

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

OCTOBER 22, 2023 | 9 & 10:30AM

Twenty-First 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



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

9:00

“Siciliano”

J. S. Bach

10:30

“Dance”

C. Alexander Peloquin

©1971 The Sacred Music Press

Welcome & Announcements

◊ Call to Worship¹

One: Joyful, joy-filled:

All: we praise God!

One: Quietly, noisily:

All: we praise God!

One: With our hearts, our hands, our whole beings:

All: we praise God! God is mighty and has done great things, and so

One: we praise God!

All: With all our might, and with all of our breath,

One: we praise God!

All: Praise the Lord!

◊ Hymn #15

“O, Sing to the Lord”

Text: Brazilian Folk Song, trans. ©Gerhard Cartford; Music: Brazilian melody arr. Schrader ©2001
Hope Publishing

Call to Confession and Kyrie Eleison

One: Sometimes we doubt that our lives or actions matter very much, in the midst of all that is happening in the world. Yet God cares for each of us and urges us toward wholeness and peace. And so we seek that peace and forgiveness as we confess honestly about our lives. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord of the dance, creator of whirling winds and shimmering flames, forgive us when our praise of you is half-hearted. We do not always remember the that the gift of your presence accompanies us always. We dismiss the gift of your guidance and your love. When we believe there is nothing in this life worth celebrating, renew your joy within us. Breathe life into us. Set our hearts on fire with creativity and strength to serve you and our neighbors, wherever there is need.

[silence for individual prayer]

One: We pray with humble hearts,

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: All you who seek God, and who have set your hope on Jesus Christ, hear the good news:

All: We have received forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of God's grace. As forgiven and beloved children of God, let us set our hope on Christ, and live for the praise of his glory. 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: We have been forgiven and so we can live in peace. Let us receive that gift and share it. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(10:30am)

Time with the Children

(10:30am)

Minute for Mission

S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

Jessica Gibbs



PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: God of heaven and earth, you speak to us through one another, through holy stories, and through your love. As we open the scriptures, let your Spirit pierce our hearts with the clarity of your good news for us and for the world. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 5:1-5

Pew Bible, OT pg. 310

Psalm

“Psalm 150”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Sine Nomine*, #529 “For All the Saints”

***“The trumpet sounds the power of God's might;
The pipe and strings put all despair to flight;
And spirits dance with cymbals clear and bright;
Alleluia, alleluia!”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 150 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 6:1-15

Pew Bible, OT pg. 311

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

All: Thanks be to God.

(10:30am)

Anthem

“Praise the Lord”

trad. Cameroon melody arr. Johnson

~Chancel Choir

“Praise the Lord! Praise God’s holy name. Alleluia!”

©1994 Earthsongs

Sermon

“Centering God, Celebrating God”

Rev. Emma Nickel



THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Little David Play on Your Harp”

Spiritual arr. Roland Hayes

~Olivia Donnel

“Refrain: Little David play on your harp, hallelu, hallelujah. David had a harp, had ten strings, touch one string and the whole heaven ring. Refrain. I say to David, “Come play me a piece.” David said to me, “How can I play, when I’m in a strange land?” Refrain.”

©2001 Dover Publications

◇ **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 — “Sing a New Song”²**

Left: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God with thanksgiving—
with music and song!

**Right: It is good to sing praise to You,
and make music to Your name, O Most High;
to proclaim Your love in the morning
and Your faithfulness at night.**

**For You make us glad by Your deeds, O God;
we sing for joy at the work of Your hands.**

Left: Worship God with gladness;
come into God’s presence with joyful songs—
with thanksgiving and praise!
For God has taken away our garments of sadness,
and clothed us with joy,
that we might sing praise, and not be silent!

**Right: We will sing of God’s love forever!
Young and old will hear, and rejoice.**

**For Your unfailing love lasts forever;
Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens above.**

Left: Sing new songs to God! Praise God's name!

**Right: Let each day proclaim the good news of God's salvation.
Tell everyone about the amazing things God has done.**

**All: May Your ways be known throughout the earth, O God;
Your saving power among people everywhere.
May the nations praise You and sing for joy,
for You govern them with justice,
and guide the actions of the whole world. 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**



SENDING

◇ Hymn #5

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Text: Caribbean; verses Hal Hopson; para. Psalm 150; Music: Caribbean folk melody & Hal Hopson;
Text & Music ©1998 Hope Publishing

◇ Benediction

(10:30am)

Postlude

“Praise the Lord with the Drums and Cymbals”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Public Domain

1 Call to Worship is adapted from *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 16, 2015.

2 Litany from re:worship, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/04/litany-sing-new-song.html>

LITURGIST

Derek Helenberger

FPCRO 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*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancel Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Harry Popko in honor of Rev. Nickel, Elsa Jorgensen, Denise Savino, and the Board of Deacons.

We welcome members of Drayton Presbyterian Church to the worship service this morning! Everyone is invited to join us for Coffee Hour downstairs in Kirkman Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service. Please wear your nametag, or make one at the desk in the narthex, so that we can greet one another by name.

Pastor Emma will be away for Continuing Education October 23-29. Call the church office if you have a pastoral care need.

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.

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.

“God and the Old Testament” Bible Study

As Christians, we focus intensely on Jesus and the Gospels as the primary source for revealing God's activity with humanity. Before the incarnation, God's purposes were taking shape as described in the Hebrew Scriptures. What can we learn about God from the Old Testament? Join Pastor Neeta at **7pm on October 25**. <https://tinyurl.com/4e4wmjax>

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.

Organ Concert & Pre-Concert Reception

Join us on **Friday, November 3 at 7pm** for *Pulling Out All the Stops: An Organ Concert with Joseph Jackson*. The concert is free and open to the public. Session has approved a ticketed Wine & Cheese Reception prior to the event in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$20 per person, or \$10 for those under 21. Purchase online here: <https://tinyurl.com/44jefh2s>

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.

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, CONTINUED

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. Buy a copy of the paperback book or read it on your Kindle. Robertson traces the Kenosis Hymn—a short passage in the book of Philippians 2:5-11—which describes the way Christ emptied himself of power to become humble in service to God. Readers are invited to consider how we can choose humility by thinking differently about the various privileges we carry. The book touches on race and poverty, among other issues, and is an invitation to people across the spectrum 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.

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.

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>

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!

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

October 22 at 4:30pm at FPCRO; **November 5** at 4:30pm at Cana Lutheran; **November 12**, Soup & Salad Fundraiser at Cana Lutheran; **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.



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.