

©2002 Lantz Choral Publications, this edition ©2007 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

## **Sermon**

“Blessed is the King”

Rev. Emma Nickel



# **THANKSGIVING**

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## **Invitation to the Offering**

## **Offertory**

“Rejoice, Ye Shining Worlds on High”

William Billings

~Chancel Quartet

*“Rejoice, ye shining worlds on high. Behold the King of glory nigh. Who can this King of glory be, the mighty Lord and Savior’s He.”*

Continental Harmony, 1794; this arr. ©1973 Concordia Publishing House

## **◇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**

## Litany for Holy Week<sup>2</sup>

One: Where Christ walks,

**All: we will follow.**

One: Where Christ stumbles,

**All: we will stop.**

One: Where Christ cries,

**All: we will listen.**

One: Where Christ suffers,

**All: we will hurt.**

One: When Christ dies,

**All: we will bow our heads in sorrow.**

One: When Chris rises again in glory

**All: we will share his endless joy.**

One: There is no other way.

**All: Christ is the way.**

## 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

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### ◇ Hymn #268

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!”

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### ◇ Benediction

### Postlude

“Marche Religieuse”

*Alexandre Guilmant*

*(On the theme of “Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates” from Handel’s “Messiah”)*

Public Domain



- 1 Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Pardon were inspired by prayers from the Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
- 2 "Where Christ Walks," *Stages on the Way: Worship Resources for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter* (Glasgow: Iona Community/The Wild Goose Worship Group, 2000), 52.

Bulletin Cover Art: Hochhalter, Cara E., Palm Sunday: Even the Stones, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59018>.

## **LITURGIST**

Lezlie Hart

## **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 Clinthome, *baritone*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Dave Nelson in memory of Tillie Nelson.

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After worship this morning, join us for Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall to celebrate with our Confirmation students.

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## Holy Week Prayer and Reflection

During Holy Week, April 13-18, you are invited to visit the church during regular hours for prayer and reflection. A labyrinth will be set up in Kirkman Fellowship Hall for you to walk, and finger labyrinths will be available to use while sitting. Also, the chapel will be open if you feel called to sit in quiet prayer.

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## Holy Week and Easter Service, Flower Cross

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7pm; Good Friday, April 18 at 7pm; Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:30am (*one service only*). On Easter Sunday, bring a cut flower to place in the flower cross in the narthex ahead of the worship service. We recommend arriving to church early on Easter Sunday!

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## 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.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### One Great Hour of Sharing Collected Today

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering 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](https://pcusa.org/giving/special-offerings). Envelopes will be available for the offering next week, or you can mark a check “One Great Hour,” as we dedicate the offering today, Palm Sunday.

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### 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.

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### 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>

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### Children and Youth Service Rehearsal on April 27

For families of children and youth participating in the service on May 4, please plan to join us in the sanctuary for a rehearsal from **11:30am until about 12 noon on Sunday, April 27**. Questions? Ask Pastor Emma.

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### Spring Grounds Clean-Up

The House and Grounds Committee invites you to join us **Saturday, May 3 from 9am-12pm** as we prepare the church’s grounds and garden beds for the upcoming spring and summer growing seasons. Bring your gloves and gardening tools as many hands do make light work taking care of the church grounds.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### **Mom's Gathering on May 9**

Moms of kids through elementary age are invited to a Moms Night Out! Celebrate Mother's Day early with other moms and swap stories of endless Spirit Weeks, trade secrets of chore charts and potty training and laugh over tales of Kids Say the Darndest Things! We will join together at **Vinsetta Garage on Friday, May 9 at 6:30 pm**. Audrey Frieberg will be making reservations: please signup with this link **<http://bit.ly/421EWiW>** so we know you are coming. Get in touch with Audrey if you think you'll arrive late or have any questions.

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### **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!

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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.*