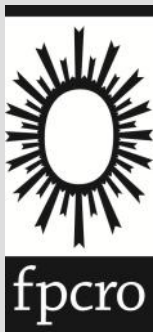


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

MARCH 16, 2025 | 10:30AM

Second Sunday of Lent



*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

“Prayer” from *Diptych for Organ*

Brenda Portman  
©2024 Brenda Portman

### Welcome & Announcements

#### ◊ Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: Worship is a place to rest.

**All: We breathe deeply here. We still our aching bones. We sit in the quiet. We surround ourselves with music.**

One: Worship is a place to grow.

**All: We listen for God’s word. We invite it to challenge us. We lean in with curiosity. We ask questions.**

One: So come into this space. Come rest and grow here.

**All: Let us worship our gracious God.**

#### ◊ Hymn #582

“O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising”

Text: Bradford Webster ©1954, Ren. 1982 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing)

### Call to Confession and *Kyrie Eleison*

One: We carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God’s grace *once*. We need that reminder again, and again, and again. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God’s grace *again*. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

### Prayer of Confession

**All: Holy God, there are days when we fail to rest. We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute focused on urgency. We ignore your command to rest. There are also days when we fail to act. We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction. God, forgive our imbalance. Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to live in hope as we do the same.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

One: Through Christ we pray,

**All: Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, God knows our hearts and chooses to offer mercy. By the grace of Christ, you are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven. You have been sent to serve. This is the good news of the gospel! Nothing can separate us from God's love.

**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: In these days of Lent, we turn our lives toward the way of Christ. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Time with the Children

*After the Time with the Children, kids may go to Sunday school classes with their teachers. Those attending Sunburst Singers will be taken there following worship. Others will return to the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.*



## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Creator God, your word is like soil: something we can root ourselves in. Your word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth. And your word is like a gardener, a love that prunes and encourages, waters and delights, seeds and tends. As we listen to your scriptures today, let your Spirit warm our bones, tend our broken hearts, and show us how to grow. With hope we pray, Amen.**

### Psalm

“Psalm 75”

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Nun Danket Alle Gott*, #14 “Now Thank We All Our God”

***“God’s justice, swift and sure, to all is equal measure;  
The mighty and the meek must answer God’s displeasure,  
Each one must from the cup of judgement taste their strife:  
The wicked, bitter gall; the good, eternal life.”***

Paraphrase of Psalm 75 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

## Scripture Reading

Luke 13:1-9; 31-35

Pew Bible, NT pg. 77 and 78

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

“Offertory”

John Ness Beck

~Chancel Choir

*“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, shall I come before Him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

©1987 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

## Sermon

“Trees that Bear Fruit”

Rev. Emma Nickel

## Response

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepard”

tune Picardy

***“You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord are both prince and slave. You, peacemaker and sword-bringer of the way you took and gave. You, the everlasting instant; you whom we both scorn and crave.”***

Text: Sylvia Dunstan ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc.



# THANKSGIVING

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## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“If My People Will Pray”

Jimmy Owens

~Olivia Donnel

*“If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, if my people which are called by my name shall seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.”*

©1973 Lexicon Music, Inc.

### ◇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

One: We believe in a God who loves and tends to us like a gardener.

**All: We believe that some seasons are for growth and some seasons are for rest. Some days require pruning, and some require planting.**

One: We trust in a God who sees us and cultivates the sweetest fruit

**All: So may we plant roots, reach for the sky, grow where we can, and rest when we need it. For we believe there is holiness in the pruning and in the planting. And we do not grow alone. Thanks be to God, 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

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### ◇ Hymn (*page opposite*)

“Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart”

Text: Pashto Hymn; trans. Alison Blenkinsop ©1995 Alison Blenkinsop;  
Music: Arr. ©1995 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

### ◇ Benediction

#### Postlude

“Toccata in e minor”

*Johann Pachelbel*  
Public Domain

1 Call to Worship, Confession and Pardon, Prayer for Illumination, and Litany adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

**The Prelude today is the winning piece of the American Guild of Organists 2025 Woman Composer Sunday Organ Composition Competition. The author, Brenda Portman, is a concert organist and composer living in Cincinnati.**

# Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart

Refrain

Bm Em D G Am7 Bm7 Em

Je - sus knows the in - most heart: noth - ing can be hid - den.

Bm Em D G Am7 Bm7 Em *Fine*

Je - sus knows the in - most heart: noth - ing can be hid - den.

Em Bm Am Em C Am Em

- 1 This our sin - ful hearts re - quire: flame of God's re - fin - ing fire,
- 2 Je - sus knows our deep - est fears, knows the pain of hid - den tears.
- 3 When our lives are in his hand noth - ing can his work with - stand;
- 4 So our faith will be re - stored by the word of Christ our Lord;

Em Em7 Am D7 Em Am7 Bm7 Em *to Refrain*

work - ing in us day by day till the dross is burned a - way.  
 By his words of love and peace ev - ery heart can find re - lease.  
 his for - give - ness sets us free, saves us for e - ter - ni - ty.  
 for the warmth his love im - parts melts the ver - y hard - est hearts.

**LITURGIST**

Matt Wickey

**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 Joan Wesa in honor of all the Elders and Deacons at FPCRO.

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After worship this morning, the Stephen Ministers are hosting Fellowship Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall.

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### Easter Flower Dedications Due Today

It's time to "think spring" with a flower dedication (choice of lily, daffodil and hydrangea) for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20. Please complete the order form in your bulletin and turn it in with a check payable to FPCRO by **today, March 16**. Questions? Contact Chris Klein at 248-990-8586 or CKlein8000@live.com.

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### Lenten Devotional

Pick up a paper copy of the FPCRO Lenten Devotional or download a PDF if you prefer to view it on a device. Many members of the congregation have shared their personal faith experiences as a way to guide us through the season of Lent as we explore topics that include learning, turning, wilderness, journey, struggle, and spiritual practices. We hope you will enjoy this opportunity to both deepen your faith and draw closer to fellow church members.

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### Upcoming S.T.A.G.E. Meetings

Regular meeting at FPCRO **March 16**, 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](mailto: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



### Upcoming Memorial Service

The congregation is reminded of the memorial service for **Vera-Anne Corwin** on **today, March 16 at 2pm** in the sanctuary.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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### **Snacks & Board Games After Worship March 23**

Join the Worship and Nurture Committee for a fun-filled coffee hour after the service on **Sunday, March 23. Bring your favorite intergenerational board or card game** to play! We'll enjoy snacks and coffee while everyone is invited to have a few rounds of Guess Who?, Candy Land, Taboo, Dominoes, Spades or other fun games. We'll wrap up the fun at 12:30pm.

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### **Tom & Ruth Kirkman Scholarship Fund for Higher Education**

Are you discerning higher education for yourself? Church members who are high school seniors or older are eligible to apply for a one-time scholarship through the Kirkman Scholarship Fund. Most forms of higher education are eligible, and is not limited to colleges and universities. Applications are due by March 31 and are available on our church website at <https://tinyurl.com/mre9zkjx>. If you would like more information, please contact Joelle Jarrait at [jjarrait@fpcro.org](mailto:jjarrait@fpcro.org).

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### **Lunch and Learn April 6 • Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia**

On **Sunday, April 6**, from **11:30am-1pm**, the Deacons invite all to lunch, and then to learn the *Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Dementia*. FPCRO member Karen Kline is a Volunteer Community Educator with the Alzheimer's Association. She'll share information for those who want to learn more about the warning signs of Alzheimer's and other dementias, and those who have noticed memory or thinking changes in themselves or others. There will be a question and answer time offered. Sign-up to attend at the reception desk or online at <https://bit.ly/4bkHcop>. If you would like to have childcare, contact Pastor Emma Nickel.

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### **One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks**

During Lent children are invited to collect spare change and dollar bills in their One Great Hour of Sharing fish bank. One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering collected 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](http://pcusa.org/giving/special-offerings). Envelopes will be available in April as we dedicate the offering on Palm Sunday, April 13.

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### **Mark Your Calendars for Holy Week and Easter Services**

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7pm; Good Friday, April 18 at 7pm; Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:30am (*one service only*).

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

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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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### Vacation Bible School 2025

#### True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World—June 23-27

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.*