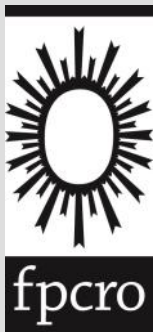


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

**OCTOBER 29, 2023 | 9 & 10:30AM**

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Twenty-Second 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](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

9:00

“Adagio” (Sonata in F Major)

Mozart

10:30

“Adagio” (Sonata No. 2)

Josef Rheinberger

Public Domain

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ♦ Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

**All: In you, we come home—to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved.  
We dwell in you.**

One: Before the mountains were born, before you delivered the whole world, from everlasting past to everlasting future, you are God.

**All: In you, we are home—we dream, we flourish, we fade, we rejoice.  
We dwell in you.**

#### ♦ Hymn #626

“O God of Every Nation”

Text: William Reid ©1958, Ren. 1986 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

Music: Welsh melody, harm. David Evans ©1927 Oxford University Press

#### Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison<sup>1</sup>

One: Friends, let us speak the truth about ourselves to God, acknowledging what we have done and what we have left undone. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

#### Prayer of Confession

**All: Forgive us, God, when we play down the wonder of your creation or forget the depth of your love. Forgive us when we imagine you other than you are or when we create you in our own image. Forgive us when what we share with others is a poor reflection of your marvelous love. Forgive us and inspire us by your love to embrace all that you created us to be: loved, forgiven, free, children of the Kingdom of God.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer,

**All: Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon<sup>1</sup>

One: Remember this good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Amen!**

## ◇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: Because God has forgiven us, we too must forgive one another in order to live together in peace. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

(10:30am)

## Time with the Children

*Afterward, children will be taken to Sunday school classes and will return to the sanctuary at the end of the service.*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action. Open our minds and our hearts to your Word. Ready us to respond to your Spirit's call. Amen.**

### Scripture Reading

1 Kings 12:1-16

*Pew Bible, OT pg. 352*

### Psalm

"Psalm 133"

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Hamburg*, #261 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

**"How good when all the earth is one, and hearts embrace community;  
When strife will cease to separate, and love binds all in unity."**

Paraphrase of Psalm 133 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

### Scripture Reading

1 Kings 12:20, 25-29

*Pew Bible, OT pg. 353*

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

(10:30am)

## Anthem

“The King of Love my Shepherd is”

Edward Bairstow

~Chancel Choir

*“The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever. Where streams of living waters flow my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth. In death’s dark vale I fear no ill with thee, O Lord, beside me; thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me. Thou spreadest a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth: and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and gently on his shoulder laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me. And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never; good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.”*

©1931, Ren. 1959, Oxford University Press

## Sermon

Rev. Neeta Nichols



# THANKSGIVING

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## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“Walk Together Children”

Spiritual arr. Moses Hogan

~Audrey Frieberg

*Walk together children, don’t you get weary, there’s a great camp meeting in the promised land.  
Gonna walk and never tire, gonna sing and never tire, gonna shout and never tire, there’s a great  
camp meeting in the promised land.*

©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 Confession of Belhar, 1986

**We believe:**

- **that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;**
- **that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;**

- **that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.**

## 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 #623

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

Text: Fred Pratt Green ©1971 Hope Publishing Co.

### ◊ Benediction

**(10:30am)**

### Postlude

“Choral Song”

*Samuel Wesley*  
Public Domain

1 Portions of the liturgy are adapted from *Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2*, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long, ©2015.

### LITURGIST

Kevin Schnieders

### EPCRO STAFF

*Pastor:* Rev. Emma Nickel

*Dir. of Christian Education:* Joelle Jarrait

*Chancel Choir Dir.:* Kent Wattleworth

*Church Admin.:* Kari Peruski

*Admin. Assistant:* Sally Gilreath

*S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry Director:* Jessica Gibbs

*Parish Associate:* Rev. Neeta Nichols

*Dir. of Music Ministries/Organist:* Joseph Jackson

*Sunburst Singers Dir.:* Audrey Frieberg

*Facility Manager:* Alan Glasel

*Sunday/Evening Reception:* Todd Crawford

*Nursery Care Worker:* Julia Carroll

### SOLOISTS

Bryan Clinthome, *baritone*

Olivia Donnel, *soprano*

Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*

Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*

*Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONELICENSE, License #A-735100. All rights reserved. Worship services in FPCRO's sanctuary are now broadcast live and are recorded and posted on our website and social media platforms. When you enter the sanctuary for a service, you consent to the recording and broadcast of your voice and likeness for such purposes without compensation.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Joan and Lloyd Geering in memory of their dear mother, Leona.

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Pastor Emma is away for Continuing Education through October 29. Call the church office if you have a pastoral care need.

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

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## 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.

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## New Member Class

Are you feeling called to learn more about our church or are you considering becoming a member? Our next series of classes will be held at **9am on Sundays October 29, November 5, and November 12** in the Fireside Room. The final class will include brunch with church elders, and a welcome during the 10:30 worship service on **November 12**. Please let Pastor Emma know you plan to participate, and if you need childcare during the classes.

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## Organ Concert & Pre-Concert Reception

Join us **Friday, November 3 at 7pm** for *Pulling Out All the Stops: An Organ Concert with Joseph Jackson*. The concert is free of charge and open to the public. The Session has approved hosting a ticketed Wine and Charcuterie Reception prior to the event from **5-6:45pm** in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$10 for those under 21. Tickets must be purchased in advance and may only be ordered <https://tinyurl.com/44jefh2s>. Contact Kari Peruski if you need assistance ordering tickets.

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## Fall Grounds Clean-Up

The House and Grounds Committee invites you to join us on **Saturday, November 4, from 9am-12noon** for the annual Fall Grounds Clean-Up. All are welcome! Bring work gloves and gardening gear as we rake leaves and prepare the church grounds for the coming winter.

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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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### Fall Book Discussion—Order your book now!

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.

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### 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.

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### 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>

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### 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!

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### 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.*

